



Governing Body

320th Session, Geneva, 13–27 March 2014

GB.320/POL/8

Policy Development Section
Technical Cooperation Segment

POL

Date: 3 February 2014

Original: English

EIGHTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Follow-up to the Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour

Purpose of the document

This paper: (a) reports on the III Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and its key outcomes; (b) proposes the endorsement of the main Conference outcome document (the Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour) and its incorporation into the ILO Global Action Plan on Child Labour, into the work and strategy of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) within the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, and into the plan of action on fundamental principles and rights at work adopted by the Governing Body in November 2012; and (c) invites the Governing Body to thank the Government of Brazil and the Brazilian social partner organizations for hosting the III Global Conference and the Government of Argentina for its offer to host the IV Global Conference in 2017 (see draft decision in paragraph 21).

Relevant strategic objective: Promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work (Outcome 16: Child labour is eliminated with priority given to the worst forms).

Policy implications: Integration of the Brasilia Declaration into the ILO Global Action Plan on Child Labour.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: The capacity of IPEC to provide the required support for the constituents, to respond to their requests for assistance and to hold annual meetings as proposed in the Brasilia Declaration will depend on the level of funding secured from regular and extra-budgetary sources.

Follow-up action required: Appropriate adjustment of the ILO Global Action Plan on Child Labour and its implementation; annual meetings to take stock of progress, in the context of IPEC's International Steering Committee meetings in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Author unit: Governance and Tripartism Department (GOVERNANCE).

Related documents: GB.309/TC/3, GB.316/INS/5/3, GB.316/POL/INF/2, GB.317/PV/Draft.

Background

1. At the Global Child Labour Conference held in The Hague in May 2010, the Government of Brazil announced that, in cooperation with the ILO, it would organize the next Global Conference on Child Labour to measure progress in implementing the Roadmap agreed at The Hague ¹ and towards the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.
2. The ILO–IPEC report *Marking progress against child labour: Global estimates and trends 2000–12*, launched in Brasilia and Geneva on 23 September 2013, showed that greatly accelerated progress had been made against child labour, including its worst forms, during 2008–12 – a period in which ILO constituents increasingly adopted and implemented more coherent and integrated strategies to combat it. IPEC’s support for a more integrated approach has been informed, inter alia, by the resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work, adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2012. ² Despite the present positive trends, however, the report found that the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 would almost certainly not be reached. It was against this background that the III Global Conference on Child Labour was held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013.
3. The Government of Brazil invited all ILO member States to send quadripartite delegations to the Conference. Over 1,600 representatives from 156 countries attended, including representatives of governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations and civil society from 142, 78, 58 and 57 countries, respectively. Thirty-eight national delegations were headed by ministers. The International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Education International, the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations (IUF), 17 multinational enterprises and 11 regional and international organizations were also represented. Successful efforts were made to ensure the tripartite presence of delegates from the least developed countries.

Main outcomes

4. The main outcome document of the Conference, the Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour (reproduced in the appendix), underlines the need for a coherent and integrated approach to achieving the sustained elimination of child labour by eradicating its socio-economic root causes. It recognizes the continued efforts made by the ILO, and by IPEC in particular, to provide technical assistance and cooperation to governments and to workers’ and employers’ organizations, and it reaffirms international resolve to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016, while reiterating the overarching goal of the eradication of all child labour and commitment to implement the Roadmap agreed at The Hague.
5. It also acknowledges the need for reinforced national and international action and cooperation, with a focus on the informal economy; the leading role and primary responsibility of governments, in cooperation with the social partners and wider civil society actors; and the importance of social dialogue and concerted public–private action,

¹ *Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016*, http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_13453/lang--en/index.htm [accessed 4 Feb. 2014].

² ILO: Resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work, in *Provisional Record* No. 15, International Labour Conference, 101st Session (Geneva, 2012).

of decent work for all adults, of free, compulsory and quality education for all children, and of progressive universalization of social protection.

6. The Declaration addresses child labour as a whole and underlines the importance of both the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). It refers to the normative framework dealing with particular sectoral and policy elements: the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), the Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129), the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), and the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), as well as to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998), the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008), the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (1977) and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
7. Among other main elements, the Declaration reflects a strong appreciation of the role of public authorities – and public service workers – in delivering the coherent and strengthened public policies and services that children need for their education, health and welfare, and of the importance of social protection floors and of access to justice and enforcement through labour inspection. It notes the importance of enhanced and disaggregated data collection to inform public policy development. Building on the Roadmap agreed at The Hague, it recalls the importance of fundamental principles and rights at work, of social dialogue and of effective multi-stakeholder action, including in supply chains in the informal and formal economies. Similarly, it reiterates the importance of the worldwide movement against child labour and of mutual support by ILO constituents through enhanced international cooperation, including South–South and triangular cooperation, noting in particular the challenges faced by conflict-affected countries; the importance of raising awareness and of challenging attitudes and practices that condone or tolerate child labour; and the need for the fight against child labour and the Decent Work Agenda to be given due consideration in the UN post-2015 development agenda.
8. Through the Declaration, the participants thanked the Government of Brazil for hosting the Conference and welcomed its intention to bring the Declaration to the attention of the ILO Governing Body for further consideration and follow-up. The Declaration invites IPEC to hold meetings, in the context of its annual International Steering Committee meetings, to take stock of progress. Finally, it accepts the offer by the Government of Argentina to host the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in 2017.
9. The Declaration provides valuable guidance to assist the further development of a more integrated ILO approach to support the tripartite constituents and the broader worldwide movement to combat child labour.

The preparatory process

10. In June 2012, the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, signed a decree convening the III Global Conference on Child Labour and entrusting its organization to three ministries: social development and the fight against hunger; labour and employment; and external relations. The Government presented the proposal for the Conference at the meeting of the IPEC International Steering Committee held during the International Labour Conference that month.
11. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency approved a new project facilitating ILO assistance with organizing the Conference. In 2012, a quadripartite national organizing committee and an

online international advisory committee were established, the latter composed of representatives of 28 governments, the IOE and the ITUC, and regional and international organizations. In 2013, a Conference executive committee was established. This was advised by the International Advisory Committee and contributed to the guiding document developed for the Conference. IPEC and the ILO Brasilia Office provided technical advice to these committees.

12. To promote the most inclusive preparatory debate for the Conference, the Government of Brazil developed the “Child Labour Dialogues” virtual platform,³ which were accessed by more than 19,000 people. In September 2013, with the ILO’s support, a “Virtual march for a world free of child labour” was launched to mobilize a worldwide movement for the Conference.⁴ With technical support from IPEC, subregional preparatory meetings were held with countries of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR), the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Maghreb countries. Participants considered ways to accelerate the pace of progress towards the 2016 goal and to identify and share good practices, most of which were discussed at the Conference and will be reflected in a compendium of good practices.
13. In order to develop the draft Brasilia Declaration, the Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva, with IPEC’s technical assistance and the support of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), chaired consultations with representatives of governments, the IOE and the ITUC, supported by the Bureau for Employers’ Activities (ACT/EMP) and the Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ACTRAV).

The Conference

14. The President of Brazil and the ILO Director-General opened the Conference, emphasizing the need and obligation to accelerate coherent and concerted action against child labour. Reminding delegates of countries’ collective global responsibility and obligation to assist one another, the Director-General called for a renewed collective effort to capitalize on the significant progress made in recent years and to see the work through to its conclusion. The Heliopolis Orchestra opened the proceedings with the first in a series of global concerts in the Music Against Child Labour Initiative,⁵ IPEC’s major advocacy platform for 2014.
15. The Conference programme included plenary and high-level sessions and thematic semi-plenary discussions, examining sustainable eradication of child labour and ways to accelerate the fight against it; violation of the rights of children and adolescents; child labour and migration; child labour in domestic work and gender issues, in agriculture, in the urban economy and in supply chains; education models; production of statistics; and the role of justice systems. Fifty-four representatives of governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations and international and civil society organizations addressed the high-level plenary session. In addition to the global virtual platform for youth, 30 young

³ <http://www.childlabourdialogues.org/>.

⁴ The virtual march and its Facebook application resulted from a partnership between the Telefónica Foundation, the Red Latinoamericana contra el Trabajo Infantil (Latin American Network against Child Labour) and the ILO.

⁵ <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/MusicInitiative/lang--en/index.htm>.

Brazilians took part in the Conference and presented their own Declaration.⁶ With them, the relaunch of the Red Card to Child Labour global campaign in 2014 was also announced.

16. The former President of Brazil, Lula da Silva, the ILO Director-General, representatives of the IOE and the ITUC, and the Chairperson of the Global March against Child Labour addressed the closing plenary session, at which representatives of the governments in attendance, and of the IOE and ITUC on behalf of the Employer and Worker delegates, agreed the Brasilia Declaration. In his closing remarks, the ILO Director-General, echoing the call made by the youth participants, urged those few member States that had not yet done so to ratify Convention No. 182. He drew attention to the link (highlighted in the Brasilia Declaration) between the fight against child labour and the need to advance the Decent Work Agenda, and he stressed the urgency of implementing that link.

After the Conference: Follow-up

17. An information session on child labour was held on 24 October 2013 during the 319th Session of the ILO Governing Body, as a follow-up to the ILO–IPEC report and the Brasilia Conference. The ILO Director-General chaired the session and presented the findings of the report, while the Permanent Representative of Brazil presented the outcomes of the Brasilia Conference. The Chief of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch outlined IPEC’s strategies and priorities for addressing child labour and the programme’s urgent resource needs, emphasizing the importance of continued action and investment for a future without child labour. A document prepared for that meeting explained the institutional framework for action, the main elements of ILO strategy to combat child labour, and priority focus areas.⁷
18. It is proposed that the Office should disseminate the outcome documents of the Brasilia Conference. As was the case with the Roadmap agreed at The Hague, the Declaration will be integrated, as appropriate, into the ILO Global Action Plan on Child Labour and into the activities of IPEC and of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch that will be developed, as appropriate, in consultation with other departments and programmes (including ACT/EMP and ACTRAV) and with constituents. This process will be guided by the Strategic Policy Framework 2010–15⁸ and the areas of critical importance identified in the Director-General’s Programme and Budget proposals for 2014–15.⁹ Among the immediate priorities for action will be the establishment of modalities for the annual stocktaking meetings in 2014, 2015 and 2016, which the Declaration asks IPEC to hold in the context of its annual International Steering Committee meetings. The capacity of the Programme to prepare documentation and meet other requirements for such discussions will demand resources beyond those presently available.
19. The Office will offer the Government and social partners of Argentina its technical assistance with preparation of the IV Global Conference to be held in 2017.

⁶ <http://childlabour2013.org/teenagers-letter-presents-12-proposals/>.

⁷ ILO: *ILO–IPEC’s strategies and priorities for addressing child labour and its resource needs* (Geneva, October 2013), http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_23475/lang--en/index.htm [accessed 4 Feb. 2014].

⁸ GB.304/PFA/2(Rev.).

⁹ GB.317/PFA/1.

20. The even more deeply integrated approach envisaged in the Brasilia Declaration will also inform IPEC's discussions with donors and potential donors and the development of sectoral and area-based approaches.

Draft decision

21. The Governing Body:

- (a) requests the Office to convey its thanks to the Government of Brazil and the Brazilian social partners for hosting and ensuring the success of the III Global Conference on Child Labour and welcomes the offer of the Government of Argentina to host the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in 2017;*
- (b) endorsing the Brasilia Declaration, requests the Office to ensure its integration into the ILO Global Action Plan on Child Labour and the work of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour; and*
- (c) reconfirms its commitment to the elimination of child labour as one of the fundamental principles and rights at work, and thus as one of the Organization's highest priorities in the realization of the Decent Work Agenda, and requests the Office to put in place all necessary means to achieve this objective.*

Appendix



**III GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
CHILD LABOUR**

OCTOBER 8TH - 10TH, 2013 • BRASÍLIA – BRAZIL

**The Brasilia Declaration
on Child Labour**

We, representatives of governments and employers' and workers' organizations who participated at the III Global Conference on Child Labour, gathered in Brasilia, Brazil, from October 8 to 10, 2013, together with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), other civil society actors as well as regional and international organizations to take stock of the progress made since The Hague Global Child Labour Conference 2010, to assess remaining obstacles and to agree on measures to strengthen our actions to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016, as well as to eradicate all forms of child labour;

Recalling that child labour is work done by a child who is under the minimum age specified for that kind of work, as defined by national legislation, guided by the ILO Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) and ILO Convention Nos. 138 and 182;

Convinced that the goal of eradicating child labour unites all countries since child labour impairs the realisation of children's rights and its eradication constitutes an important issue for development and human rights;

Recognizing the efforts and progress made and being made, notwithstanding the global economic and financial crisis, by governments at all levels, employers' and workers' organizations, regional and international organizations, NGOs and other civil society actors for the eradication of child labour, yet recognising the need to accelerate the efforts at all levels to eradicate child labour, in particular its worst forms by 2016;

Keeping in mind the dimension and complexity of the challenges faced by countries in fighting child labour, such as the impact of natural disasters, conflict and post-conflict situations;

Aware that eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 as well as eradicating child labour can be best realised through enhanced cooperation among countries and enhanced coordination among governments, employers' and workers' organizations, NGOs, civil society, and regional and international organizations;

Bearing in mind that children facing any form of discrimination deserve particular attention in our efforts to prevent and eliminate child labour;

Considering that the respect, promotion and realization of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which include the effective abolition of child labour, is one of the pillars of the ILO Decent Work Agenda;

Welcoming the progress made by States in the ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions No. 138, on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, and No. 182, on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and reiterating the importance of promoting their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and inviting countries to consider ratifying other relevant instruments, such as Convention No. 189, on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, as well as Convention No. 129, on Labour Inspection in Agriculture, and Convention No. 184, on Safety and Health in Agriculture;

Acknowledging the relevance of internationally recognised principles and guidelines on business and human rights, such as the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights and the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

Recognizing the continued efforts made by the ILO, and in particular its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), to provide technical assistance and cooperation to governments, workers' and employers' organizations to eradicate child labour;

Welcoming the ILO report "Marking progress against child Labour";

1. We reaffirm our resolve to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016, while reiterating the overarching goal of the eradication of all child labour, by immediately stepping up our efforts at national and international levels. We reiterate our commitment to fully implement the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016, adopted at The Hague Global Child Labour Conference in 2010.

2. We acknowledge the need for reinforced national and international action in the follow-up of this Conference in relation to age and gender specific responses on child labour, with a focus on the formalization of the informal economy and strengthened national action, as appropriate, on monitoring and evaluation, as well as a continued focus on where it is most needed. We stress the importance of technical assistance and international cooperation in this field.

3. We acknowledge that governments have the leading role and the primary responsibility, in cooperation with employers' and workers' organizations, as well as NGOs and other civil society actors, in implementing measures to prevent and eliminate child labour, in particular its worst forms, and rescue children from it.

4. We also acknowledge that measures to promote decent work and full and productive employment for adults are essential, so that families are enabled to eliminate their dependence on the income generated by child labour. In addition, measures are needed to extend and improve access to free, compulsory and quality education for all children, as well as for the progressive universalization of social protection, in line with inter alia the ILO Convention 102, concerning minimum standards of social security, and ILO Recommendation 202, concerning national social protection floors.

5. We advocate for an integrated, coherent and effective use of public services and policies in the fields of labour, education, agriculture, health, vocational training and social protection as a means for building capacity and empowerment, so that all children, including those in rural areas, complete compulsory education as well as training without engaging in child labour.

6. We stress that education, health and social workers should be entitled to decent working conditions and relevant initial and continuous training, and that related policies should be developed with workers' organizations through social dialogue.

7. We recognize that strengthening these public services and policies is key for the sustained eradication of child labour, in particular its worst forms by 2016, as well as for sustainable development.

8. We urge governments to ensure access to justice to children affected by child labour, guarantee their right to education and provide rehabilitation programs, as a means to promote and protect their wellbeing and dignity and fulfil their rights, with focus on children who are particularly exposed to the worst forms of child labour due to discrimination in any form.

9. We encourage states to establish and further improve, as appropriate, the legal and institutional frameworks to prevent and eliminate child labour. We also encourage national law enforcement agencies to advance accountability of perpetrators in child labour cases, including the enforcement of appropriate sanctions against them.

10. We recognise the importance of labour administration and in particular labour inspection in the eradication of child labour, and we will seek to develop and strengthen, as appropriate, our labour inspection systems.

11. We encourage, where appropriate, the competent authorities that have the responsibility to enforce the law and regulations regarding child labour, including labour inspection services, to cooperate with each other, in the context of the application of penal sanctions or, as appropriate, other sanctions in cases of child labour, especially its worst forms.

12. We will promote effective multi-stakeholder action to combat child labour, including in supply chains, by addressing both the formal and informal economy.

13. We will seek to develop and strengthen the collection and dissemination, as appropriate, of more and better national statistics and information on children in employment, both in the formal and informal economies, with data disaggregated preferably by occupation and industry, gender, age, origin and income so as to enhance their visibility and help better design and implement public policies to eradicate child labour.

14. We will continue to promote the engagement of all sectors of society in creating an enabling environment to prevent and eliminate child labour. The engagement of ministries and state agencies, parliaments, justice systems, employers' and workers' organizations, as well as regional and international organizations and civil society actors plays a key role in this regard. We will promote social dialogue as well as concerted action between the public and private sectors around the eradication of child labour.

15. We resolve to take appropriate steps to assist one another in respecting, promoting and realising international labour standards and human rights, particularly through enhanced international cooperation, including South-South and Triangular cooperation.

16. We stress the need to provide support to and build capacities in conflict and post conflict countries, particularly among Least Developed Countries, to combat child labour, including through rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, where appropriate.

17. We note that the violation of fundamental principles and rights at work cannot be invoked or otherwise used as a legitimate comparative advantage and that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes.

18. We will actively seek to engage national and international media and social networks, academia and research bodies, as partners in raising awareness for the sustained eradication of child labour, including through campaigns on the damage to the dignity, wellbeing, health and future of children caused by their engagement in child labour, in particular its worst forms.

19. We resolve to promote efforts to encourage social change by addressing attitudes and practices that play a significant part in condoning or tolerating child labour, including violence and abuse.

20. We resolve to support the continuous development of the worldwide movement against child labour, through partnerships, cooperation, advocacy and action, based on international labour standards and human rights.

21. We invite IPEC to hold meetings, in 2014, 2015 and 2016, in the context of its Steering Committee meetings to take stock of the progress made by countries in eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

22. We underscore that the fight against child labour and the decent work agenda should be given due consideration in the U.N. post-2015 development agenda.

23. We express our gratitude to the Government of Brazil for hosting this Conference, and we welcome the Government of Brazil's intention to bring this Declaration to the attention of the ILO Governing Body for further consideration and follow-up.

24. We accept the kind offer by the government of Argentina to host a Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in 2017.

Adopted at the III Global Conference on Child Labour, Brasilia, 10 October 2013.

Ministry of
External Relations

Ministry of
Labour and Employment

Ministry of
**Social Development and
Fight against Hunger**



in collaboration with



International
Labour
Organization