



Initiative Régionale  
Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes  
Sans Travail des Enfants



Iniciativa Regional  
América Latina e Caribe  
Livres de Trabalho Infantil



Regional Initiative  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Free of Child Labour



Iniciativa Regional  
América Latina y el Caribe  
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# REGIONAL INITIATIVE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FREE OF CHILD LABOUR

## GOVERNANCE REGULATIONS

MARCH 2021

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## **Regulations for the operation of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour**

### **General Considerations**

#### **Nature of the Regional Initiative**

The Regional Initiative emerged as an alliance between the countries of the Region, with representation of regional workers and employers, to accelerate the progress of Latin America and the Caribbean towards meeting the goals of eliminating the worst forms of child labour in 2016 and the complete elimination of child labour by 2020, in order to comply with the Global Road Map and the goals of the Hemispheric Agenda on Decent Work, ratified at the III World Conference on Child Labour (2013) through the Declaration of Brasilia, endorsed by representatives of 154 countries.

The Regional Initiative is a clear manifestation of the maturity, consensus and decision reached by the countries of the region on this issue, where tripartite social dialogue and a commitment to joint and continuous effort and mutual support prevail, as decisive factors to make of the eradication of child labour an achievable goal, thus contributing to achieve a world without child labour, based on Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the fundamental international legal frameworks on the matter that support and guide the action of the Regional Initiative, such as ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour and Convention 138 on the minimum age, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### **Objectives and principles that govern the Regional Initiative**

The objective of the Regional Initiative is to contribute to the eradication of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2025, in accordance with the provisions of Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To do so, it will focus on:

- a) Accelerate and intensify actions for the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of adolescent workers through the strengthening of institutional coordination within and between sectors, as well as between different levels of government.
- b) To promote specific political measures and actions at the national and regional level in cases of economic, social and health crises that threaten progress in the eradication of child labour in the region
- c) Increase in the countries the perception of the negative consequences of child labour, especially in its worst forms.
- d) Promote recovery and/or response actions in the midst of crises.

The principles that govern the Initiative are:

- a) National ownership and leadership.
- b) Effectiveness, efficiency and harmonization of efforts.
- c) Transparency and accountability.
- d) Regional action with local impact.



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### **Action Lines**

Consider the following precisions, which in the implementation of the Initiative have proven to be innovating and to impact the member countries and actors:

- a) Development of national and local policies of prevention and eradication of child labour, as well as the protection of the adolescent worker.
- b) Strengthening of the capabilities for direct action and preventive actions.
- c) Generating knowledge and the exchange of good practices

### **Member Countries**

The Regional Initiative currently made up of 30 countries, and given the regional vocation and the inclusive nature of the Regional Initiative, all countries in the region are invited to join this Initiative by formally expressing their interest.

### **Official Languages**

The official languages of the Regional Initiative are Spanish, French, English and Portuguese. All documents and communications will be in these four languages, as much as possible.

## **Organization and operation of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour**

### **Meeting of High Level Authorities**

The Meeting of High Level Authorities is the maximum political authority and is associated with the Regional American Meeting of ILO.

### **Composition**

The Meeting of High Level Authorities is made up of the Ministers of Labour and representatives of the employers' and workers' organizations of the region.

### **Main duties**

- a) offer political endorsement of the highest level to the actions of the Regional Initiative;
- b) drive the positioning of the Regional Initiative in agendas and political spaces and maintain the representation and political dialogue of the Initiative.

### **Meetings**

The Meeting of High Level Authorities will be held ordinarily in the framework of the American Regional Meeting of ILO.

### **Decision-making**

Decision-making will be take place by consensus.

### **Network of Focal Points**

The Network of Focal Points of the Regional Initiative is the entity of executive steering of tripartite character, with representation of governments and of the employers' and workers' organizations of the region.

It is made up of titleholder and alternate government representatives, appointed by the Ministers of Labour and by regional representatives of employers and workers, titleholder and alternate workers, appointed by the corresponding organizations (OIE regarding the Employers, the CSA/TUCA in the case of workers), as well as by regional specialists appointed by the Technical Secretariat, for the support and development of specific activities that the Network may request.

The Network of Focal Points may call meetings in the framework of other mechanisms of regional and/or sub-regional coordination of the Ministries of Labour of the region, or of the employers' and workers' organizations, to ensure that the Regional Initiative has a presence, visibility and its positioning is strengthened and the follow-up and reporting of its results and impacts is energized.

### **Main duties**

- a) offer strategic steering to the Regional Initiative;



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- b) articulate the regional and national levels of the Initiative, disseminating information, socializing resolutions and maintaining a flow of coordination and feedback among the actors involved, detecting, and following-up on opportunities for the mobilization of public and private resources that can support the execution of the Regional Initiative.<sup>1</sup>

## Meetings

The Network of Focal Points meets in-person once a year for strategic decisions, once a month online for following-up on activities and advances, as well as in extraordinary online meetings when the Network requests it.

## Decision-making

Decision-making will be take place by consensus.

## Technical Secretariat

By express mandate of the countries that make up the Initiative, the Regional Office of ILO for Latin America and the Caribbean assumes the duties of Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative.

## Composition

The Regional Directorate of ILO will appoint the officers responsible for the Technical Secretariat of the Initiative, as well as the Specialists of Activities with Employers (ACT/EMP) and with workers (ACTRAV) to offer support and coordination with the Focal Points of the Group of Employers and of the Group of Workers respectively.

## Main duties

- a) Prepare, based on the inputs of the Focal Points Network, a proposal for the strategic and operational planning of the RI to be approved by the Focal Points Network;
- b) Ensure the effective implementation of the planning agreed by the FPN and the achievement of the agreed products and results;
- c) Prepare, based on information provided by the FPN and the TS's own data, periodic reports on the RI's performance at the results and impact level;
- d) Promote, in line with strategic planning, South-South Cooperation among the countries and actors that are members of the Initiative at both the regional and interregional levels;
- e) Promote and monitor, in coordination with the FPN, proposals and alternatives to mobilize resources that contribute to the sustainability of the Initiative;
- f) Provide general technical assistance to the Network of Focal Points and the Meeting of High-Level Authorities;
- g) Facilitate coordination between the FPN and other relevant actors related to the Initiative's action;
- h) Manage, in accordance with the strategy approved by the FPN, the internal and external communication of the RI;
- i) Attend the development of the meetings of the Network of Focal Points (virtual and face-to-face).

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<sup>1</sup> For more details about the duties and responsibilities of the focal points, please see the corresponding document that has been developed as part of the management instruments of the Regional Initiative.

## Meetings

The Technical Secretariat is an entity of permanent character.

## Decision-making

With regard to its duties, and attending to its technical and operational character, the Secretariat will make decisions that allow complying with the delegation entrusted by the Focal Point Network. With the purpose of expediting the management of the Regional Initiative, it has been agreed to hold electronic consultations by the Technical Secretariat with the Focal Points, with the following characteristics:

- a) **Nature of the consultations:** The consultations made through this procedure must be on topics without complexity and of easy resolution.
- b) **Terms:** The consultations must be forwarded with a minimum term of three (03) business days for their resolution by the focal points. The term will start to run as from the first business day after the consultation has been forwarded. All consultations must indicate, at the time of being forwarded, a deadline for sending the answer.
- c) **Publicity of the answers:** The answer of the Focal Points to the consultations must be public for all the members of the Network and for such effect, the Technical Secretariat will make available the most adequate mechanisms that facilitate the exchange of information.
- d) **Nature of the answers:** The answer of the Focal Points to the consultations must be as precise as possible. The Technical Secretariat will employ, as much as possible, the use of consultation forms that facilitate the clarity and precision of the answer.

## Regulations for the main responsibilities and duties of the focal points of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour

### Who are the Focal Points of the Regional Initiative?

The Focal Point Network is an entity of executive steering of tripartite character, the main responsibility of which is to design, implement, monitor, strengthen and disseminate the objectives of the Regional Initiative.

The Focal Points are the liaison with the Meeting of High Level Authorities, maximum political authority of the ILO American Regional Meeting and with the entities responsible for policies, programs, projects and services related with the objective of preventing and eradication child labour in the member countries of the Initiative.

The Focal Points carry out coordination work and participate in opportunities for discussion and making agreements by consensus of an operational character referred to the prevention and eradication of child labour in their country, and for the protection due to the adolescent worker.

The Focal Points keep a continuous flow of communication and coordination inside the Initiative's regional network, with the aid of the Technical Secretariat, in order to promote compliance with the work plan and progress towards the established goals.

The Focal Points that represent the government, appointed by the Ministers of Labour of each one of the countries that make up the Regional Initiative, as well as the Focal Points appointed by the



employers' and workers' organizations, have the same right to participation – in equal standing – in the process of decision-making by consensus of the Regional Initiative.

### Profile of the Focal Point of the Regional Initiative

Government official or representative of the employers' and workers' organizations that has:

- a) **knowledge** about the reality of child and adolescent labour, its consequences for the families, the communities and the country.
- b) **a motivation** to work collaboratively to contribute to the development of policies oriented to the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of allowed adolescent work in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- c) **direct participation** in the implementation of policies, programs, projects and/or services addressed to the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of allowed adolescent work.

### General responsibilities of the Focal Points

- a) Facilitate its contact data and those of his/her alternate to the Technical Secretariat.
- b) Represent the Initiative in national, sub-regional, regional and global events relevant to position the platform and make visible its achievements and advances;
- c) Contribute in a timely manner input for the development of strategies, programs, plans, documents, action proposals, projects and follow-up reports of results and commitments such as the annual performance report of the Initiative through the Monitora 8.7 platform or any other means agreed to by the NFP.
- d) Participate actively in the identification and –as much as possible- promote the mobilization of resources to contribute to the institutional and financial sustainability of the Initiative.

### Specific responsibilities of the Focal Points

- a. Offer strategic steering to the Regional Initiative through the following actions:
  - Try to influence in the national, sub-regional, regional and global spaces, to ensure the execution of the Initiative.
  - Design, review and approval of monitoring and evaluation of the program, plans and budgets of the Initiative.
  - Review and approval of the proposals for modification of governing documents for the adequate operation of the Initiative
- b. Detect and follow-up on the opportunities for the mobilization of public and private resources that could support the execution of the Regional Initiative.
- c. Inter-act fluidly with the Technical Secretariat for the execution of all the components of the plans and programs of the Initiative.
- d. Articulate the regional, national and institutional levels of the Initiative, disseminating information, socializing agreements and keeping a fowl of coordination and feedback among the actors implied.
- e. Influence on decision-makers at the national level to position the Regional Initiative in integration spaces and international forums of policies and subjects related with the objectives and action lines proposed for the prevention and eradication of child labour and to promote the due protection of adolescent work.



## Composition and duties of the Pro Tempore Tripartite Coordinator Committee Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour

### What is it?

It is a tripartite group, set up with two titular representatives from Government, two titular representatives of Employers and two titular representatives of Workers, which has the purpose of:

- a) Promoting the participation and direct involvement of the Focal Point Network in the steering and implementation of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour.
- b) Performing proactive consultant work with each one of the groups that make up the Focal Point Network to achieve consensus and energize decision-making. The member of the Tripartite Coordinating Committee is the spokesperson for the group he or she represents, and must therefore create organizational bodies that allow for permanent consultation.
- c) Establishing guidelines for the work and action of the Technical Secretariat as the technical entity of support for the implementation of Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour.

### Which are the main duties of a Committee?

The Pro Tempore Tripartite Coordinator Committee is the one in charge of making decisions in the short, medium and long-term, in consultation with the Focal Point Network of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour (RI).

- a) Ensure that the RI actions, at the level of activities, outputs and results, adjust to the Strategic Plan agreed upon and are coherent with its vision and mission<sup>2</sup>.
- b) Define strategies at the operational level, oriented towards achieving objectives and follow-up periodically on its degree of compliance and evaluate the results achieved.
- c) Propose corrective measures and/or changes when it is identified that, due to emerging institutional challenges, context factors or similar, must be reflected in the framework of results agreed by the RI in the Strategic Plan.
- d) Carry out and encourage, in representation of the Focal Point Network of the RI, proposals of incidence, positioning and mobilization of technical and financial resources to guarantee the regional platform works well.

### How are the Committee members elected?

Each one of the groups that make up the Focal Point Network of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour will decide the mechanism it prefers for the appointment of their representatives in the Coordinator Committee, between the focal points of their group that integrated the RI. For such purpose, they can count on the support of the Technical Secretariat.

<sup>2</sup> See Framework Document at: <https://www.iniciativa2025alc.org/sites/default/files/regional-initiative-framework-en.pdf>

Once the persons have been appointed, each group must communicate electronically the decision to the Technical Secretariat of the RI, who will themselves communicate this to the plenary of the Focal Point Network of the RI.

### **What is the representation term in the Committee?**

The persons appointed as representatives of their respective groups in the Coordinator Committee will exercise this responsibility for a period of a year (12) months, and may be re-elected by their respective groups. In a renewal situation, the new representatives shall participate in the last meeting of the outgoing Coordinating Committee as Observers.

The annual renewal of the members of the Coordinating Committee will be carried out on a partial basis, renewing one representative from each group, in order to ensure continuity in the Committee's performance.

### **What is the frequency of Committee meetings?**

The Committee will hold quarterly meetings with the Technical Secretariat team, to make decisions regarding a previously agreed agenda and on which it must make decisions.

The Committee may also meet in an extraordinary manner on its own initiative or at the request of the Technical Secretariat, in order to discuss emerging issues or aspects that the Focal Point Network of the RI deems are within its competence. Extraordinary meetings shall be called by agreement of the three (3) groups.

### **How are decisions made in the Committee?**

Since the principle of social dialogue is a key aspect in the governance of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, the Committee will make its decisions by consensus. All three (3) groups must be represented for the meeting to take place.

### **How are the decisions of the Committee validated?**

Once the decisions have been made by the Committee, the Technical Secretariat prepares a minutes of the meeting in which it reports on the topics discussed and the final decision on each one of them. Said minutes will be, once approved by the Committee, distributed to the RI Focal Points Network for their information and revision.