



World Day against Child Labour – Global Week of action

Thursday 17 June 14.00 - 15.30 CEST

On 10 June 2021, the ILO and UNICEF will jointly release new global estimates and trends on child labour under the umbrella of Alliance 8.7 during the International Labour Conference.

During the week of 14-18 June 2021, a “Global Week of action” will mark the World Day against child labour (WDACL) and showcase progress on the implementation of the “2021 Action Pledges”.

The European Commission, the ILO and UNICEF will organise a High-level Dialogue for Action on child labour to bring together key actors, who will discuss best practices in the elimination of child labour, both within the EU and in partner countries. The speakers will reflect on the root causes of child labour, a complex phenomenon now incremented by the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Child labour is not only a violation of child rights itself, but also a consequence of other child rights and human rights violations which must be understood in a larger socio-economic context. Participants will formulate strategies to address child labour, taking a holistic and systemic approach.

The public event will:

- briefly present the key findings of the ILO-UNICEF global estimates; areas in which progress has been slow as well as tangible achievements will be discussed.
- make the link between child labour and areas/sectors such as: education/VET, social protection, inequalities, decent work, trade, due diligence, agriculture/rural development.
- host high-level participation of a partner country to showcase positive actions to address the root causes of child labour.
- include direct testimony of former child labourers.
- take stock of the European Commission achievements and commitments to help reach SDG Target 8.7 for eliminating child labour in partner countries by addressing the root causes of child labour for a systemic, transformative and sustainable change such as the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the upcoming legislative proposal on due diligence in value chains, the zero tolerance approach on child labour in trade; the new financial framework and the upcoming Communication on Decent Work worldwide can further support the EU commitment to tackle child labour.

Moderator: Ms **Shada Islam**, EU commentator and analyst

14.00 - 14.30 Opening

- Opening remarks by Ms **Jutta Urpilainen**, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Presentation of the 2021 Global Estimates on Child Labour by Mr **Moussa Oumarou**, ILO Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships, and Ms **Charlotte Petri Gornitzka**, Assistant Secretary General and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships
- Speech by Ms **Ndusi Ntembe**, Minister of Employment, Labour and Social welfare of the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Speech by Ms **Arantxa González Laya**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain (video message)

14.30 - 14.40 Intermezzo

- Testimony by Mr **Kinsu Kumar**, Youth advocate formerly in child labour, from India
- Testimony by **Hanif**, a boy who was engaged in child labour, from Bangladesh (video message)

14.40 - 15.20 Panel discussion

What should we do to accelerate progress against child labour in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis?

- How can we step up action to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025? Which specific actions are the EU and its institutions, businesses and trade unions taking?
- The findings of the *2021 Global Estimates on Child Labour* indicate that implementing universal social protection floors may be one of the most effective ways to reduce child labour. What can the EU and its institutions, businesses and the social partners do to support the creation of national social protection floors?
- One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, close to half the world's students are still affected by partial or full school closures. In some countries, schools have been closed for a whole year. What has been the impact of the school closures on the incidence of child labour? And more generally, how can we support the elimination of child labour through a better access of children to school?
- The Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries are determined to accelerate efforts, try new approaches and collaborate with others in achieving Target 8.7. How can the European Commission support these countries?
- How can other policy areas (education/VET, inequalities, due diligence, decent work, agriculture/rural development) and proposed upcoming initiatives – such as those related to trade, to improve corporate governance and due diligence and commitments in the EU strategy on the rights of the child – be better leveraged to address child labour and its root causes?

Panellists:

- Ms **Erica Gerretsen**, Acting Director Sustainable Finance, Investment and Jobs; Economy that works for the People, at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission
- Ms **Heidi Hautala**, Vice President of the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on International Trade and the Subcommittee on Human Rights
- Mr **Roberto Suárez Santos**, Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- Ms **Sharan Burrow**, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

15.20 - 15.30 – Closing

Video on the elimination of child labour

[Registration here](#)

The event will be recorded and will be available on the ILO, UNICEF and European Commission-DG INTPA websites.