



ONLINE

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHILD LABOUR, FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HIGH LEVEL VIRTUAL MEETING • 2 AND 3 MARCH 2022



This event was organized by the Alliance 8.7 and the Paris office of the ILO, within the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Final Report



International Labour Organization





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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) aims to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking by 2030 and child labour in all forms by 2025 ([SDG Target 8.7](#)). This challenge is compounded by the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Without additional efforts, the international community will not be able to meet it.

By adopting a National Strategy to accelerate the fight against child labour, forced labour and human trafficking, Albania, Côte d'Ivoire, France and Germany (currently completing the application process), Morocco and the Netherlands, have become Alliance 8.7 [Pathfinder Countries](#). They are thus demonstrating that zero tolerance of the worst forms of human exploitation is a shared responsibility.

The high-level virtual meeting, held from 2-3 March 2022, in the framework of the [French Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#), served to promote the exchange of best practices between governments, NGOs, social partners, companies, independent authorities, European institutions and international organizations. It aimed to formulate public policy recommendations at the end of the exchanges. Finally, it strengthened partnerships between the six aforementioned Pathfinder Countries, in particular, comprising countries that are members of the European Union and countries of the East and South.

This meeting was organized by the Alliance 8.7 Global Partnership against Child Labour, Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and the Paris Office of the International Labour Organization, with support from the

[French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights](#) (CNCDH), independent national rapporteur on the fight against the trafficking and exploitation of human beings; Secours Catholique-Caritas France, coordinator of the Collective “Together against Trafficking in Human Beings” composed of 28 NGOs; the Committee against Modern Slavery (CCEM) and the French Ministries of Labour, Employment and Inclusion and of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

It aimed to strengthen the identification and protection of victims and survivors, and enriched the social component of the European initiative for a European due diligence, as well as the social clauses in the sustainable development chapters of trade agreements. It also fulfilled one of the [EU Council Conclusions on Human Rights and Decent Work in Supply Chains](#) of 1 December 2020, which called on Member States to join Alliance 8.7.

In more detail, the high-level meeting welcomed governments, European and international institutions, survivors, experts, NGOs, and social partners from the six aforementioned countries. Participants from all continents were able to contribute in the exchanges. The conclusions, conceived in a multi-stakeholder approach, contribute to the effectiveness and evolution of the [2011 EU Directive on Human Trafficking](#); to the work of the European Commission on implementing a “zero tolerance” approach to child labour and forced labour; to the [European Sustainable corporate governance initiative](#); as well as to the preparation of the [5th Global Conference for the Elimination of Child Labour](#), to be held in May 2022. Simultaneous translation into French and English was provided.

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH

OPENING SESSION



Objective: Express the necessary political support and whole-of-Government commitment to the fight against child labour, forced labour and human trafficking, in association with all stakeholders.

Introduction to the High-Level Virtual Meeting: **Anousheh KARVAR**, Chair of Alliance 8.7, Global Partnership against Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

- Today, more than 150 participants from governments, pathfinder countries, organizations, and other types of stakeholders/partners are in attendance.
- This event could not have been organized without the efforts of the coordinators and the organizations fighting against child labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery.
- We will speak about many themes: due diligence, actions to detect victims, fostering international partnerships, and strengthening international cooperation to fight this exploitation.
- We will then discuss recommendations to improve existing tools, best practices among the six Pathfinder Countries, and ways to reach zero tolerance against child labour and forced labour globally.
- Conclusions of our work will be considered in the preparations for the 5th Global Conference against Child Labour, to be held in Durban (South Africa) in May of this year.
- We must fight against the deep causes of human trafficking, forced labour and child labour, we have to fight war, discrimination, poverty, the absence of social protection at work, which results in situations of fragility for thousands of people.

Opening remarks by Ministers and the EU commissioner for International Partnerships

Ms Elisabeth BORNE – Minister of Labour, employment and Inclusion (France)

- The fight against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking is an ongoing battle.
- Progress made since the beginning of the century has been slowed down by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Estimates show that child labour is on the rise worldwide, resulting in an increase of 8 million children.
- As adults and as representatives of our countries, it is our collective responsibility to the younger generations to eliminate these unacceptable forms of work.
- Child labour is all the more harmful because it undermines their futures, exposes them to unacceptable conditions, and prevents them from getting an education.
- France strongly reaffirms its commitment to fight against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.

- We have ratified the fundamental conventions of the ILO and other relevant international instruments.
- You can count on the determination of our government to achieve the objectives outlined in Alliance 8.7 to eradicate child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking in the shortest possible time and allow every worker to exercise their dignity.

Mr Franck RIESTER – Delegate Minister for Foreign Trade (France)

- One victim of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking is one too many.
- We must act with firmness, and that is why we are amplifying our collective action against this scourge that knows no borders.
- France is at the forefront of the fight against these practices which violate the rights of every human being.
- In the private sector, for example, initiatives have been launched in the cocoa value chain.
- But we must go further and faster – we must establish a pan-European approach to due diligence.
- Today, it's up to Europe to be a Pathfinder in the world and you can count on France to move this major project forward.
- International trade should respect human rights and the environment. In this spirit, we support the strengthening of sustainable development in our trade agreements.
- We ask for clear commitments and defend zero tolerance against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- We count on the commitment of public and private actors to fight more effectively against these practices.

Mr Adama KAMARA – Minister of Employment and Social Protection (Côte d'Ivoire)

- As the leading producer of cocoa, the government of Côte d'Ivoire has implemented strong measures to fight child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- We are committed to active participation in all frameworks against child labour and engagement as a Pathfinder Country.
- We have created two committees to fight the problem.
- The government has implemented the strategy through National Action Plans.
- The eradication of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking requires social programmes against poverty and respect for human rights.
- We are exploring mechanisms for social protection to help the most disadvantaged groups.
- We have not lost sight of the root causes of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking – poverty, vulnerability, and a lack of services/social protection.
- One of the solutions is access to social protection mechanisms – universal healthcare, informal workers' access to pension, and other social services.
- We need due diligence with regard to enterprises and human rights.

- By themselves, measures cannot solve the problem – we need action to tackle the structural causes of child labour.
- These laws must lead enterprises and entrepreneurs toward greater transparency in the implementation of action plans in the public and private sectors.
- We must ensure sustainability of supply chains in agriculture.

Mr Younes SEKKOURI – Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Enterprises, Employment and Skills (Morocco)

- I am emotional because 20 years ago I was a member of the Parliament of Childhood, an NGO with the goal of promoting children’s rights in Morocco.
- It was a platform to defend international conventions aimed at eliminating child labour.
- We aim to focus on the next generation and fight against poverty and improve living conditions of vulnerable groups.
- Since 1999, child labour has been declining in Morocco, from 100,000 to a few thousand today.
- Morocco is at the center of new migrations and our policies are based on human rights.
- We fight and prevent human trafficking and consolidate human rights to safeguard human life.
- We protect young girls against exploitation in domestic environments.
- There is access to social coverage to all citizens, including unpaid workers.
- The government should accelerate public measures to protect workers, prevent vulnerability at work, and promote decent work and social dialogue.
- Last week in Morocco we launched a social dialogue initiative and in the upcoming weeks we will establish a new social pact to face new challenges.
- We have important goals to achieve and we want to involve all actors in compliance with human rights.

Ms Karien VAN GENNIP – Minister of Social Affairs and Employment (Netherlands)

- “We have no more dreams.” These are the words of 15-year-old girls who work in a textile factory – fictional characters inspired by testimonies of 75 girls interviewed in India.
- Their words make my heart beat faster, and I think many of you share this feeling.
- Every human being has the right to dream. It is time to give the dream back to all of these human beings.
- It is not enough to point fingers at other countries; we all have to take responsibility.
- The government of the Netherlands gives priority to the fight against human trafficking by financially encouraging companies to do more.
- We study how to prosecute more effectively those responsible for forced labour and human trafficking.
- We must move forward together; that’s why the Netherlands has become a Pathfinder Country.

- All member states of the European Union should join Alliance 8.7, because together, we have more weight.
- Cooperation among companies, social partners, NGOs, consumer and producer countries is the key to our action. The dialogue must be held on an equal footing.
- It is time to eradicate child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- Let's use this conference to take a big step toward this goal.

Ms Jutta URPILAINEN – Commissioner for International Partnerships (EU)

- We simply cannot tolerate child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking, yet ending these human rights abuses is not easy.
- It demands partnership between different countries and sectors.
- The European Union is proud to join the Alliance 8.7 and looks forward to working together to take urgent, collective action to end child labour by 2025.
- Fostering responsible global supply chains with a focus on due diligence is one of the best ways to do that.
- The European Union and our international partners share the feeling that consumer goods must not come at the expense of workers, especially children.

Ms Lilian TSCHAN – State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Germany)

- In the 2030 Agenda, the international community committed to ending child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking once and for all.
- Germany now wants to take on the responsibilities of a Pathfinder Country – one of those working hardest to ensure Target 8.7 is reached around the world.
- Child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking are not faraway problems. Even in the European Union and in Germany, victims are not given the proper support and perpetrators are not persecuted often enough.
- Germany organized a multistakeholder national workshop focused on the fight against human trafficking last November.
- We need a strong international community that makes use of the expertise of diverse stakeholders. We need events like this one which is organized today.

Ms Denada SEFERI – Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection (Albania)

- Albania is committed to ending child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- We have drafted focused policies and programmes; for example, those that protect street children from exploitation.
- Achievements include higher school enrollments, the establishment of emergency centers, and increased cooperation among local actors.
- Municipalities are drafting local plans with concrete objectives and measures to fight child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking, including parental employment, psychological support, and awareness raising.

Mr Adrien TAQUET – Secretary of State in charge of Childhood and Families (France)

- Child labour deprives children of their dignity, their childhood, and their dreams.
- In 2020, figures were on the rise.

1. Speakers

Jean-Marie BURGUBURU – President of the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights (France)

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the basis of our commission. It states that no one can be kept in slavery or trafficked/exploited on French territory.
- This phenomenon requires a global response based on three main objectives: prevent, protect, and punish.
- Informal employment, poverty, lack of workers' rights protection, discrimination. These are the problems that we need to focus and work on.

Geneviève COLAS – Secours Catholique and Coordinator of the Collective “Together against Trafficking in Human Beings” (France)

- I would like to say a word for our Ukrainian friends. We hope to avoid human trafficking during the war.
- The French presidency of the European Union is an opportunity to make progress, take a victim-centered approach, and foster a safety-based approach.
- We want to insist on five pillars: identify victims, protection, assistance, support, and national mechanisms in each European Union country.
- Cooperation among states is necessary to protect human rights.
- We must promote a network to ban any trade based on forced labour. The due diligence directive should be adopted with the agreement of all enterprises throughout the supply chain.
- It is also important to address online pornography, even in countries not based in the European Union, since the internet is open to all.
- It is important to attack the deeper causes and raise awareness to eradicate the phenomenon.
- I believe that Alliance 8.7 is a useful framework to find solutions together so we can take action.

From the chat: You can read the [recommendations](#) made within the framework of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union around child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.

Sylvie O'DY – Chairperson, Committee Against Modern Slavery (France)

- In the past, no one in France used to talk about this. These victims were invisible.
- Today, we work with the vulnerable who are trapped in modern slavery.
- The official figures of modern slavery are only the tip of the iceberg, because globalization has changed the economics and the world of work.
- We need clear policies to give better visibility to human trafficking.
- The more numerous we are, the more effectively we can achieve our goals. Let's share good practices and remember that western countries are also touched by this scourge.

2. Survivor Testimonies

Leïla

- Leïla was exploited in France as a domestic worker.
- She arrived in 2016 and she lived and worked in a family's home. At first, the family was kind. They promised to send Leïla to school.
- Soon, however, Leïla was working from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., with no time for rest. She was also forced to eat separately from the family.
- There were five children: three boys and two girls. They ranged in age from a newborn to a 19-year-old.
- She could only go outside to take the children to and from school. She could not even speak inside the house, otherwise she would be beaten. It was an extremely isolating experience.
- Carrying the baby on her back, she did all the chores. She prepared the meals for all the children.
- She slept in a bunk bed at first, but later she was forced to sleep on the ground. She was very cold, and didn't have enough blankets. She also had to wake up in the middle of the night to tend to the baby.
- She did not know who she could talk to. She could not go back to her country of origin.
- Today everything is much better. She wanted to speak because she thought her experience could be helpful to others. She has confidence in herself and knows that people support her.

Abdjelil

- Abdjelil arrived in France in 2016 and worked in the construction sector.
- He worked on restructuring buildings. One day, Abdjelil met a man who offered him a steady contract and made lots of promises, including a place to live.
- Soon, Abdjelil was working from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. The man asked him to stay and sleep in the construction yard.
- After more than a year of this treatment, the man had not fulfilled any of his promises. Abdjelil had lost faith in him.
- Abdjelil called the head of the construction company, which put him in touch with a supportive organization. This organization removed him from the situation and helped him obtain his full wages.
- Although Abdjelil speaks French, it was not possible for him to understand his rights and the laws in the country when he first arrived.
- "They treated me like a slave, working all year every day without rest; I was afraid of being expelled. With this association, I got the support I needed."



3. Speakers

Philippe VANHUYNEGEM – Chief of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, ILO

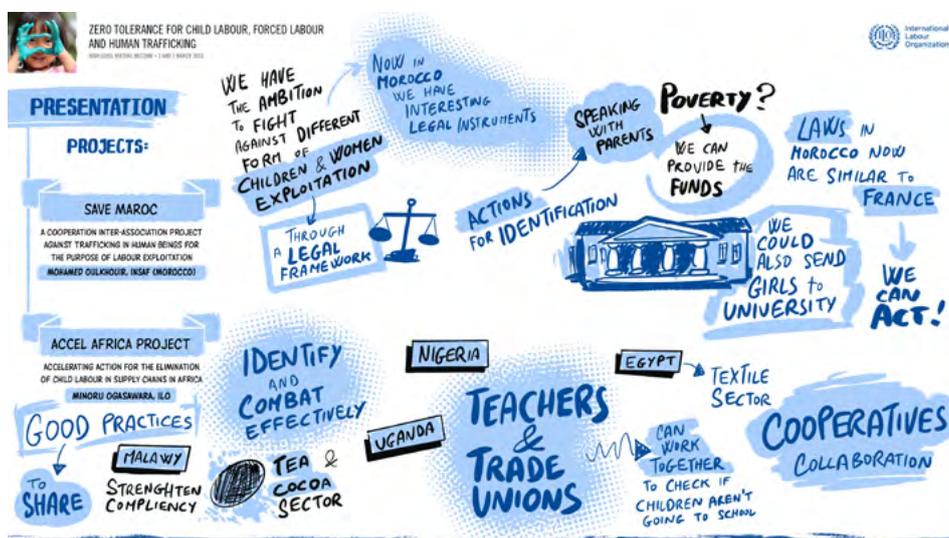
- The situation is far from rosy.
- In 2017, the ILO realized there are 40 million Leïlas and Abjelils in the world, in situations of exploitation, while 15 million women are in situations of forced marriage.
- There are forms of modern slavery linked to bondage and hiring practices, in all sectors, private and public, everywhere in the world. No country escapes this reality.
- An economy of USD\$50 million fuels the world of modern slavery.
- Over 20 years, we have observed a decrease in child labour, but the trend has reversed over the last 5 years. We are far away from our objective.
- The pandemic has had major consequences.
- But there are some signs of hope – solutions exist and progress has been achieved (ex: the cotton sector in Uzbekistan, Qatar’s labour reform, Colombia as an implementer of institutions against child labour)
- Poverty, the informal economy, and a lack of legal and social protection are the root causes of child labour.
- It is possible to reverse the trend.
- We have to work at the local level and throughout supply chains.
- The role of stakeholders has changed. Policies and programmes to withdraw children from work and put them in school are good, but not enough. We need global coordination through initiatives like Alliance 8.7.
- We need to shift from a declaration to a call to action at the 5th Global Conference.

From the chat (Maria Lee): As Mr. VANHUYNEGEM pointed out, the majority of child labor in the world is in agriculture (70%). Achieving Target 8.7 therefore requires

- It supports young women and girls in Morocco by identifying victims of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- There is now a mechanism to identify children who have stopped attending school and help get them back into education.

ACCEL Africa Project – Accelerating action for the elimination of child labour in supply chains in Africa – **Minoru OGASAWARA**, ILO

- The ACCEL project is active in several countries in Africa.
- This project helps governments and communities use existing protection mechanisms to identify the problem and take action, especially by strengthening compliance against child labour.
- It takes different actions in different countries. For example, we support children withdrawn from school in Nigeria, vocational training programmes in Egypt, etc.



5. Discussion

- If a law exists, it must be implemented. – **Jean-Marie BURGUBURU** – President, the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights (France)
- I think it's important to speak about real methods and means. – **Geneviève COLAS** – Secours Catholique and Coordinator of the Collective “Together against Trafficking in Human Beings” (France)
- Civil society and individuals play a major role. They must be there to fight against indifference. No one can turn a blind eye toward child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. – **Sylvie O'DY** – Chairperson, Committee Against Modern Slavery (France)
- You don't see the children working in a cobalt mine when you buy an electric car, for example. The strength of the stories we have heard this morning should make us aware of the importance of mobilizing all the tools available to solve this problem. – **Cyril COSME** – Director, the ILO Office in Paris

SESSION 1

Objective: Prevention, all along supply chains, through training and due diligence. Discuss improvement to bring to the implementation of the enterprises and other international economic players' due diligence, through powerful prevention means such as raising public awareness and offering training of public decision-makers and private sector managers as well as opinion leaders.

Anousheh KARVAR, Chair of Alliance 8.7, Global Partnership against Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

- This has been a complete overview on the cause that unites us here today.
- We have reason to be optimistic and hopeful.
- Here are 3 takeaway messages: 1. The importance of political will, including national legislation covering these phenomena; 2. The shared responsibility of industrialized countries and industrializing countries, civil society, trade unions, employers, Pathfinder Countries, and others; 3. The crucial role played by civil society in identifying the problem and the victims.
- We have to stand united to fight against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking, against indifference and toward justice.

1. Speakers

Matthias THORNS – Deputy Secretary General of the International Organisation of Employers

- Companies need support to implement due diligence.
- We want to tap into local knowledge. Who are the key partners we can contact? Through our network, we want to provide concrete help.
- Too often, we see that social auditors come in once a year, but we need strong, continuous engagement with companies around the world.
- Networks can create peer pressure, because they know each other, and they're going to stay.
- We need to strengthen peer learning between the public and the private sector. The public sector can really learn a lot from the private sector on this topic.
- It is equally important to ensure that public procurement is accessible for medium-sized companies, and not too bureaucratic or complicated.
- It is not possible to prevent child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking through due diligence alone. You need to address the root causes if you want to make progress.
- Problems are deep-rooted in countries and we need a collective approach to solve them.

Jeroen BEIRNAERT – Director Human and Trade Union Rights, International Trade Union Confederation

- It is important to refer to prevention as labour protection.

- During the industrial era, labour law was invented to prevent the worst forms of child labour and forced labour.
- We need regulatory frameworks, freedom of association, and collective bargaining that prevents workers from exploitation.
- Mandatory due diligence is a directive to companies to respect their employees. Unfortunately, voluntary initiatives have been ineffective to date. Companies will now be required to identify and act upon risks.
- However, there are some weaknesses: only multinational companies will be included in the mandate. This limits the scope of due diligence to first-tier suppliers, leaving many companies with an easy way out.
- Trade unions and industrial relations have an important role. Workers need to be directly involved, with a longer term vision.
- Certification is an illusion; you cannot certify a space once and then say that's it. It needs to be checked and verified as the business develops.

Prof. Dorothee BAUMANN-PAULY – Director, Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights – University of Geneva and New York University

- Based on our academic research, we need to address the root causes to prevent child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- We can only be effective through due diligence if those measures are coupled with an understanding of the roots of systemic human rights risks.
- Responsibility cannot fall on the shoulders of suppliers only. In today's business context, suppliers compensate for pressures by subcontracting to places that are off the radar to inspectors.
- We don't want due diligence to become another box-ticking exercise.
- We are ambitiously aiming for zero child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. Let's not create reasons for companies to hide such practices. Instead, we must offer viable paths to end those practices sustainably.
- Decathlon, a sporting goods company, has addressed root causes through their purchasing practice model by fostering sustainable long term relationships with suppliers.
- Nestle has created a new programme for the cocoa sector in the Ivory Coast, namely an accelerator programme to make sure kids stay in school.
- Adequate due diligence requires the definition of common industry standards – true standards, not guidelines or principles, but standards that can be translated into measurable metrics.
- We need to make sure that the now-legally required due diligence delivers actual progress toward zero tolerance.
- Many see due diligence as a silver bullet to fix global supply chains. However, there are no silver bullets in this context. We need to discuss the challenges that remain.
- What does it mean to conduct due diligence in complex environments, such as in China with the Uyghurs, or in conflict, such as in Myanmar or right now, Ukraine?

2. Roundtable 1: Governments' responses

Kouakou Kra Martin N'GUETTIA – Director for the Fight against Child Labour (Côte d'Ivoire)

- We work with all stakeholders in all countries to push companies to implement due diligence with regard to human rights.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, the most affected sector is the cocoa sector.
- We cannot achieve results if we work individually, so we worked on a coordination framework. Our president created a decree to facilitate that work.
- We established a dialogue with the European Union to create a favorable environment for enterprises.
- It is important to implement a single national system for tracking the issue.

Anne KEMPERS – The Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Fund Against Child Labour

- We believe that we must combat child labour together, each with our own roles and responsibilities. No one can do it alone.
- The fund supports Dutch companies to research child labour in production chains and the root causes of child labour.
- Companies work with local suppliers and local NGOs.
- Cooperation and a local stakeholder approach is important.
- We encourage companies to go to production companies and see firsthand what is happening there.

Eline BIJVELD – Work : No Child's Business (Netherlands)

- 160 million children around the world are engaged in child labour, an increase from 2016 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We must act now to prevent a further increase.
- As an alliance, we are taking this opportunity to push countries to address the root causes of child labour.
- We believe that when child labour is found in the supply chain, the company in question should not break its contract with the supplier but instead help them end the practice.
- Our action plan has been downloaded 350 times. Many actors admitted they did not know where their supplies came from.
- However, this is not enough. The proposed legislation excludes small- and medium-sized enterprises and thus will only apply to less than 1% of companies in Europe.
- We ask that the European Union improves the scope of the law.

From the chat: Read the Work : No Child's Business [statement on the European Commission's proposed legislation](#) on zero tolerance for child labour.

3. Roundtable 2: Social Partners and Civil Society's good practices and proposals

Ludivine PIRON – End child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children (ECPAT)

- My NGO started in the tourism sector, with regard to sexual exploitation.
- We have a multi-country project on child labour and human trafficking.
- There is a section on awareness raising with at-risk minors, who can be seen in places like restaurants, transportation, and hotels.
- What often happens is multiple forms of exploitation. For example, during the World Cup or the Olympic games, trafficking and tourism meet.
- Exploitation undermines the principles of tourism.
- More than 7,500 volunteers are working with us.
- It is important to have a clear and practical certification programme in the tourism industry.
- Local, regional, and national authorities should be involved.

Lucie CHATELAIN – Sherpa Association

- We provide legal advice and tools to victims. We offer solutions to end exploitation and foster reform of the legal framework.
- We would like to strengthen companies' legal responsibilities, which have been weakened by globalization, supply chain, and subcontracting.
- Sometimes, the law enables companies to have factories in countries where the labour laws are not respected.
- We also want to foster good practices in companies and the participation of civil society.
- We know the issue increases at the farthest ends of the supply chain. This enables enterprises to avoid direct responsibility.
- Duty means undertaking all measures that are adequate to the sector and the region to avoid violations and help develop a healthy economic model.

Mohammed TOUZANI – General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises / CGEM (Morocco)

- Morocco has been fighting child labour for years, trying to reduce it.
- 40,000 children are still in child labour in Morocco, made worse by COVID-19 crisis and the economic situation of the country.
- We launched a [digital platform](#) to help eliminate child labour.
- The platform gathers all legislation and laws and conventions ratified by Morocco, since some companies do not know about them. It is useful for foreign investors, young entrepreneurs, etc.
- We prepare awareness campaigns, guidelines, and other materials designed to reach small- and medium-sized enterprises.
- The platform is also a place to exchange knowledge and best practices.



4. Discussion

- We need common industry specific standards. First, we need to come together and get a better understanding of what due diligence means. Then, we can figure out how to report on it. – **Prof. Dorothee BAUMANN-PAULY** – Director, Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights – University of Geneva and New York University
- Due diligence is an intensive process and it is not the way companies are used to working. We have to take this into account when we talk about legislation. – **Anne KEMPERS** – The Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Fund Against Child Labour
- Faced with this issue (strengthening the legal framework) we have banned many practices. In terms of child labour there are many jobs that children cannot do. Civil society has also been called upon. We have made efforts to reverse the trend despite COVID-19. – **Kouakou Kra Martin N'GUETTIA** – Director for the Fight against Child Labour (Côte d'Ivoire)



SESSION 2

Objective: Detecting, identifying, accompanying, protecting. Assess ongoing actions and progress to be made in the detection of victims or survivors, their protection and accompaniment, including better access to rights (shelter, housing, health, education and employment services), justice and remedies.

1. Speakers

Valiant RICHEY – Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

- The challenges are not the same, so the solutions will not be the same, but political will is the starting point in any case.
- I see opportunities to do better in supporting victims, as well as in detection and prevention.
- The official numbers might capture only 1% of the total victims, partly because countries have taken a passive approach to detection.
- States need to put together the policy framework and operational capability to proactively screen and protect. Protection starts here.
- One of the primary forms of detection is law enforcement. We encourage countries to use a multi-agency approach.
- We should enhance our efforts through the use of technology. For example, Labour Link is a platform for workers to share their viewpoints in real time.
- If victims' assistance depends on their reliance on law enforcement, it is doomed. To address this problem, there is an urgent need to adopt a social pact to achieve victim status (meaning bodies outside of law enforcement can grant victim status).
- Victims who are better supported are more likely to trust law enforcement.
- Assistance does not only mean shelters, but also medical assistance or reintegration into the workforce. Victims are different and have different needs.
- Who is vulnerable to trafficking and why? We are often biased toward the concept of an "ideal" victim.

Prof. Conny RIJKEN – Elected member, Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in human beings - GRETA/Council of Europe

- Early detection and identification is crucial.
- GRETA specifically refers to the importance of a national referral mechanism.
- In the European Union, during the reflection and a recovery period of at least 30 days, the victim should receive the support he or she needs.
- Assistance to a victim is not conditional on his or her willingness to act as a witness in criminal proceedings.
- Compensation and legal redress is difficult to realize in practice. That is why GRETA focuses on trafficking victims' access to justice and remedies.

From the chat: For some critical notes, see the [GRETA report on France](#).

2. Roundtable 1 – National responses

Elisabeth MOIRON-BRAUD – Secretary General, Interministerial Mission for Women's protection against Violence and against Human Trafficking (France)

- We must mobilize at all levels to give visibility to victims.
- Reaching out to vulnerable people is indispensable.
- We have a guide to help reach out on multiple levels, from social workers to teachers.
- Each country must create their own mechanism.
- We work with all the ministries and associations of experts in France.
- We develop a list of roles and responsibilities in terms of identification, drawing from suggestions of the institutions.
- Once the victims are identified, they can gain access to what they need, including residency permits, legal tools, and compensation.

Dr. Philipp SCHWERTMANN – Head of the Migration and Decent Work Department at Arbeit und Leben Berlin-Brandenburg DGB/VHS e. V., including the Service Centre against Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and THB (Germany)

- If I had to put a headline on Germany's national response I would say "work in progress."
- Germany has a strong federal structure and responsibility is diffused throughout the country.
- But Germany recently became a Pathfinder Country.
- Currently, there are services in Germany to help workers understand their rights, and those services workers have received training to identify instances of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- Once identified, they are referred to specialized services, even to the police, if needed.

Kouakou Kra Martin N'GUETTIA – Director for the Fight against Child Labour (Côte d'Ivoire)

- In 2010, Côte d'Ivoire adopted a specific law which prohibits child labour and human trafficking, which was updated in 2016.
- There is also a section on victim protection. We created specific police-INTERPOL units to pursue child labour and human trafficking cases.
- We have to provide protection and services to victims, so they are aware of their rights. We also have specialized centers for child victims.
- We also have a detection mechanism through labour inspectors who carry out inspections, but any citizen can also detect it and report it to authorities. We set up a toll-free number for reporting cases.

Herman BOLHAAR – National rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children (Netherlands)

- Human trafficking does not happen in isolation. One of the most shocking recent findings is that almost half of victims of human trafficking will become a victim of another crime within 5 years.
- These are very serious crimes and this illustrates how human trafficking is intertwined with other forms of crime.
- Victims do not often get the support they need to fully recover from what has happened to them. Their needs are complex and diverse.
- We need proactive qualitative and quantitative research to understand repeat victimization.
- We need to know what works – What does specialist care look like? What prevents people from being re-victimized or perpetrators from offending?
- We need a necessary financial stimulus from national and global bodies to carry out this research.

Salima ADMI – Director of Labour (Morocco)

- There are some gaps in legislation, as well as social and economic difficulties for workers. We want to strengthen and provide capacity building opportunities.
- One of the major components is that the labour code contains provisions against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- We have built government facilities, such as the national commission to fight and prevent human trafficking, to address the problem.
- We need a humanist migration policy, based on human rights, through the legalization of foreigners in illegal situations and the generalization of social and health coverage for all Moroccan nationals.

Nadia BOS – Expert in Human Trafficking at the Netherlands Labour Authority (Netherlands)

- Successfully bringing perpetrators to justice is not an easy task.
- The criminalization of labour exploitation is long and complex. We need sufficient evidence.
- It is an infringement on fundamental human rights.
- Victims of labour exploitation usually have little freedom and are not able to come forward. They are often bound to their employers.
- Victims take certain risks by reporting to authorities. It is essential that they are protected.
- A vast majority of criminal investigations are delayed due to lack of evidence in human trafficking. In this way, the victim loses their right to protection.

3. Roundtable 2 – Actions and Proposals from Civil Society

Ariela MITRI – Caritas Albania

- Albania is a source country but also a transit and destination country of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- Exploitation happens at the border.

- Albanian children, especially those of the ethnic Roma group, beg in the streets of Kosovo for months and then return to Albania.
- Most of them cross the border illegally.
- We organized roundtables to improve detection, raise visibility among authorities, and created a group of experts between Albania, Montenegro, and Kosovo.
- The cross-border joint plan realized its objectives and was included in the National Action Plan 2021.

Brian VARMA – CoMensha (Netherlands)

- CoMensha is a Dutch national coordination center for victims of human trafficking. We receive annual funding from the government for basic tasks.
- The NGO registers facts and figures about victims, and creates a legal basis for law enforcement to share data with the NGO.
- The general data protection regulation in Europe decreased registrations. COVID-19 also had an impact.
- We use public campaigns and storytelling as well as cooperation with former victims and providing education and training.
- There are waiting lists for specialized care. It is not always easy to provide tailor made assistance on the local level.
- Communication between law enforcement and healthcare centers is important. It is key to work from a victim's perspective and engage in long term action.

Suzanne HOFF – La Strada International

- We conduct outreach and prevention programs.
- We believe there is a good legal framework in place to address child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking in Europe.
- Businesses find legal loopholes, like subcontracting processes, to deny their responsibility for abuse.
- There are limited successful prosecutions against businesses so far. This should be addressed and better monitored.
- We echo the regrets that we heard earlier: only 1% of European companies fall under these new due diligence laws.
- The existing legislation must be better implemented.

Euphrasie AKA – Country Director and Regional Representative for Western and Central Africa of the Foundation ICI (Côte d'Ivoire)

- Our NGO fights against child labour and forced labour in the cocoa sector in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.
- We have applied the principles of due diligence in the chocolate supply chain. We identify the risks, find the working child, and find solutions.
- We use a multi-pronged approach: awareness raising, training, schooling, and more.
- We managed to reduce child labour by 50% in communities where our programming was applied.
- We have many initiatives in the public and private sector to tackle child labour.

- Now we need to align the practices between all actors at all levels.
- If we agree it is a crime, we need zero tolerance. We need a nuanced approach when it comes to child labour.

Annabel CANZIAN – Committee Against Modern Slavery (France)

- We need a global response and we must act urgently.
- These victims are in a precarious situation and so we want to meet their primary needs: housing and food.
- We also support these victims in employment placement, provide socio-cultural support, and work with doctors, associations, and volunteers.
- It is important to help these victims feel like human beings again after exploitation.
- We provide legal support, depending on their needs: criminal law, labour law, and administrative law, including asylum and residency.
- They need competent professionals in a safe place.

Lea RAKOVSKY – Ban Ying, e.V. Coordination and counseling center against trafficking in human beings (Germany)

- We have a shelter and a counseling center for women affected by exploitation and trafficking in the care, hospitality, sex, and domestic work industries.
- We developed some strategies to better identify and protect victims through cooperation with stakeholders.
- More and more asylum seekers are also affected by trafficking.
- We wrote an information prospect with the federal foreign office which is distributed at German embassies around the world. We inform people about their rights and how to reach out in case of problems with employers.
- We also organize annual informational events for which the employer of domestic workers must give them the day off. We inform them about their rights and give them the opportunity to reach out again.
- In cases of exploitation, we organize mediation so workers can claim their wages.
- The reflection and recovery period is rarely implemented, and police often do not inform people about their right to counseling. There is a need to strengthen that component.

DAY 2



SESSION 3

Objective: Leading an ambitious and effective action in Europe and in the world. Encourage international partnerships and enhance European instruments to tackle root causes of exploitation – poverty, informality, lack of social protection and labour protection, presence of violence, certain social norms, gender and other forms of discrimination – all over the world; assess progress in implementation by periodical and efficient monitoring.

Anousheh KARVAR, Chair of Alliance 8.7, Global Partnership against Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

- Yesterday, we heard from victims and people involved in important projects.
- We listed some good reasons to be optimistic, debated the relevance of a national legislation, and discussed shared responsibility with producing and consuming countries.
- We also touched on the key role of civil society and social partners, employers' and workers' organizations, and enterprises to succeed in eliminating child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- Some points for further reflection include: prevention along supply chains, fighting fundamental root causes, and how we can give more responsibility to enterprises on due diligence.
- Perhaps we should provide a transparency framework to companies, protecting human rights and evaluating progress along the way.
- Civil society made presentations on how they conduct their work in terms of flagging problems and raising awareness among the public.
- We highlighted the issues of detection, identification, and protection of victims.
- All countries are implementing measures and learning from one another.
- We need expertise, knowledge, and research to better understand the victims and the perpetrators.

1. Speakers

Martha NEWTON – Deputy Director General of the International Labour Organisation

- Forced labour and human trafficking remains tragically common in today's global economy. Child labour saw a reverse trend for the first time in 2020.
- Forced labour in the private economy is debt bondage, really predatory behavior, and it is sometimes intergenerational.
- The victims of forced labour generate approximately USD\$150 billion per year in illicit profits. Profits are higher in developed economies and higher in the European Union than anywhere else in the world.
- ILO tools and conventions, coupled with international instruments, provide key guidance. These are serious crimes that need to be dealt with as such, but we

need broad-based approaches underpinned by international cooperation and social dialogue.

- Forced labour is an incubator of poverty and vulnerability. Most survivors just wanted an opportunity to make their lives better.
- We need to use all the tools in our toolkit. Working together, we can move the needle.
- You have to be able to make the business case against forced labour and human trafficking.

Renate HORNUNG-DRAUS – Vice President of the ILO Governing Body, chairperson of the Employers' group

- The ILO will support member states in implementing the action plan that will come out of the 5th Global Conference in Durban.
- These innovative approaches trigger collective action that we should focus on.
- I advocate to further strengthen the Alliance 8.7 and the peer learning between Pathfinder Countries and coordination in terms of research and capacity building.
- There is no question that due diligence is a part of corporate responsibility to human rights. However, it is not a silver bullet to eradicating child labour or forced labour.
- The vast majority of cases happen in the domestic economy and an individual company alone cannot address deep-rooted systemic challenges in supply chains.
- What is missing are practical recommendations on specific country risks. Employers' federations can play an important role in this regard.
- We need to ensure proper follow up at the national level following Durban.

Catelene PASSCHIER – Vice President of the ILO Governing Body, chairperson of the Workers' group

- Child labour is primarily a development problem related to poverty and lack of social protection, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Forced labour and human trafficking are worsened by unequal power relationships in the workplace and exacerbated by poverty, conflict, and migration. Migrant workers are extremely vulnerable to labour exploitation
- One shared feature is precarity and lack of bargaining power, which connects to the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.
- We need a holistic approach to decent employment creation for adults, one that ensures living wages.
- Targeted efforts from governments are urgently needed to promote rural development and expansion of social services such as healthcare and schooling.
- Sustainable Development Goal 8 connects social and economic progress. It provides strong leverage for reaching other goals, making it an enabling goal.
- There is a need for global cooperation and solidarity.
- Ensuring social protection floors is crucial. It is an urgent first step to avoid a surge in child labour in developing countries.

2. Roundtable 1: European Responses

Diane SCHMITT – EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (European Commission)

- In the European Union, 1 in 4 victims of human trafficking is a child. Among children victims, 64% are exploited for sexual purposes and the others for forced labour.
- Even within the European Union, children are exploited and more victims are not even detected.
- This is why we need to work at global, European, national, and regional levels. Human trafficking is hidden in services and people are being deprived of their humanity and freedom
- There are four key objectives at the root of our actions: 1. Reduce the demand feeding human trafficking; 2. Break the economic model of trafficking; 3. Protect and support victims; 4. Cooperate at the international level.
- Victims are and will remain at the heart of our concerns, especially children.
- We have different means of fighting against it: political, judicial, operational, and financial.

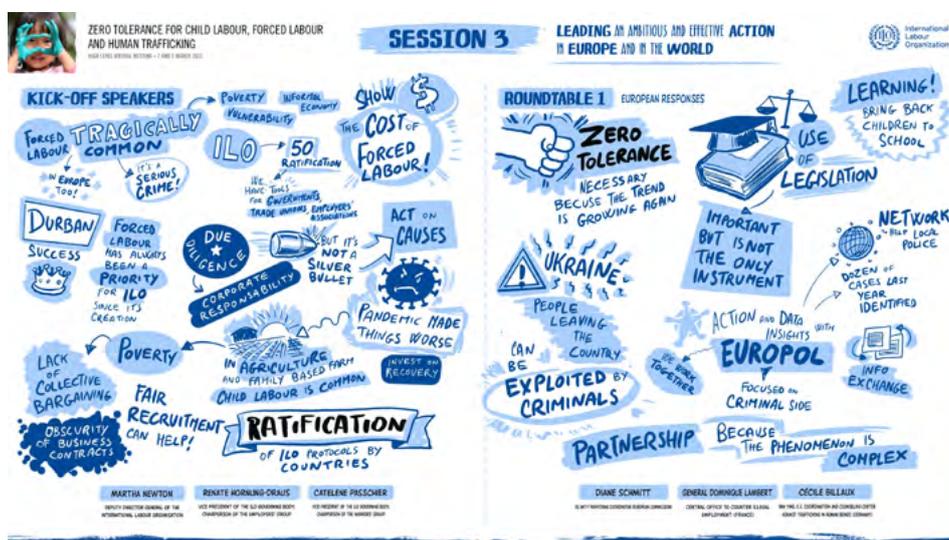
General Dominique LAMBERT – Central Office to Counter Illegal Employment (France)

- EUROPOL is made up of police dispatched by member states. It regularly assesses threats on the European Union and identifies human trafficking as one of the main threats.
- After studies, human trafficking has been identified as a priority action, so operations have been implemented.
- The idea is to set up synergies with the police forces and law enforcement agencies, labour inspection, as well as European Union agencies, private and public organizations, and third countries, to implement direct cooperation actions.
- Certain countries have taken up the responsibility of implementing actions on specific plans.
- We take coordinated actions during joint action days. We launch simultaneous checks in the European Union, for example in the agriculture sector in June and September, then we share the results.
- We also have a mapping exercise twice a year on human trafficking in the European Union.
- Last year, during these sessions, we identified dozens of cases of human trafficking.
- We have measures to prevent and reduce risks, support victims, and address topics like money laundering and asset recovery.
- We exchange information and try to set up a budget for actions and coordinated operations.

Cécile BILLAUX – Head of Unit, Directorate General for International Partnership (European Commission)

- The figures have been quite dramatic around child labour. They are not decreasing and COVID has not helped.

- 2022 will be a continuation of last year with strong political engagement, with the Durban conference, and with a number of important policy initiatives at the European Union level.
- We want to capitalize on 2021 and take action in 2022.
- We all agree that we have to fight child labour and forced labour, but it is not easy from a policy perspective because it is linked to important and deep root causes.
- I want to stress the importance of basic education. If a child is in school, it is a good way for them to avoid child labour and gain skills for a decent job.
- Our Clear Cotton project with the ILO has been successful removing children from fields and bringing them into schools. We have helped around 3,000 children so far.



3. Roundtable 2: Civil Society's Actions and Proposals

Maria NYMAN – Caritas Europe

- At the European Union level, we mostly promote structural change through advocacy.
- Many of the people we serve have faced exploitation, many of human trafficking and abuse, and we see their realities firsthand.
- There are a number of root causes and a lack of adequate measures at the European Union level, a lack of implementation of legislation, and a lack of prosecution of perpetrators.
- We advocate for social services that are worth their name.
- The European Union is discussing a minimum wage directive. We call for its swift adoption and we call for this to be a binding directive, not just a recommendation.
- People deserve to build their lives in dignity.
- One million Ukrainians have fled their country so far and we know the risks. We need to be vigilant about this. We have to ensure shelters, accommodation, and services are put in place, to prevent exploitation and abuse, and that migrants' rights are respected.

- We need a supply chain that is respectful of human rights. We all contribute to exploitation due to supply chains and our consumption patterns, without being conscious of it.
- The current proposal is inadequate. Measures must be person-centered and victim-centered.
- Our response must allow for alternatives, ensuring a life in dignity is possible. People must feel that there are safe alternatives and a way out.

Tim RYAN – Global March against Child Labour

- 30 years ago, child labour was worse than it is now. We have made real progress in most regions, thanks also to European Union laws and initiatives.
- The discourse around child labour has also changed. On some level, the campaign to expose the brutality of child labour is finally hitting home. At least, there has been a shift in acceptable public dialogue.
- The forces of civil society are to shame perpetrators and push and highlight those businesses and celebrate governments taking action.
- We must address not only the symptoms, but the root economic causes, incorporating the experiences of dignity and responsibility.
- Trade unions, consumer groups, and ordinary activists and citizens, especially in the Global South, have a role to play.
- The shrinking space of civil society is worrying. Without their work, we would not be having this conversation today. They maintain momentum.

Martina LIEBSCH – Catholic Forum “Living in Illegality” (Germany)

- Religious leaders around the world signed a declaration to eradicate child labour and human trafficking.
- We need cooperation and partnerships across religious and social values. We need a culture of zero tolerance. This knowledge must be mainstreamed into the whole of society.
- Often, in Europe, people think these things do not happen in our surroundings.
- Spirituality and religion play an important role in the lives of many or at least some of the victims of trafficking.
- We call on church institutions to include education and sensitization on human trafficking in their curricula, to fight the culture of indifference.
- Church institutions have been vocal advocates of safe supply chains, but rarely check themselves. We will promote more responsible consumption.

From the chat: This [new report on human trafficking and exploitation in Germany](#) bundles data from specialized counseling centres for the first time.

Karima MKIKA – Association Al Karam (Morocco)

- It is not the task of a child to make money, rather, it is the responsibility of their parents.
- In Marrakesh, we have two specialized centers for children without homes. They can stay for up to 12 months and they are looked after by psychologists, as well.

- We work with judges to implement zero tolerance.
- We set up cooperation and synergy. We cannot talk about only awareness raising, rather, we need to act.

4. Roundtable 3: Social Partners' Actions and Proposals

Isabelle SCHÖMANN – Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation

- We've reached a point of no return when it comes to taking responsibility for eradicating human trafficking. This is a joint responsibility of the European Unions. Trade unions have been ahead of the conversation.
- We must stop putting profit above people and above the planet. We must take this as what it is, a clear criminal act.
- There is a need for a behavioral change of businesses. No more business as usual, for society cannot accept or support it.
- There should be a ban on any product produced with forced labour.

From the chat: Learn more about the [ETUC position](#) and the [ETUC mandate on mHRDD](#).

Dr. Carmen BARSAN – Senior Advisor International Affairs, Economic and International Affairs, Confederation of German Employers' Associations

- Child labour and forced labour can only be solved with comprehensive action among stakeholders.
- Many companies have taken measures to combat this. Social commitment is an important part of corporate social responsibility and sustainability, such as the Global Compact network, Alliance for sustainable textiles, and others.
- Companies with more than 1,000 employees by 2024 will be subject to the new supply chain due diligence law.
- Global supply chains are complicated. Some companies have more than 100 direct suppliers.
- Companies should be supported in implementing these new rules.
- Almost 2 out of every 3 workers are employed in the informal sector. We must take positive action on the ground.
- We need a local aid approach and effective measures that follow.

Andreas BOTSCH – Special advisor to the President, Director of Europe and International, German Confederation of Trade Unions DGB (Germany)

- Only 17% of companies fulfill their due diligence obligations to protect human rights. That is why we had to take legal action.
- This is how we are trying to get to a level playing field along the value chain, otherwise conditions tend toward unfair competition.
- The obligation calls for effective risk management and includes a risk analysis, remedial measures, and a complaints procedure.
- The greatest achievement was that works councils must be closely involved in human rights risk management in the future.



SESSION 4

Objective: Public policy recommendations. Propose public policy recommendations to enrich the application and evolution of national, European and international instruments, as well as the social clauses of the sustainable development chapters of European partnership agreements.

1. Moderation by: **Cécile RIOU-BATISTA** – Deputy General Secretary, National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (France)

- The goal is to formulate recommendations for public policies based on elements heard yesterday and this morning.



- We have heard many good practices and initiatives that have been implemented and can inspire recommendations to evolve the European Union and international instruments.
- We know how important it is to have cooperation at the national and regional levels of stakeholders to make the mechanisms move forward.
- The speakers represent the six Pathfinder Countries here today.

2. Governments' Commitments and Recommendations

Salima ADMI – Director of Labour, Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Enterprises, Employment and Skills (Morocco)

- Child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking are structural phenomena that require a political approach.
- We must fill the gaps that allow noncompliance to legislation and make people vulnerable, and to improve access to reparations when violations are identified.
- We need to adopt targeted actions, otherwise we will not achieve our goal.
- Sustainable Development Goals must be focused on the implementation of a solid legal framework to fight against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking with a judicial structure, which is a key to the effective management of criminals.
- We must strengthen capacity building on labour law and criminal law, notably on labour inspection, which must be better equipped to identify violations.
- To address social and economic vulnerability, governments must mainstream the issues into national actions for broader development, such as social protection floors to reduce migrant vulnerability.
- We also call for further expansion of the following: collective bargaining, corporate social responsibility, due diligence, monitoring and data collection systems, the role of civil society and awareness raising, the creation and strengthening of partnerships and collaboration platforms to share good practices and experiences, and the integration of provisions concerning child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking in bilateral and multilateral commercial agreements.

Dr Carsten STENDER – Director General for European and International Employment and Social Policies, ESF , Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Germany)

- Thanks to Alliance 8.7, there is a strong platform at the international level aimed at pooling and strengthening efforts at the international level, gives us the opportunity to learn from other Pathfinder Countries.
- We also have some concepts to reflect upon: corporate due diligence regulation and the role of trade agreements.
- The European Union directive provides significant impetus toward a level playing field, but the best rules work only when they are enforceable.
- To achieve ambitious and important ambitions, joint action is necessary and Germany is very committed to this goal.

Raissa OUFFOUET – Deputy Director in charge of the application of Child Labour Legislation, Ministry of Employment and Social Protection (Côte D'Ivoire)

- We must ensure child protection with a focus on communities and a sustainable framework. We have to improve access to basic social services, including education, healthcare, vocational training in adolescence.
- We have to push for resiliency. We need a holistic approach. All stakeholders near and far must contribute. We must be united to fight against this phenomenon throughout the value chain.
- Here in Côte d'Ivoire, we produce cocoa. So, we need to track all the pieces of the supply chain, improve the conditions, and find solutions to improve revenues and living conditions of working families. We also must improve manufacturing techniques, so producers can improve the value of their products, as well as strengthen the follow up and awareness-raising mechanisms.
- We have to put in place policies that meet the needs and requirements of each community, including targeted responses and actions.
- We need economic and social measures to prevent children from ending up in forced labour. There is also a need to put in place an assessment and follow-up system to allow governments to fine-tune policies and responses and actions to the realities of child labour and forced labour.

Wilm GEURTS – Director, International Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, (Netherlands)

- We must stress the urgency of the issue. This is moral obligation that knows no borders
- I will discuss five points: Policy coherence, collaboration, scaling up, addressing policy gaps, and making space for experiments.
- We use OECD guidelines as a framework for our policies. For example, self-declaration alone is no longer sufficient. We also ask our municipalities to form a policy at a local level by 2022.
- The Dutch approach to tackling child labour is multi-stakeholder, with three tracks: 1. Companies can receive funds to combat child labour in supply chains with the condition of the company carrying it out with a Dutch NGO; 2. Child labour-free zones and; 3. Capacity building projects in six African countries.
- On the European Union and global levels, you have more impact when you work together. The joint action days with police forces across borders is a good example.
- Our approach to human trafficking is to modernize the law to have a better grip on the issue. We focus on gaps in the digital domain for vulnerable groups.
- We are conducting experiments and pilots in three regions for innovative best practices to tackle human trafficking, focused on labour and sexual/criminal exploitation.
- The pillars are interrelated and reinforce one another. In this way, we boost the integral approach to human trafficking so we can then scale them up to national and international levels.

Alma TANDILI – Chair of State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child, Ministry of Health and Social Protection (Albania)

- We advocate for a national legal framework to protect children’s best interests.
- The criminal code has been expanded to include prosecution of criminal cases related to the exploitation of children.
- In 2021, Albania adopted a new national agenda on the rights of the child for five years, expressing the government’s prioritization. We aim to eliminate all forms of violence, abuse, and harmful practices in line with the 2030 Agenda and Alliance 8.7 goals.
- 61 local municipalities are drafting action plans according to local issues with concrete objectives and measures like awareness campaigns and provisions of services targeting the most vulnerable.
- We extend training to border police, community police, and judges; raise awareness among them about CL and criminal activities; and encourage cooperation with social workers, with a focus on improving data collection.

Anousheh KARVAR – Government Representative to the ILO - National Focal Point for the 8.7 Acceleration Strategy of France

- France became a Pathfinder Country in November 2021.
- With regard to child labour, our goal is to achieve Target 8.7 by 2025, but the pandemic has aggravated child labour. We know that, without additional efforts, the international community will not be able to do so.
- The objective of Target 8.7 is a shared one between the Global North and South and we are happy that the European Commission wants to become a partner.
- France has a legal framework and constant mobilization of social partners and NGOs on the ground, so we are fully in compliance with international treaties and conventions.
- We pursue diplomacy to help reach our objectives.
- We play a key role in Alliance 8.7 (of which France has been the president since June 2019) but we see margins for improvements: people are still exploited daily in France for prostitution, domestic slavery, forced labour, and more, which encourages us to move forward.
- France is committed to mobilizing all public and private actors on our national territory and in supply chains of multinational enterprises and through European international cooperation.
- We aim to increase prevention through the capacity building of stakeholders, due diligence, and training activities for professionals, police, judges, journalists, and others.
- We seek better protection for victims by improving identification, protection, and cohesion for visibility and progress.
- We see an international scope for European due diligence.
- We strongly believe in our inclusive method and our network of companies, social partners, NGOs, and others.

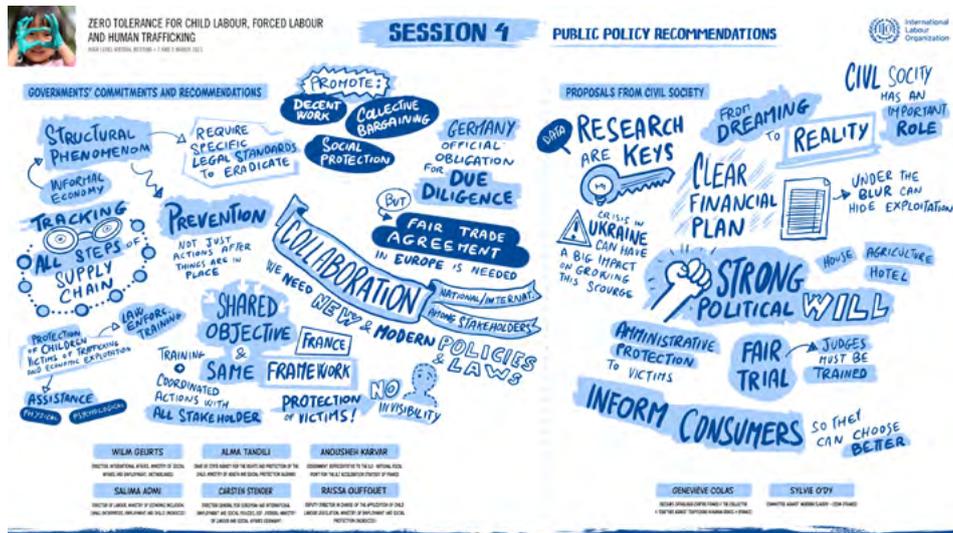
3. Proposals from Civil Society

Geneviève COLAS – Secours Catholique Caritas France and the Collective “Together against trafficking in Human Beings” (France)

- We need more visibility for the victims.
- We have to go from dreaming to reality, from planning to implementing strategies on a daily basis to provide justice and consistency with punishments applied in different countries.
- Financial plans must be transparent. Today, blurred budgeting is a problem.
- We must fight against human exploitation and consider people fleeing their country. It is important to help welcome these people.

Sylvie O'DY – Committee against Modern Slavery – CCEM (France)

- We are members of this collective action against trafficking and we need strong political will to make dreams come true.
- We must promote proactive participation among stakeholders and victims.
- We should work with schools to avoid dropouts, as well as train future citizens and teachers.
- It is important to give victims access to administrative protection so they can reach out to the judiciary and ask for justice. They have the right to a fair trial.
- We must not forget that victims must be at the center of our policies.
- It is important to involve a larger audience. People must know about exploitation and human trafficking.
- Due diligence must be well-defined for companies so they can take action along the value chain, and not only with direct suppliers.



CONCLUSION

Objective: The Grand Témoin and a panel of students deliver feedback reports of the sessions and recommendations.

1. Grand Témoin: **Zita CABAIS OBRA** – the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Board (ISTAC) of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and Committee against Modern Slavery (CCEM)

- Notably, the stories of Leïla and Abjelil reminded me of my past as a victim. Now, I'm a trade union worker. I have met many Leïlas in my life and I seek to support them.
- In all sectors and in all countries there is a need to raise awareness and build capacity of first-line operators, so they can act responsibly when confronted with potential victims.
- European directives are encouraging for the start of zero tolerance against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- This may not be sufficient because of the issue of subcontracting of services. Often, these workers are invisible, so it is more difficult to check their working conditions.
- My recommendations include: better protection of victims, strengthening dialogue, protocols to tighten working conditions, and the inclusion of former victims as resources to better adapt tools like awareness raising activities, welcoming mechanisms, and police interventions to lived realities.
- We, the victims, are a resource that is too often ignored.
- We need welcome structures, psychologists, and interpreters for women and men who are victims, especially when trials take a long time.

2. Panel of Law and Journalism students

Eden ARMANT-JACQUEMIN – University of Côte d'Azur / Journalism School

- This meeting was an opportunity to discover the actors involved in the fight against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.
- I am still thinking about human trafficking on the internet. I was surprised by the figures in the tourism sector, especially in France which is one of the most touristic countries in the world.
- I appreciated the survivors' stories as they gave a human dimension to this conference, which is better than statistics. They showed us the real scope of this problem.
- I expect a better model for human and natural resources to avoid exploitation.
- Billboards in the metro stations will not be enough to put an end to child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking.

- As a future journalist, I have a major role to play in the training of consumers and the protection of victims, therefore I want to stress once again the importance of the themes mentioned yesterday.
- There is investigation work to be done. I also want to call attention to the migrants fleeing Ukraine right now.

Annaelle LANCELOT – University of Sorbonne / Law School

- Our association was established in 2014 to raise awareness in the university sector. We focus on different subjects, and we want to launch concrete actions through awareness raising campaigns.
- For example, national boycotts could be envisaged. Consumers could do that. Thanks to social networks, people know what France has been doing on this and have decided to choose other companies to buy from.
- We should leverage education, awareness raising, and media coverage.
- It is important to democratize access to information.
- We might consider the nutrition index on food items. We could use a similar index for companies, so people can make informed choices when they buy something.
- We must implement legal economic measures to facilitate the integration into the society of migrants as well as survivors. We also must ensure legal and social support, so they can heal from exploitation, and we should train and inform professionals and institutions so they can receive the best support possible and speak out.



Anousheh KARVAR, Chair of Alliance 8.7, Global Partnership against Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

- It has been an enriching past two days.
- I have one special final remark: It has rightly been said that the work is not over and there is still a lot to be done. Our job must continue in the future.



INFO

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

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