Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development
Side Event
Ending child labour: Innovating in inter-agency actions for the achievement of Target 8.7 in Latin America and the Caribbean
25 April, 13.00 h - 14.30 h
Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium, ECLAC, Santiago, Chile

JUSTIFICATION

Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that has made the most progress on the eradication of child labour over the last 20 years. The joint work of governments, employers and workers organisations, civil society and other development partners, as well as of the agencies of the United Nations system, has achieved a significant reduction of more than 9.5 million children and adolescent workers during the period 2000-2016. However, the region is still grappling with the challenging figures of 10.5 million boys, girls and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 17 who are still in child labour, with 6.3 million of them engaged in dangerous activities\(^1\).

The progress in the region has been anchored on the design and sustained implementation of public policies in respect of prevention and eradication of child labour, and protection of permitted adolescent work. This has been energized through far-reaching processes for inter-sectoral, inter-institutional and inter-governmental interaction in various countries in the region, prioritizing vulnerable groups, territories and exposed productive sectors.

After 20 years of continuous action on this issue, and based on the accumulated experiences and knowledge, in 2014 the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour\(^2\) was created, to serve as a tripartite platform for mutual support among countries and social partners, to accelerate the eradication of child labour. In 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this regional concern and interest in eliminating child labour, was converted into a global commitment reflected in Target 8.7 which specifically refers to “by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”, which has enhanced the work of the Initiative.

The ILO was tasked with serving as the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and this has allowed for the fostering of inter-agency cooperation on key themes associated with the continuing existence of child labour, which the countries and other members of the platform have prioritized for action at different levels and in various areas\(^3\). This moreover has been reinforced by the interdependent character that has been imbued in the Sustainable Development Goals and their Targets, which strengthens motivation for coordinated work among the agencies of the system, taking advantage of the expertise, capacity and knowledge and mandates, to promote synergies and to achieve greater impact in the response.

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\(^1\) See: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf

\(^2\) The Regional Initiative is currently comprised of 30 countries and regional representatives of the global workers and employers organisations. See: http://iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/briefing-note-RI_EN.pdf

\(^3\) Following analysis of available Information, the consideration of factors specific to countries and the region, the members of the Regional Initiative agreed as a consensus to focus action on those identified as “acceleration factors”, namely: agriculture, education, value chains, youth employment, indigenous peoples, migration, decentralization and information technologies.
Between 2014 and 2019, the ILO have carried out, in its role as the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, interagency actions in the areas of knowledge generation, capacity building, and development of tools for evidence based policies among others.

With the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), joint sub-regional workshops on agriculture and child labour have been carried out, which have provided an opportunity for closer relationship with national actors competent on both topics, and for opening channels for coordination and interaction at the country level. The first regional study on agriculture and child labour was also conducted, and a specialized virtual course on child labour was adapted into Spanish for rural stakeholders. These action involved the offices of the FAO in Santiago and Rome.

With the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), studies on the link between migrant children and child labour as well as on the trafficking of persons and labour exploitation were carried out; fora and events on the issue in Central America were organized, and there is joint coordination of the action on migrant children carried out within the framework of the Regional Conference on Migration, through an ad hoc interagency group which was created by the ILO and ILO via the IOM office in San Jose. Currently, similar actions are being coordinated in South America through the IOM regional office in Buenos Aires.

With ECLAC, a project on child labour, poverty and inequality is being implemented, which entails the completion of a regional study on inequality and child labour, a report on regional trends on child and adolescent labour, and the development and implementation of a Child Labour Risk Identification Model, a statistical tool which provides information and evidence for decision-making on preventative policies to address child labour and accelerate towards elimination by 2025.

This panel will provide a space for the agencies to take stock of the results achieved through inter-agency action within the framework of the Regional Initiative and in the context of the SDGs, in particular Target 8.7; and to contribute criteria to strengthen a response which is coordinated and aligned to the national priorities of the countries and stakeholders, members of the platform for the period 2019-2021.

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4 In the “Declaration of Panama for the ILO Centenary: The future of work in the Americas” the topic of child labour was included as one of the necessary policy priorities for building a better future of work in the region, specifically it referred to “policies to accelerate the eradication of child labour, guaranteeing as the same time protection for adolescent workers in accordance with the fundamental principles and rights at work. The Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child labour has established an up to date and effective mechanism which contributes to the efforts undertaken by countries to achieve Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda. This allows for monitoring and follow-up on that was agreed in the IV Global Conference on the sustained eradication of child labour held in Argentina in November 10, 2018. This has contributed to strengthening the actions of the Initiative.

5 In 2018 the Regional Initiative adopted a 2019-2021 Strategic Plan within which it proposes to frame the contribution of inter-agency actions.
Preliminary Agenda
Side Event: Progress and challenges in inter-agency action to end child labour and achieve Target 8.7 in Latin America and the Caribbean (90 minutes)

• Projection of a motion graphic (5 min.)

• Juan Hunt, Officer in charge, ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean: The role of the ILO in inter-agency actions toward the realization of Target 8.7 (10 min.)
  o Child labour, a threat to the future of work in Latin America and the Caribbean
  o What has worked in the inter-agency approach towards Target 8.7
  o Steps for the future

• Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer: The persistence of child labour as an expression of inequality (10 min.)
  o ILO-ECLAC: a solid Alliance for eradicating child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean
  o The Child Labour Risk Identification Model (CLRISK), example of an innovative tool created through inter-agency collaboration
  o Steps for the future

• Agueda Marín, Senior Regional Specialist in Support and Protection to Migrants: The invisible link between child labour and migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (10 min.)
  o Migration and child labour: an ever more acute reality in the region
  o Steps for the future

• Luiz Carlos Beduschi, Senior Rural Development Policies Officer: Agriculture: one of the most dangerous areas of work for children and adolescent workers (10 min.)
  o FAO-ILO: an Alliance with sustainable impact on the achievement of Target 8.7 in Latin America and the Caribbean
  o Steps for the future

• Zavia Mayne, Vice Minister of Labour and Social Security of Jamaica in representation of the Regional Initiative: The consolidation of inter-agency action and Target 8.7- the experience of the Regional Initiative (15 min.)
  o An alliance among countries to confront the shared challenge of child labour
  o What is expected of inter-agency action to achieve Target 8.7 in the region

Open exchange with participants - Plenary (30 minutes)

Moderator: Technical Secretariat Regional Initiative