▶ Concept Note
2026 Child Labour Platform Annual Meeting - *"What Works, What Lasts? Tackling the Hard Questions on Child Labour in Supply Chains"*

Child labour remains one of the most pressing global human rights challenges, affecting nearly 138 million children worldwide, including around 54 million in hazardous work. Despite sustained efforts by governments, employers' and workers' organizations and businesses, progress towards eliminating child labour remains too slow.

For companies committed to addressing child labour in their supply chains, a central challenge is increasingly how to ensure that their actions contribute to meaningful and lasting change. This means understanding not only whether interventions are improving outcomes for children, workers and their families, but also what works, under which conditions, and where resources can make the greatest and most sustainable difference. It also raises an important question about collaboration: where can companies act effectively on their own, and where is coordinated action with governments and employers' and workers' organizations needed to achieve lasting results?

These questions become particularly important when child labour is identified. Remediation remains one of the most complex areas for businesses to address effectively. Removing a child from child labour or providing immediate support does not necessarily mean that the underlying risks have been resolved. Sustainable remediation may require action on education, social protection, decent work for adults and other root causes that no individual company can address alone. Understanding what effective remedy looks like and how to assess whether it is producing lasting outcomes is therefore an essential part of understanding the impact of business action on the elimination of child labour in supply chains.

Against this backdrop, this year's CLP Annual Meeting will examine how business action and collaboration can contribute to meaningful and lasting change. Starting with concrete experience from the CLP Country Working Groups, the meeting will take stock of progress and lessons emerging from collective action in different country and supply chain contexts. Building on this experience, discussions will focus on two closely connected areas: understanding the impact of action on child labour and advancing effective and sustainable remedy when child labour is identified. Together, the sessions will explore what works, what lasts, and how evidence and collaboration can help achieve more effective results in tackling child labour across supply chains.

Date:

Wednesday, October 28 at 10.00 CET / 14.30 IST / 9.00 CDI

Agenda (2.5 hours):

Welcome address (10 minutes)

- Opening remarks from the ILO – Katherine Torres, Senior Programme & Operations Specialist on Supply Chains & FPRW, ILO
- Opening remarks from CLP co-chairs
- Rita Yip, Senior Advisor, International Organization of Employers (IOE)
- Alex Praca, Deputy Director, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Panel 1. CLP in Action: Progress and Lessons from Country Working Groups (45 minutes)

This session will take stock of progress made by the CLP and its members over the past year, with a particular focus on what collective action is achieving in practice. Drawing on experiences from the CLP Country Working Groups, CLP members will highlight key results, milestones and lessons from collaboration with industry peers, governments and employers' and workers' organizations across different country and supply chain contexts.

Beyond showcasing achievements, the session will provide an opportunity to reflect on what these experiences are teaching us about effective collective action: Where is collaboration adding value? What approaches are showing promise? What challenges remain? These reflections will provide a practical starting point for the subsequent discussions on understanding impact and strengthening effective remedy.

Speakers:

- Isabelle Adam, Corporate Relations, Touton
- Matthias Thorns, Vice President - IOE, VP Global Labor Relations & Human Rights - Samsung Electronics
- Eric Kadima, Chair of the In-House Counsel Committee, Federation of Enterprises of Congo (FEC)
- Richard Bigirwa, Secretary General, NOTU (National Organization of Trade Unions) - Uganda
- Moderator: Maria Fernandez, ITC ILO

Panel 2 (45 minutes): From Action to Impact: Understanding What Works for Lasting Change

Understanding impact is essential to not only demonstrate whether action on child labour is making a difference, but also to understand what works, under which conditions, and where resources can achieve the greatest and most sustainable results. Stronger evidence can help companies improve their due diligence systems, demonstrate the value of investments in the social dimension of sustainability, and direct resources towards interventions that deliver meaningful impacts on people, including by addressing root causes such as poverty, informality, lack of social protection coverage, and access to quality education and vocational training.

This requires moving beyond activities and outputs to understand changes for children, workers and their communities, as well as broader systemic changes from reductions in child labour and related risks to improved access to education, decent work for adults, and stronger systems for preventing and addressing child labour in the long term.

Moderated by IOE, this interactive dialogue will explore two central questions: How can we better understand whether our actions are making a meaningful difference for children, workers and their families, as well as contributing to broader systemic change needed to end child labour in supply chains? And what does the evidence tell us about which interventions and forms of collaboration lead to more effective and lasting results? Participants will exchange practical experiences and emerging approaches to analyzing impact and using evidence to strengthen future action.

Speakers:

- Barbara Wettstein, Global Head Human Rights, Nestlé
- Rumiana Yonova, Global Sustainability Operations Manager, IKEA Supply
- Mark Hodge, Vice President, The Shift Project
- Moderator: Sophie De Coninck, Head of Operations, ILO

Panel 3 (45 minutes): Beyond Identification: Building Effective and Sustainable Remedy

While significant attention has been devoted to identifying child labour risks and instances, ensuring effective remedy when child labour is identified remains one of the most complex challenges for businesses. Immediate

support to a child is essential, but effective remediation also requires addressing the circumstances that led to child labour and ensuring that positive outcomes can be sustained over time.

This discussion will consider the respective roles of businesses, governments and employers' and workers' organizations, and identify where collaboration can strengthen access to remedy and contribute to more sustainable outcomes. Through an interactive exchange, participants will explore practical lessons and opportunities for action that can help prevent children from returning to child labour and strengthen longer-term prevention.

This dialogue will explore what effective remedy looks like in practice and how we know when it has achieved lasting results. Drawing on concrete cases, participants will examine promising approaches as well as persistent challenges, including how remediation can respond to the needs of affected children and their families while addressing the underlying factors that put them at risk.

Speakers

- Shelley McCluskey, Senior Manager - Labour Rights - Ethical Trading, Primark
- Nadia Hoarau-Mwaura, Sustainability Director, JDE Peets
- Moderator: Nicolas Torres Vieira, ITCILO

Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

- Closing remarks from the ILO

About the CLP

The ILO Child Labour Platform (CLP) is the leading business initiative to end child labour in supply chains. Drawing on the ILO's extensive experience and international labour standards, the Platform provides businesses with guidance, knowledge-sharing and opportunities for collaboration to address systemic obstacles and advance solutions to child labour globally and on the ground.

Leveraging the ILO's convening power, the Platform brings together its business members, governments and employers' and workers' organizations to develop and implement practical solutions that can make a lasting difference in sourcing countries and communities. Through its Country Working Groups in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, India and Uganda, the CLP supports businesses in addressing the root causes of child labour across supply chains through collective action, while also advancing collaboration in other strategic countries, including Brazil, Honduras and Mexico.

The CLP brings together companies from a wide range of supply chains, including agro-industry, electronics, garments, furniture, luxury goods, telecommunications and mining. The Platform is co-chaired by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and coordinated by the ILO. CLP membership is open to companies of all sizes and across all industries.