



World Day Against Child Labour

12 June 2005

A Load too Heavy: child labour in mining and quarrying

The World Day Against Child Labour 2005 focused on one of the most hazardous forms of child labour: children who work in mines and quarries. The World Day Against Child Labour was recognized in countries around the world on 12th June (and on 10th June at ILO Headquarters in Geneva).

The event in Geneva on the 10th June was both an awareness raising event, but also marked the beginning of a new initiative to bring an end to child labour in mines worldwide. Workers, employers and governments joined the ILO in marking the World Day Against Child Labour by calling for the elimination of child labour in small-scale mining and quarrying within five to ten years. The new initiative was launched with a “call to action”, bringing governments, workers’ organizations and employers associated with the mining sector together to work to help remote mining and quarrying enterprises – often small, family-based operations in the informal sector – to become economically and environmentally sustainable without the use of children as workers. Tripartite delegations from 15 countries previously signed accords, which were presented to the ILO on the 10th June, committing themselves to eliminating child labour in all small-scale mining and quarrying in a “time-bound” manner. These countries include: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Mali, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, and Togo.