

**IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, Buenos Aires,
Argentina, 14-16 November 2017**

Children have a central place in EU policies and programmes, both inside and outside the EU. Tackling poverty, protecting children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, ensuring their overall wellbeing and access to quality basic services such as health, education, water and sanitation, are among our priorities worldwide. The EU therefore is committed to support partner countries in achieving target UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7.

The EU is strongly committed to the fight against child labour and the elimination of the worst forms of child labour through a multidimensional approach. This engagement includes promoting the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ratification and implementation of the ILO Conventions and The Hague and Brasilia Declarations.

On the occasion of the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour the EU is committed to take stock of progress made since the 2013 III Global Conference on Child Labour (Brasilia), to assess remaining obstacles and new opportunities and to agree on measures to strengthen our actions to end child labour in all its forms, and in this context, protect the rights of children and promote full and productive employment and decent work among young people.

During the IV Global Conference, the EU would like to propose the following pledges which have both an internal (inside the EU) and external focus.

EU Pledges

1. Ratification of ILO core instruments on child labour and forced labour

Promote actively the swift ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol of 2014 to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, in the European Union, in relations with partner countries and in international fora.

Promote universal ratification and effective implementation of the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the ILO Convention 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment.

2. Fight against child labour and forced labour

Commit to support the fight against Child Labour including the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Forced Labour through EU policies, and support partner countries and institutions to better design and implement related policies.

Commit to support programmes of international organisations aiming at achieving the objective to end Child Labour in all its forms by 2025 and to eradicate Forced Labour by 2030 in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Promotion of the rights of the child

Commit to implementing the revised EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection on the Rights of the Child¹ with a particular focus on system-strengthening including child protection systems.

Commit to support actions and policies that protect children from poverty and enhance equal opportunities by reaching out to marginalised children and those in vulnerable situations.

4. Fight against child labour and forced labour in Global Supply Chains

Commit to support the fight against Child Labour and Forced Labour and other unacceptable forms of work in supply chains, in particular through projects in garment, agriculture, conflict minerals and fisheries sectors.

5. Education, skills and transition from school to work

Commit to support actions in the European Union and in partner countries to implement the rights of the child to have access to quality and inclusive education and overcome regional disparities within the country. This includes early childhood education and care and tackling basic skills and early school leaving.

Commit to support partnerships in the area of traineeship and apprenticeship systems, to provide young people with the skills required to ease their transition from education into the labour market.

¹ EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection on the Rights of the Child, 6846/17, 6 March 2017.

6. Youth employment

Commit to reach out to those young people neither in employment, education nor training to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 years in the European Union receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

In line with the new European Consensus on Development, focus on concrete actions to meet specific needs of youth in partner countries by increasing employment and entrepreneurship opportunities supported by effective policies in education, vocational training, skills development and access to digital technologies and services.

7. Migration

Commit to the protection of migrant children, in the context of prevention of and responses to child labour by focusing on early access to inclusive, formal education, vocational training and preparations for transition to adulthood and access to the labour market.