Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
On Sustainable Development 2021

Side Event
The challenge of territorial management of public policies of prevention and eradication of child labour in the context of COVID-19

Organizers: ECLAC – ILO

Date: Tuesday, March 16 of 2021
Schedule: 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM (Costa Rica time, GMT-6)
Language: Spanish with simultaneous interpretation into English
Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jo9_SkNpQUus7yFteHNS7g

Background
The health, social and economic crisis associated with COVID-19 has caused devastating effects in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region characterized by historical and structural inequality that today, more than ever, shows its different faces. Of these, one of the most persistent, even in periods of economic growth and prosperity, is child labour.

The loss of jobs and hours of work that affect many families, the low or no coverage of social protection, the closure of schools, the lack of access to social security and the higher levels of poverty are conditions that have worsened in the current context and that favour an increase in child labour and, in particular, hazardous child labour.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that had made the most progress in eradicating child labour in the last 20 years. The joint work of governments, employers' and workers' organizations, civil society, development partners and agencies of the United Nations system, has achieved a significant reduction of more than 9.5 million working children and adolescents between the years 2000-2016. However, the region still lives with the challenging figure of 10.5 million boys, girls and adolescents between 5 and 17 years of age in child labour, of which 6.3 million carry out dangerous activities, to whom up to 300,000 boys and girls could be added as a consequence of the current crisis.

Ending child labour and guaranteeing fundamental rights for children and adolescents has been at the heart of the ILO's decent work agenda since its inception in 1919. Hence, the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, 2021, declared by the UN General Assembly1, is a historic opportunity to ratify commitments, make visible achievements, take action and inspire broad alliances to preserve the progress made on child labour and issues associated with it, such as social justice, inclusion and reduction of inequalities.

1See: https://undocs.org/en/A/73/L.101
Given the differentiated nature of child labour for children and adolescents, and what is at stake in the current context, offering urgent and effective responses requires joint action, from the Government, at all levels, employers' and workers' organizations, and civil society in its broadest sense.

The Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, a tripartite cooperation platform made up of 30 countries, 7 employers' organizations and 7 workers' organizations, seeks to promote the last stretch towards the achievement of target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development, referring to ending child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Progress in the region has been anchored in the design and implementation of sustained public policies regarding the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of permitted adolescent work. This has been stimulated through broad processes of inter-sectoral, inter-institutional and intergovernmental articulation in different countries of the region, prioritizing vulnerable groups, territories and exposed productive sectors.

The alliance between ECLAC and ILO, in collaboration with the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, has made it possible to advance in the strengthening of local policies for the prevention and eradication of child labour through the implementation of the Identification Model of Child Labour Risk, a statistical tool that allows having a map that identifies different levels of risk to child labour in the territories.

**Objectives**

1. Share progress in the prevention and eradication of child labour in municipalities of Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. Generate a space for the exchange of experiences between government representatives, employers' organizations and workers' organizations on the challenges posed by COVID-19 for the prevention and eradication of child labour.

---

Preliminary Agenda

Side Event: The challenge of territorial management of public policies of prevention and eradication of child labour in the context of COVID-19 (60 minutes)

- Welcome
  - Alberto Arenas, Director of the Social Development Division of ECLAC (2 min.)
  - Vinícius Pinheiro, Regional Director of ILO for Latin America and the Caribbean (2 min.)

- Motion graphic projection – International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour 2021 (2 min.)

- The challenge of territorial management of public policies of prevention and eradication of child labour in the context of COVID-19
  - Director of the Institute of family Welfare of Colombia (to be confirmed) (8 min.)
  - Juan Luis Bermúdez, Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica (8 min.)
  - Pablo Mieres, Minister of Labour and Social Security of Uruguay (8 min.)

- Sectorial experiences for the prevention of child labour at the local level in the context of COVID-19
  - Santiago Girón, Executive Director of Funcafé, Guatemala. *Experience of identification of territories with a high risk of child labour in the production of coffee in Guatemala.* (8 min.)
  - Norberto Cafasso, Union Secretary and National Coordinator of Policies of Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour of the Unión Obrera Ladrillera of the Republic of Argentina (UOLRA). *Experience of attending to child and adolescent labour in the brick industry of Argentina.* (8 min.)

- Dialogue open to questions via chat (15 min.)
  - Moderator: ILO, ECLAC