



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Combatting Child Labour in Global Supply Chains: a Collective Challenge

NL Flagship Side Event
High-Level Political Forum

14th of July | 7:30-9:00 am EDT | 1:30-3:00 pm CEST | Virtual event



Broadcasted via browser ([registration](#))

Background:

2021 has been declared the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour (IYECL). Although this theme has been a priority for some time, the goal of eliminating child labour by 2025 (SDG Target 8.7) has become more urgent than ever. For the first time in 20 years the number of children performing child labour has increased. Currently 160 million children perform child labour. These numbers do not yet include the impact of the covid pandemic. Taking the pandemic into account, the number of children performing child labour is likely to increase by another 9.4 – 46 million if no measures are taken.

The Netherlands is committed to keeping child labour on the agenda and accelerate joint actions. We became a pathfinder country of the 'Alliance 8.7' - an inclusive global partnership committed to achieving zero child labour by 2025. We must take responsibility and cooperate with stakeholders at a national and international level to end child labour in global supply chains. The Netherlands believes in a multi-stakeholder approach in which the governments collaborate with businesses, NGO's and other stakeholders (Dutch Diamond approach).

In the context of the IYECL, this High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 side-event will be dedicated to the elimination of child labour in supply chains, with a particular focus on increased cooperation between the stakeholders in a supply chain. Therefore, a good understanding of each other's position, responsibilities and capabilities is essential. All parties need to cooperate together and accelerate actions to achieve the ambitious SDG Target 8.7: eliminating child labour by 2025.

During the NL Flagship event, an open dialogue will be organized in which the panelists exchange experiences and insights about their efforts to eliminate child labour within supply chains. The event starts off with a key note speech from the ILO to set the stage. Hereafter the dialogue starts, and first the speakers are invited to share bottlenecks and challenges they face on this topic and express what they need (from one another) to effectively address this issue. During the second part of the dialogue, speakers are invited to share concrete solutions that contribute to the eradication of child labour and articulate (joint) actions to further enhance this common endeavor. Questions from the audience (via chat) will be taken along.

Objectives:

- Set up open dialogue on challenges/obstacles, needs and experiences in the fight against child labour
- Identify urgent bottlenecks and concrete actions/deliverables for the elimination of child labour
- Create understanding of each other's positions, responsibilities and opportunities in the elimination of child labour
- Get commitment and enhance cooperation between stakeholders in the supply chain to eliminate child labour
- Raising awareness and urgency for the elimination of child labour and accelerate actions

Speakers:

Moderator: Ms Hajar Yagkoubi – Public speaker and youth inclusion expert

Key note: Ms Martha Newton, Deputy Director General Policy, ILO

Panel:

- Mr Steven Collet, Ambassador Business and Development, the Netherlands
- Hon. Ignatius Baffour-Awuah, Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana
- Mr Benjamin Gatland – Global Director Social Sustainability, Heineken
- Mr Martin Samuelson Nangoli, Managing Director, Kikobero Coffee, Uganda
- Mr Pandari Nath, Youth representative and representative of programme 'Work No Child's Business', India

Tentative programme:

13.30 – 13.35	Opening
13.35 – 13.40	Key note ILO
13.40 - 14.10	First part of dialogue (challenges and needs) with intermezzo of short video with youth representatives
14.10 – 14.40	Second session dialogue (solutions & ways forward) with intermezzo of short video about 'best practices'
14.40 – 14.50	Questions from the audience
14.50 – 15.00	Concluding words by moderator