



Terre des Hommes International Federation

Respecting Children's Rights – Tools and Approaches to Fight Child Labour

Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights

18 November 2015, 8.20 – 9.40 am

Organizers:

ILO, UNICEF, UN Global Compact, Save the Children and Terre des Hommes

Session Focus and Background:

Child labour is a pressing human rights, social and economic issue that, despite progress, affects many businesses and their supply chains across the world. Following a brief description of two relevant voluntary initiatives in this area, the Child Labour Platform and the Children's Rights and Business Principles, panelists will discuss practices and approaches that companies have adopted to respect children's rights and contribute to the elimination of child labour, and to further their commitment to support children's rights. Examples will be provided across different sectors and regions. The session will also include practical recommendations from other stakeholders to the private and public sector on how to tackle the issue.

The [Child Labour Platform](#) (CLP) is a business-led, cross-sectoral forum for the frank exchange of experience on what works and doesn't work in tackling child labour in supply chains. It identifies obstacles to businesses implementing the ILO and Global Compact child labour principles, as well as key dilemmas faced, and advises companies on practical ways of overcoming them. In addition, the CLP provides tailored training on topics such as child labour monitoring and age verification, and catalyses collective action. The CLP is a work-stream of the UN Global Compact Human Rights and Labour Working Group, co-chaired by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). It is underpinned by ILO's long experience in tackling child labour in supply chains through constructive engagement with business, workers and their organizations and governments, in support of the implementation of Conventions 138 and 182.

The [Children's Rights and Business Principles](#), co-developed by UNICEF, UN Global Compact and Save the Children, are founded on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and highlight the specific context in which companies can respect and support children's rights. Principle 2 calls on companies to help bring about the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and relationships. This requirement encompasses the corporate responsibility to respect the rights in the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work as well as the corporate

commitment to support children's rights by working with governments, social partners and others to promote education and sustainable solutions to the root causes of child labour.

Session format:

1. Welcoming remarks
2. Moderated Panel Discussion
3. Q&A
4. Closing remarks

Key Discussion Questions:

1. Which tools, resources and initiatives are available to companies to meet their corporate responsibility to respect children's rights and address child labour?
2. How can companies take or contribute to remediation measures in their value chains to ensure that children are withdrawn from all forms of child labour and are not displaced into other child labour elsewhere in the economy?
3. How can business engage with other stakeholders, such as trade unions and NGOs, in this area?
4. How can global frameworks, principles and international conventions guide activities at the local level?
5. What steps can business take to support the implementation of those SDGs that relate to children and use of child labour?