

MINUTES

VII ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF FOCAL POINTS

Zoom Platform, October 26 - 29, 2021



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Table of contents

I. Introduction	3
II. Objectives	4
III. Methodology	4
IV. Development of the sessions	5
Inaugural Session	5
Session 1: Presentation of the report of results of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021	10
Session 2: Presentation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the Regional Initiative	18
Session 3: Validation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the Regional Initiative	25
Session 4: Impact of COVID-19 on child and adolescent labour, priorities and challenges for public policies in the region	29
Session 5: Towards the V World Conference on Child Labour and Forced Labour (South Africa, 2022)	33
Session 6: Balance of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour	36
Closing Session	40
V. Annexes	43

I. INTRODUCTION

The **VII Annual Meeting of the Focal Point Network of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour (RI)** was held from October 26 to 29, 2021 in the second year of the pandemic caused by COVID-19, in a context of crisis that has deepened poverty and inequality, and that has placed countries before a huge challenge.

The latest Global Estimates of the child labour report, presented by the ILO and UNICEF last June in the framework of the World Day against Child Labour, shows an alarming increase in this violation of rights worldwide. For the first time in twenty years, not only has it not been reduced but also, at the beginning of 2020, there were 8 million more children and adolescents in child labour. Despite this scenario, the Latin American and Caribbean region had continued to advance, reducing the figures from 10.5 to 8.2 million until the beginning of 2020.

However, with the arrival of the pandemic, the increased vulnerability of children and adolescents to child labour and dangerous adolescent work has been exacerbated by the prolonged closure of educational centres, the loss of employment and income of families, and the increase in informality, among other factors. RI member countries and organizations aim to reinforce everything that has worked in the region to preserve progress in reducing child labour, innovating to accelerate the pace towards target 8.7.

The **VII Annual Meeting took place in the final stretch of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**, which was born in the region and which has generated a wave of actions to show the commitment of countries and social actors to childhood and adolescence, to inspire others and promote new actions. Likewise, this Meeting gave way to Phase III of the Regional Initiative, until 2025, aimed at sustainability and evaluation.

As a result, **the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 was approved**, based on social dialogue, with the purpose of achieving more efficient and effective actions, under a more inclusive intervention model and strengthening financial sustainability, to add new partners and continue generating partnerships within the framework of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

This report is divided into four parts, begins with the description of the objectives and the methodology, then offers a summary of the main ideas of each session and ends with the annexes.

II. OBJECTIVES

General Objective

Assess compliance in the implementation of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan of the Regional Initiative, as well as agree on the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

Specific Objectives

- Approve the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the Regional Initiative.
- Agree on financial sustainability mechanisms for the Regional Initiative.
- Agree on thematic priorities regarding child labour in the context of the crisis associated with COVID-19.

III. METHODOLOGY

The meeting was held virtually, through the Zoom platform, and included plenary presentations with moderation by the Technical Secretariat, tripartite panels, spaces for dialogue and exchange, and a group work session.

In order to have a dynamic, interactive meeting that optimizes the achievement of results of the sessions in the time determined for each session, we had the support of a facilitation team who organized the interactive dynamics in order to promote group cohesion and networking. They developed audio-visual materials for the event and designed the evaluation tools for the sessions and the event in general based on the guidelines of the Technical Secretariat.

Participation was promoted using the *Jamboard* digital whiteboard, which enables teamwork and collaboration in real time. In some plenary sessions and in the tripartite panels, this tool was used to collect questions and comments from the Focal Point Network on the topics addressed, which was complemented with the information collected in the Zoom chat and with the live interventions. Finally, video animations were used to illustrate the results for each day.

A live concert was held to close the Meeting. At the end of each day of sessions, evaluation questionnaires were launched aimed at making adjustments to future meetings, according to the results achieved.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SESSIONS

INAUGURAL SESSION

Resel Melville, colleague from the ILO Office for the Caribbean, was the moderator of the inaugural session. She highlighted the historical moment in which the VII Annual Meeting took place, pointing out the years 2020-2021 as crucial times for the elimination of child labour, in which it is necessary to renew commitments, take real actions and unify approaches to be able to eliminate it by 2025.

Silvia Lara Povedano

*Representative of governments
and the RI High Level Authority.
She is the Minister of Labour and
Social Security of Costa Rica.*

Silvia Lara, Minister of Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica, as part of the RI member governments, recalled that the central objective of the VII Annual Meeting was to adopt the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and agree on the thematic priorities that should lead to the elimination of child labour by 2025. In this sense, she stressed that we are living in a critical moment, where we

are going through a very uneven global recovery process. According to ILO reports, projected job growth will be insufficient to close the gaps widened by the pandemic.

Therefore, she urged governments to implement public policies to prevent the inertia of inequality and the gaps from taking away the opportunity for a fair and equitable recovery. In this sense, she pointed out that conscious and deliberate measures are required to maintain the prevention and eradication of child labour as a political priority, to accelerate the pace of meeting target 8.7 by 2025.

She also highlighted the work carried out by the Regional Initiative, as a key instrument, which has shown the value of concerted effort and social dialogue between governments, employers' and workers' organizations, families and communities, which has allowed, since 2008 to 2020, in Latin America and the Caribbean, child labour to show a clear and significant decline in the region. *"Today more partners are required, with more capacity for advocacy and results," she said.*

During his intervention, **Guido Ricci, representative of employers**, recalled some historical milestones on the subject of child labour:

- The adoption of Agreement No. 182, in 1989. A sufficiently flexible agreement, since it incorporates progressiveness, as an element that facilitated the almost unanimous support of the international community at that time.
- The universal ratification of Convention No. 182, in August 2020.
- The creation of the Regional Initiative, in 2014, as well as the adoption of the SDGs, as a universal agenda, especially target 8.7.

Guido Ricci

Representative of employers, delegate of the Guatemalan Employer Sector before the International Labour Conference of the ILO and member of the Board of Directors in representation of the employers of Central America.

Guido Ricci pointed out the important role that the business community has assumed, since the adoption of this Agreement, to address strategies at the country level, which have allowed greater attention to be paid to the need to improve education systems and generate favourable environments to create more companies that generate formal jobs and give men and women the opportunity to access decent and productive jobs.

The pandemic has produced a significant setback in formal work, the disappearance of many companies and the growth of informality, where there is more child labour. For this reason, he emphasized the need to focus efforts on the creation of sustainable companies that generate decent work, so that adults have sufficient income, as part of the multidimensional response to child labour in the region.

He highlighted the work carried out by the Regional Initiative, as a pioneer in addressing the issue of child labour, which has made it possible to position the region as an example to follow and has managed to set the goal of eliminating child labour as a common strategy of governments, employers and workers, showing that social dialogue is capable of concrete achievements, at the highest level.

He also referred to the important results achieved in international cooperation with a view to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with a tripartite effort, which has made it possible to develop experiences of South-South and Triangular cooperation and has shown that the region and its partners have the commitment and the capacity, knowledge and experiences to face the challenge.

Jordania Ureña
*Representative of workers,
Secretariat of Social
Policies, TUCA.*

Jordania Ureña, representative of workers, considered that the application of the Child Labour Risk Identification Model (CLRISK) and the Child Labour Vulnerability Index (IVTI) have helped bring this problem closer to the territories and identify the regions and populations most susceptible to child labour.

However, she argued that it is necessary to use, in parallel, an approach that addresses the structural causes of this phenomenon and emphasizes decent work for adults, from several fronts: the fight against informal work, job insecurity, the wage gap and the fight for the effective rights of workers.

Additionally, she noted that the pandemic has highlighted the issue of quality public services and universal access, to respond to the problems of comprehensive development of people, especially related to child labour, emphasize the need for a system of education that reinforces the presence of children and adolescents, guarantee the universalization of education, and combat school dropout and illiteracy.

Along these lines, she also indicated the need to improve social protection systems, which accompany people throughout their lives, especially in stages such as childhood, old age and disability. She specified that the economy of care should be incorporated into the agenda. The overload of women in unpaid tasks, without state support, can lead to an increase in child labour.

On the other hand, she pointed out that mechanisms must be defined to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Initiative, where, beyond international cooperation, the contribution of governments to finance it is committed.

Finally, Ureña highlighted the role of the focal points, noting that it has been relevant and fundamental to show the progress made, especially the commitment of the worker sector to this issue, for the development of various tools and proposed policies.

For **Vinicius Pinheiro**, it is an important achievement that 2021 has been designated as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, as it allows giving greater visibility to this problem.

Vinicius Pinheiro
*Regional Director of the ILO
Office for Latin America and
the Caribbean.*

He indicated that although the report made by the ILO with UNICEF showed that it was in the process of reaching target 8.7, the pandemic has slowed these figures. The latest data from the ILO and ECLAC show that thousands of children and adolescents

are at risk of entering into child labour. He specified that these are very particular conditions for millions of minors who have been without face-to-face classes for more than 18 months, the longest distance education period in history, in a context of many gaps in access to quality digital education. To this is added a situation of breakdown of household income, informality (70%) and precarious employment, all of which becomes an incentive for children and adolescents to support family income.

The regional director said that, when the consequences of this pandemic are analysed, it is possible that the conclusion will be reached that one of the most serious mistakes made to combat the pandemic has been the prolonged shutdown of the educational system. In addition to this, there is the problem for women, who had to assume, disproportionately, care tasks, in addition to the situations of violence that they, as well as children and adolescents, can experience within the home.

He concluded by noting the need to continue thinking about long-term impacts and the need for child labour to return to the centre of priorities. "If before, it was difficult, now it is more difficult, but we must accelerate the work to go towards target 8.7" he emphasized.

Fernando Jiménez –Ontiveros
*Director of Multilateral, Horizontal
and Financial Cooperation of the
Spanish International
Development Cooperation.*

For **Fernando Jiménez–Ontiveros**, the Regional Initiative is an innovative mechanism and an intergovernmental and tripartite model, the methodology of which is fundamental in the sense that social dialogue is a powerful tool to minimize job losses. He highlighted the coincidences found between companies and workers in their willingness to work on these efforts.

In his speech, he reiterated what was previously stated, regarding the importance of promoting policies aimed at decent work for adults, the need to strengthen digital education, so that children and adolescents can exercise their rights and avoid an impact on the gap productivity of the young population. In that sense, he reaffirmed Spain's commitment to continue investing on projects that reduce the digital divide in education and on specific measures, from cooperation, for the protection of children.

He emphasized what was pointed out by the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica, of not being carried away by the inertia of the recovery, but in the need to pay special attention to public policy strategies.

María Luz Ortega pointed out as a priority that the governments, workers and employers that are part of the Regional Initiative remain firm in their commitment to achieve target 8.7, especially in this pandemic scenario, which has deepened social gaps. In this sense, she stressed that it is necessary to put an end to the economic and social vulnerability of families and redouble efforts to return to target 8.7. She noted that the pandemic has put more than two decades of work in the region at risk.

María Luz Ortega
Director of the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation.

She indicated that, from the Andalusian Agency, as a partner of the Regional Initiative, they awaited the unanimous approval of the new Strategic Plan for the coming years, and expressed their commitment to strengthen the capacities installed in the region.

Mônica Salmito
Project analyst at the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mônica Salmito recognized the important work carried out in the region, noting that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that, in a tripartite manner and with the participation of international cooperation, has made the most progress in the fight against child labour. However, she pointed out that it is important to reflect on the conditions generated by the pandemic and that impact on the process of sustainable development.

She indicated that Brazil has signed a South-South Cooperation project with Caribbean countries that seeks to put an end to the situation of child labour, with the generation of data, to articulate initiatives with the RI focal points. This project seeks to help the exchange of knowledge and best practices to achieve target 8.7. She argued that it is necessary to improve public policies, based on international agendas, as well as find innovative solutions and instruments, to put an end to child labour.

Tanya Andrade

She acknowledged the role of the Regional Initiative to end child labour and noted that the United States Department of Labor will continue to support this role.

Andrade mentioned some of the actions that the United States has in the region, among which she highlighted projects in Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Paraguay, with innovative campaigns to face the pandemic, the exchange of medical information with the authorities, aid projects of emergency, among others. In addition, she mentioned the lists of products with risk of child labour and forced labour in 131 countries of the world that the Department of Labor publishes every year, and in which the countries that show the greatest progress are found in the region. These reports and applications can help governments strengthen their efforts to eradicate child labour and develop strategies in the region.

Tanya Andrade

Head of the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking; Office of International Labor Affairs; United States Department of Labor.

SESSION 1: PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

Objective: Be accountable for the performance of the Regional Initiative in 2018-2021

The moderation and presentation of the performance report of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 was the responsibility of **Kathia Romero, member of the RI Technical Secretariat**. For the Regional Initiative, this report represents a qualitative leap, because it is the first strategic plan that has been implemented and its monitoring has been made possible thanks to the information reported by all the focal points, through Monitora 8.7, an online tool that is part of a joint project between the ILO and the Public Labour Prosecutor's Office of Labour of Brazil.

The added value of this tool is that it makes it possible to systematize and make visible the direct actions of governments, employers' and workers' organizations.

The adaptation and start-up of the monitoring platform implied a process of training for the Network of focal points in 2020 and 2021. With Monitora 8.7, the aim is to use new technologies, to facilitate the systematic collection and updating of information, especially progress and achievements on the prevention and eradication of child labour and facilitate the analysis of

results and the identification of recommendations that help advance the joint work of the Regional Initiative.

Due to different reasons, there have been difficulties in gathering information, so the report should be improved for the reports of the next Strategic Plan. Some countries and organizations have not yet been able to make their report. 580 responses were expected corresponding to the 25 indicators of the 5 results of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. 300 responses were obtained, which is equivalent to 52% of the total required. The responses came from: 18 from Government Focal Points, 3 from Workers' Focal Points, 2 from Employers' Focal Points and 1 from the Technical Secretariat.

Next, the report is presented by result, showing the indicators that had achieved their goals and those that show challenges to be met.

Result 1: The countries strengthen the preventive approach to child labour

<p>Indicator 1.3</p>	<p>Type of institutionalization of CLRISK.</p>	<p>The fulfilment of this indicator, related to the institutionalization of the CLRISK, stands out. It shows that the CLRISK is integrated into the measurement processes and instruments of the countries that have implemented it, allows optimizing resources and contributes to the installation of capacities. In the case of Peru, the CLRISK has been institutionalized as a national tool through a Ministerial Resolution. The achievement of this result aims to continue advancing in this line, which supports sustained results and that can be prioritized in the response to the challenges of COVID-19.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.7</p>	<p>Nº of multi-actor alliances created and/or strengthened to implement child labour prevention strategies, amongst them CLRISK.</p>	<p>Good performance especially with regard to alliances to implement child labour prevention policies and that includes the CLRISK and IVTI, which has become a fundamental tool for the Regional Initiative. The data obtained show how national prevention policies have motivated articulated action and coordination between actors, both at the national and local levels. The CLRISK / IVTI has been applied in 10 countries.</p>

Result 2: Application of withdrawal strategies for children and adolescents in child labour below the age allowed, with special attention to those in hazardous child labour (HCL).

Indicator 2.2	<p>Nº of countries that have been created and/or improved system for recording and following-up on children and adolescents withdrawn from child labour, in particular taking advantage of the South-South Cooperation.</p>	<p>There is progress in data systematization and the availability of administrative records in countries that have reported information. It is relevant because it results in a greater variety of data and evidence for political action.</p>
Indicator 2.3	<p>Nº of active business networks that incorporate child labour prevention and eradication strategies, especially of a hazardous nature, in their work plan.</p>	<p>The performance of this indicator on active business networks in terms of co-responsibility regarding policies and multi-stakeholder alliances stands out.</p>
Challenges	<p>Indicator 2.1 Number and type of child labour withdrawal strategies, especially hazardous work, effectively implemented by countries and members of the RI, with an emphasis on the gender approach.</p> <p>Indicator 2.4 Number of networks active in the sector that incorporate strategies for the prevention and eradication of child labour, especially those of a dangerous nature, in their work plan.</p>	<p>Indicators 2.1 and 2.4 show a challenge, referring to hazardous work, which could also worsen in the context of a pandemic.</p>

Result 3: The countries strengthen their labour protection and/or retraining strategies to adolescents of legal age for work.

Indicator 3.1	<p>Number of protection strategies (by type and scope) of permitted adolescent work effectively implemented, in particular taking advantage of South-South Cooperation.</p>	<p>The Plan had not established a particular goal, but the information from 19 countries shows that there are a significant number of strategies that have been implemented. This is an opportunity to collect this information and analyse good practices and experiences that have been implemented and that motivate changes in the countries. It is a special challenge for the region.</p>
Indicator 3.2	<p>No. of countries that have an updated list of hazardous jobs.</p>	<p>Regarding the updating of hazardous work lists, several actions have been reported to update these lists, some of them prior to the reporting period (Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Panama). Other countries are in the process of updating (Honduras, Jamaica, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago).</p>

Result 4: The countries strengthen their strategies to address illicit forms of child labour.

Indicator 4.2	<p>Number, by type and scope, of strategies for the prevention and eradication of illicit forms of child labour, effectively implemented.</p>	<p>Progress is reflected with regard to strategies to confront illicit forms of child labour. 62 strategies are reported that are being implemented. From a critical point of view, these data indicate that the information must be refined and verified, in order to have more detailed information.</p> <p>A central strategy has been the incorporation of policies related to sexual exploitation, forced labour, and human trafficking. For the implementation of these strategies, training actions have been carried out for public officials and other operators.</p>
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Indicator 4.3	Number of South-South exchange actions and technical discussion actions on good practices for the prevention and eradication of illicit forms of child labour, carried out between countries or at the regional level.	The RI has been a space from which the knowledge of new experiences has been promoted, with South-South cooperation. 34 exchange initiatives are reported that have resulted in this framework. It is of interest to have more information on these actions, to value these exchanges and contributions at the regional level, and to strengthen the action of the countries.
Results 5: The Regional Initiative is progressing in its consolidation and has effective management to accelerate the eradication of child labour		
Indicator 5.2	Number and type of strategic and/or multi-stakeholder alliances created or strengthened aimed at accelerating the prevention and eradication of child labour.	The performance of the indicator referring to alliances stands out, which contributes to the positioning of the issue of child labour in the agendas of other organizations and other sectors, to reinforce the generation of new knowledge and capacities in the region. The alliances have been mainly with ECLAC, FAO, Alliance 8.7 and the RIAL of the OAS.
Indicator 5.6	Number and type of International Forums in which the Regional Initiative participates / is linked.	Despite the limitations of the pandemic, participation in several forums has been achieved in 2020. In 2021, the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour has multiplied the possibility of participating in national and international spaces, and making visible the work that perform the RI.
Indicator 5.7	No. and type of dissemination actions promoted through the Web platform of the Regional Initiative.	The actions that have been carried out through the web and social networks stand out, which strengthens the presence of the RI in these spaces, even where there was no presence.
Indicator 5.8	Number and type of strategies and tools produced by the RI that include a gender and non-discrimination approach.	There is progress in incorporating the gender approach. The gender strategy was approved in 2020. There is a gender analysis document in the child labour regulations and there will be a mapping of good practices. There is also a gender and child labour toolbox.
Challenges	Indicator 5.1. Nº of member countries of the Regional Initiative.	There are indicators that present challenging performances: i) the need for new adhesions of countries in the Regional Initiative, and ii) what refers to the mobilization of resources, especially at a

Indicator 5.4 Type and amount of resources mobilized for the action and sustainability of the Regional Initiative.

critical moment in the region, in which one cannot backup in the face of what has been achieved in the region.

Finally, the conclusions and recommendations are presented below:

- **The achievements exceed the established goals**, which shows the commitment of the region to advance in the design of policies and their implementation. Recommendation: maintain compliance with providing the information, in order to expand the achievements of the Regional Initiative.
- **The collection of information has required more time, as well as adjusting the methodology.** In order to monitor the new strategic plan, systematic training is being considered to expand a measurement culture, considering the cases, for a better adaptation
- **Improve the criteria of relevance of the information** that is reported, that is to say, strengthen the use of the Monitora 8.7 tool.
- **Although, at first, the Monitora 8.7 report was made for 2020-2021, then it was extended to the entire 2018-2021 period.** The recommendation is that you can go ahead with reports for the new strategic plan.
- **The added value of these operational mechanisms**, established by the Regional Initiative, have proven to be effective in collecting regional information. It is considered that it would be useful to continue and provide Monitora 8.7 with the necessary elements for the monitoring and reporting of the new 2022-2025 strategic plan, adding the lessons learned from this stage.

Below are the comments of the panellists:

Mariela Gómez, Government Focal Point, Paraguay, she highlighted the work of the focal points and the Technical Secretariat to compile the information. She pointed out that this tool has been acquired in Paraguay, through South-South Cooperation, indicating that it is a satisfactory, friendly, easy to understand and versatile platform that allows data to be fed in numerical, percentage and discursive form, and helps to present reports, at the level of each country. She

indicated that the pandemic limited the collection of information, in a timely manner, but that it was finally possible to have the information for the years 2019 and 2020.

She pointed out that, in Paraguay, agreements have been signed with the institutions in charge of collecting the information, thus ensuring the sustainability of the platform in order to have updated reports annually. Finally, she encouraged the countries to continue using this platform, which makes it possible to measure progress and levels of compliance with the strategic plan.

Carla Caballeros, Employers Focal Point, Guatemala, she congratulated those who participate in the Regional Initiative, because the results of Monitor 8.7 show that the goals are exceeding what is stated in the Strategic Plan. She indicated that the Regional Initiative is a model of how it is possible to articulate regional networks, land plans with specific objectives and how it is possible to measure and systematize results.

She pointed out that although there are indicators where the goal has not been reached, it can be compensated with others where they are exceeded, since they are very similar in the type of activities or in the measurement that is being made in relation to the approach strategies.

She specified that there are indicators in which not all focal points can contribute, for example, the withdrawal of children and adolescents in child labour, since this is a problem that occurs in informality, and their companies do not have information to report, but from the side of the Ministries of Labour, they do.

She pointed out that it is still a challenge for all the countries that make up the Regional Initiative to share information. In the case of businesses, the challenge is for business organizations to have a mechanism, in a coordinated manner, so that the work they are doing is reflected. She recommended that the mechanism for collecting information be made easier so that it does not become a cumbersome, additional task, but rather is user-friendly, so that information can be updated every year.

Carmen Taitt, Workers Focal Point, Panama, noted that the pandemic delayed the possibility of having the expected reports, noting that more time was required to complete the information. Additionally, she pointed out that the methodology for using Monitor 8.7 should be improved, because it was one of the problems they had in order to respond adequately. She also asked to improve the criteria of relevance of the information. For this reason, she requested that the new strategic plan consider strengthening the capacities of the focal points in the use of Monitor 8.7, in order to have timely reports and data.

On the other hand, she indicated that, although each country has its strategic plan or public policies on issues such as human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, child pornography, there are no statistics that can measure this situation. She highlighted the need for governments to give greater importance to the Regional Initiative and greater support for what is being done by the Technical Secretariat.

To end the session, a dialogue was opened with the focal points:

Ana López, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, indicated that it is necessary to make a critical reading of the report, with the possibility of improving the information, in view of the new strategic plan. She pointed out that it is possible to optimize the use of Monitora 8.7, since it is a tool in which many are trained and know how to use it and that will allow us to work on what has already been advanced.

For his part, **Álvaro Segovia, Government Focal Point, Mexico,** highlighted the effort made by all countries to achieve and exceed the goals, which reflects the tripartite effort. He recognized the effort of the worker sector to contribute to this work. He stressed the need to have more time to report achievements, since it was difficult to report on everything that was done and integrate all actions. In that sense, he proposed to be more punctual in the reports, on more precise actions, so that everyone can consult them easily.

Susana Santomingo, Workers Focal Point, Argentina, emphasized the need not to stop at what has been done, since this context requires redoubling efforts, calling on governments to increase budgets, because the post-pandemic situation is discouraging. She also proposed the simplification and optimization of Monitora 8.7, to facilitate the uploading of information and better focus on relevance.

She pointed out the importance of honest reports because, in this way, it contributes to the objectives to be achieved. In this sense, she indicated that, on the subject of human rights, "laying bare" what was not achieved is a fundamental contribution, so the errors that are made must be identified or the problems or difficulties in the intervention must be recorded, because this is part of learning. She pointed out the need to continue joining forces, so that the positions and approaches of the Regional Initiative multiply.

Esmirna Sánchez, Government Focal Point, Costa Rica, indicated that she did not agree with the argument that the information in Monitor 8.7 was not completed due to lack of time. In her opinion, the time given to them (one month) was sufficient and it would be necessary to reflect on what other reasons existed for not completing the information, because additionally there

had the options of the questionnaires in Word for people who could not use the platform. However, she also indicated that Monitora 8.7 should be reviewed, because every tool requires adjustments, although it is currently a fairly user-friendly system.

In line with what was pointed out by Susana Santomingo, she indicated that what was not achieved should be collected, because there are things that are beyond the control of the focal points, since many actions are inter-sectoral or work is done with limited resources. It is also important to know this information.

SESSION 2: PRESENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025 OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

Objective: Present strategic axes, lines and actions of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Ana López, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, started the day by stating that the proposal for the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 was the work of the Tripartite Committee of the Network of Focal Points, made up of 2 government focal points, 2 employer focal points and 2 worker focal points. She indicated that it has been an intense work, to identify what will shape the work of the Regional Initiative in the next 4 years.

The Strategic Plan proposal was presented:

Purpose: “Our goal is to declare Latin America and the Caribbean a region free of child labour”			
Mission “We design, implement and evaluate effective public policies and specialized tools for the prevention and sustained reduction of child labour.”			
Values: Innovation, Human Rights, Regional Voice, Strategic Vision and Shared Responsibility			
AXES	STRATEGIC LINES	GOALS	
Axis 1 CLRISK as a promoter of local policies for the prevention and eradication of child labour CLRISK has proven to be a relevant tool to generate information that allows the design, implementation and measurement of preventive and targeted, local and evidence-based interventions. CLRISK will be positioned to promote local CL prevention and eradication policies. It will work with South-South cooperation actions among the members of the RI. Emphasis will be placed on the dissemination and greater knowledge of CLRISK at the tripartite level	Greater dissemination of CLRISKI to promote its implementation	Adapted tools to communicate their usefulness at the disposal of the members of the Regional Initiative.	
	Strengthening national, local and tripartite ownership of CLRISK	Local actors and politicians from 10 countries in PHASE I increase their knowledge. 5 countries request technical assistance for implementation.	
		2 new countries implement PHASE I.	
		100 evidence-based local policies with tripartite participation.	
	Applicability of the CLRISK and evidence of its positive impact	50% of the countries in PHASE I institutionalize CLRISK.	
		10 countries work in municipalities identified in their risk maps. Local exchange model to advance in the implementation of PHASE II developed.	
		50% of the countries in PHASE II have data on the impact generated at the local level. 4 countries update their maps and monitor their evolution.	
	Axis 2 Approaches for a comprehensive intervention In the current context of health, economic and social crisis, with the consequent risk of a decline in progress in the fight against CL, it is necessary to address the causes of CL from an inter-sectoral perspective and with integrative approaches, both for urban areas and rural.	Guarantee of decent work for adults and productive development	Regional Observatory 2023: created 2024: operational
			10 inter-sectoral initiatives identified and disseminated in political decision-making forums around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic activity - Social protection programs - Education system

		5 members of the Regional Initiative generate learning and exchange of inter-sectoral practices.
	Supply chains	Have a methodology for identifying the risk of child labour and how to articulate actors in supply chains available.
		Expansion of knowledge and use of hazardous work listings by employers and workers for the prevention and identification of child labour in expanded supply chains.
		5 territories have preventive protocols for child labour in supply chains.
		5 countries increase the number of labour inspections in the most risky stages of child labour of the supply chains.
	Guarantee of education and training for employment	Monitoring system available to combat school dropouts linked to child labour and dangerous adolescent work in alliance with tripartite actors and the educational system.
		10 countries exchange good practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote training for employment in urban areas - From models of updating the educational curriculum to the needs and realities of rural areas - Of universal connectivity of the educational centres of the region
		3 countries implement pilots based on exchanges to prototype and replicate.
	Migration	By 2023, the migration variable incorporated in phase II of the CLRISK and in the characterization in those territories where it is considered key.
		Regional alliances generated with expert organizations on migration issues to generate data, such as IOM and UNICEF.
		Have quantitative and qualitative evidence generated, to guide decisions of the competent authorities.

<p>Axis 3 More efficient and effective actions with greater impact This is linked to monitoring and measuring what the Regional Initiative does. The measurement of actions allows improving entrepreneurship and the performance of interventions, as well as improving decision-making and making progress, achievements and learning visible. It is intended to design a strategy to advance the “measurement culture”.</p>	<p>Follow-up mechanisms to monitor the strategy of the Regional Initiative</p>	<p>50% increase in countries that upload information with the simplified system: Monitora 8.7.</p>
		<p>Members of the Regional Initiative share the importance of reporting data and take responsibility for the reporting processes.</p>
		<p>Indicators of the Strategic Plan: - Reported by 80% of countries and organizations of the Regional Initiative. - 3 indicators identified as key and 100% reported.</p>
		<p>2 annual awareness-raising and communication actions towards members of the Regional Initiative on the importance of the report.</p>
		<p>Annual training for members of the Regional Initiative on the use of measurement tools.</p>
	<p>Harmonization in the measurement and reporting of Child Labour</p>	<p>15 countries have been mapped to find out about their indicator systems and processes (especially those with the greatest advance in measurement).</p>
		<p>Identify and harmonize key indicators identified in countries and international organizations.</p>
		<p>2 events of socialization and dissemination of learning about the results of the harmonization process.</p>
		<p>2 events on good measurement practices attended by 10 governments.</p>
		<p>3 advocacy actions to promote the inclusion of harmonized indicators in national statistical institutes.</p>
<p>Axis 4 Economic sustainability</p>		<p>The rate of reduction in child labour remains at least 4% year-on-year.</p>
		<p>Model for channelling contributions from member countries designed.</p>

<p>That allows to have sufficient resources to ensure the action of the Regional Initiative. It is a key element. Clear and transparent resource mobilization strategies will be designed and implemented to achieve economic sustainability and strengthen financial and action independence. Work will be done to diversify funding sources and create transparent and attractive tools for donors, strategically involving Alliance 8.7 and also, for the countries and member organizations of the Regional Initiative.</p>	Economic commitment of the member countries	4 countries raise funds to implement activities of the Regional Initiative.
		Economic contribution 2023: 10 countries 2025: 20 countries
	Creation of the multi-donor Fund for the Regional Initiative	Multi-donor fund: 2023: created 2025: operational
		Contribution of income to the Regional Initiative 2024: 30% 2025: 40%
	Design of new strategies with the ILO	Articulation and collaboration with ILO country offices in the enhanced region.
		Financing model to have a regional child labour specialist designed.
		Expertise of PARDEV - ILO resource mobilization department in Geneva - to design and monitor our strategy.
	Mobilization of national and regional resources through Alliance 8.7	Collaboration framework 2022: defined 2023: operational
		Contributions from Alliance 8.7 2024: 15% 2025: 20%
		4 pioneer countries receive funding through Alliance 8.7 to implement Initiative activities.

Next, the panellists of the Tripartite Committee who participated in the preparation of the new Strategic Plan intervened:

Álvaro Segovia, Government Focal Point, Mexico, pointed out that the proposal of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 was a tripartite, arduous and purposeful exercise, which was carried out through various workshops, in which the objectives, lines and goals to be achieved, through the Regional Initiative, in the next years were formulated.

He highlighted that the proposed goals and lines of work are measurable and achievable in order to have tangible results. He considered that the line of economic sustainability is the one that will be very important for the years to come.

Laura Giménez, Employers Focal Point, Argentina, considered the tripartite work carried out as important, since spaces and methodologies were created that facilitated dialogue, discussion and consensus. It was a job that also allowed us to think about the capacities that we have to tackle the new Strategic Plan.

On axis 4, economic sustainability, she argued that a high consensus was reached from all focal points, since it is necessary to think about viable ways to attract resources, in a scenario of economic crisis and a situation of changes in international cooperation. She argued that a lot of responsibility and consistency is required in long-term financing alternatives. She highlighted the importance of working on the constitution of the Multi-donor Fund and of having an agile structure to attract resources. She also highlighted that the support of PARDEV is an important resource to improve the capacities of the Regional Initiative that will allow a better design of the Fund. She emphasized that the ILO Regional Office must commit more resources, as part of its budget, for the Regional Initiative and so that it can have a regional specialist on child labour.

Regarding axis 3: efficient and effective actions with greater impact, she pointed out that it is a challenge to follow up the actions with a critical sense and apply a system of continuous improvement for the reports, to strengthen the measurement and the participation of the countries.

Giménez highlighted that axis 2: approaches for a comprehensive intervention was another space of great agreement between employers and workers. Faced with the risk of increased child labour, it is necessary to intervene in the structural causes of this problem, which can ensure the sustainability of the efforts being made. For this reason, she argued that it is vital to create dignified and decent work for adults, to invest in the productive development of the regions, as well as to identify experiences and valuable initiatives on how decent work-prevention of child labour is related, to show how to apply them in others places and improve the quality of comprehensive intervention in the territory.

In terms of vocational training and education, she pointed out that employers have experience that they can share, for example, in specializing the curriculum in technical schools, in particular productive environments or in how to promote professionalizing practices in safe environments that familiarize young people with decent work environments, so that they can enter the formal job market.

On the other hand, she pointed out that important agreements were reached in the sense of having installed capacities to identify and prevent child labour in value chains. In this sense, she indicated that as an employer sector, they have initiatives to train trainers, so that companies can detect child labour in their suppliers or contractors.

Regarding Axis 1, she mentioned that there is a lot of consensus on the usefulness of CLRISK and the need to continue disseminating it, as well as to support governments in the application of phases 1 and 2, to guide evidence-based policies and promote participation of social actors during its implementation in the territory, not only in the final validation of results.

Paola Egúsquiza, Workers Focal Point, Peru, welcomed the work carried out in a tripartite manner, since a proposal was made that reflects the consensus that has been reached. Regarding axis 1, she pointed out that, although the CLRISK is a useful tool and works adequately to install local policies to prevent and eradicate child labour, it is a priority that its implementation, from the beginning, be carried out in a tripartite manner, since the unions know the problems of the territories and are specialists in reaching them. She also argued that each country has to institutionalize it and make it part of its national policy, so that it is replicated at the regional and local level and has a budget.

Regarding axis 2, she reiterated the coincidences between employers and workers on this issue, since it is not only about eradicating child labour, but also about guaranteeing dignified and decent work for adults and adolescents of permitted age. On the other hand, she also referred to the importance of having a productive development model in the territories, which begins from the training of young people to make them employable, thus avoiding internal and external migration, added to the policies of social protection that governments must develop to give these populations a different opportunity.

She also underlined the need for a tripartite compromise in supply chains. In the region, employers that are part of the Regional Initiative are required to take charge of their supply chain, because informality occurs in the first part of this chain and that is where child labour is.

On axis 3, she pointed out that measurements and indicators should be more related to the reality of each country. It is not possible to make a comparative analysis between the countries because they have different realities and policies. That is why she proposes trying to harmonize the indicators so that the measurement is as real as possible. Regarding axis 4 of economic sustainability of the Regional Initiative, she argued that there must be a commitment from the member countries, since without funds it is not possible to advance in the objectives pursued. Countries should be part of a common fund.

Regarding the multi-donor Fund, she pointed out that the funds must have a filter, to know where they come from. And the second thing is that there must be a framework, to know which funds enters and which funds do not, because fund that violate rights cannot be allowed. Finally, she welcomed the step that is being taken to obtain ILO financing (with the child labour specialist), although she considers that this financing should be greater.

SESSION 3: VALIDATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025 OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE

Objective: Approval of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 of the Regional Initiative

This session was moderated by Ana López, coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, who highlighted the joint work carried out, which has enhanced the Plan. She indicated that the 4 identified axes are fundamental to address child labour and adolescent work in this period to come, in the context of the crisis.

She mentioned that axis 3, regarding impact measurement, is not an isolated axis, but is closely related to the others, because it responds to how what is being done in the other axes will be measured. Regarding the axis of economic sustainability, she pointed out that it is crucial since the execution of axes 1 and 2 will only be possible depending on the resources that can be mobilized.

After this intervention, she gave the floor to three members of the Tripartite Committee, to continue with the comments on the proposal of the Strategic Plan.

Alejandra González, Government Focal Point, Chile, congratulated the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, which has made it possible to organize the debate and the work of the Tripartite Committee, in order to consolidate the Strategic Plan, especially in the context of a pandemic. She pointed out as a qualitative advance the possibility of being able to incorporate the Strategic Plan into national planning, which will allow national actions to be related to the Regional Initiative.

Regarding axis 1, the CLRISK is an opportunity for the countries to implement the policy and mobilize resources and actors at the local level. It is a tool not at the central level but at the

territorial level. It is necessary to know the use and importance of this tool and how it can transcend the Regional Initiative, as a good practice.

On axis 2, she maintained the urgency of putting decent work and productive development at the centre, as well as the guarantee of education. Although these are key approaches for the eradication of child labour, she also stressed the importance of incorporating other approaches such as migration, to facilitate the construction of new actions and carry out certain interventions at the national and regional level.

Regarding axis 3, she pointed out that it is key to be able to monitor and systematize the most efficient actions with greater impact, because it is closely linked to axis 4, that of the economic sustainability of the Regional Initiative, as well as to mobilize new actors.

During her intervention, **Juliana Manrique, Employers Focal Point, Colombia**, argued that the Plan is focused on the needs of the region and is the result of a tripartite dialogue and consensus. Regarding axis 1, she highlighted the tripartite consensus regarding the importance of strengthening both the implementation and the communication of the benefits that the CLRISK provides in each of the countries, as a key tool to eradicate child labour.

On axis 2, she highlighted the incorporation of the issue of migration, a relevant issue at this time in the region and that it is important to include it within the characterization that already exists in the CLRISK. Along this same axis, she highlighted the commitment to guarantee efforts to maintain the reduction of child labour in the region, especially in a complex context of global crisis.

Regarding axis 3, she pointed out that clear indicators should be established, as well as simplifying reports in order to achieve greater participation from the countries and the actors that report information, as well as to share good practices.

Finally, related to axis 4, she highlighted the support of the employers in the Multi-donor Fund, which will allow raising funds in a more agile way. She highlighted the importance of insisting that the ILO Regional Office allocate sufficient funds, from its regular budget, to achieve the economic sustainability of the Regional Initiative.

Susana Santomingo, Workers Focal Point, Argentina, she pointed out a formal issue: The presentation, where the ILO specialist who "coordinates the Technical Secretariat" is discussed. It should say "coordinates with the Technical Secretariat." It is a subject that she suggests should be discussed. Santomingo pointed out that, for the unions, the Plan is an

interesting contribution and a qualitative leap compared to the previous one. It gets closer to the objectives and learns from the processes.

She valued the Plan because it is orderly, where the lines of work are strengthened and brought closer to a conception unit. It seems ambitious, but the context requires great political responsibility from governments and social actors. She stressed that, from a strategic point of view, it is necessary to generate advocacy strategies within the countries on the need for decent work. From the unions, the need to influence distribution policies and protection strategies is being raised, if child labour is to be eradicated.

On the other hand, she referred to the CLRISK, indicating that the unions should participate in all its phases, where their task would be coordination, because they have elements to make proposals. She also pointed out that they highly value the issue of productive development and comprehensive intervention, issues that must be worked on within the Regional Initiative, especially with regard to interventions in the territories.

After these interventions, a space for open dialogue was opened with the focal points, representatives of Governments, Employers and Workers.

Ana López, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, she pointed out that this Tripartite Committee was created at the 2020 annual meeting, with the aim that the Network be more closely linked to the work of the Technical Secretariat and be closer to other processes that are carried out from this space. Six people were chosen, two focal points for each of the actors: government, employers, and workers. She pointed out that the Committee must be renewed every year, according to the Regulations, and indicated that next January 2022, the ideal would be to renew the Committee's focal points. A suitable formula should be found to give continuity to what has been done.

In her intervention, **Cecilia Tello, Government Focal Point, Peru,** proposed, as a complement to axis 2, that in addition to the creation of the regional observatory, the approach to the prevention and eradication of child labour can be mainstreamed as a strategic measure at the state level. That is, not only to recommend exclusive policies to combat child labour promoted at the sectoral level, but also to recommend national policies (education, health, policies to combat poverty and development, among others), with an approach that seeks to prevent and eradicate child labour, the results of which can be measured through indicators.

Esmirna Sánchez, Government Focal Point, Costa Rica, argued that the 4 axes of the Plan are a great umbrella, where everything needs to be done to achieve target 8.7 by 2025 fits. She indicated that Costa Rica is concluding its country strategy and that the proposal of the

Strategic Plan of the Regional Initiative has allowed to relate both strategies. Her query goes in the direction of: Is it going to have a more operational part or how is the Plan going to advance?

Ana López, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, pointed out that the Strategic Plan will be fulfilled from the actions carried out by the countries and organizations themselves, plus the actions carried out by the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative. They are not parallel actions. She argued that the first step is to validate this Plan and that the indicators have yet to be formulated. The Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative will make a technical proposal of indicators, which will be validated with the focal points, so that they can be measured and can be reported by all the countries.

She also pointed out that the Plan is put together so that any policy of the countries or organizations can be covered by these strategic axes. The prevention approach is fundamental and runs through the Plan. The CLRISK was born with this vocation, to improve and strengthen the prevention policies of the countries. When developing the indicators, specific indicators can be identified, if possible.

Regarding the development of strategies or work spaces, she argued that the Plan provides the option of exchanging experiences and practices that are working in other countries, for example, in terms of mainstreaming, there are countries that have childhood focal points in all the ministries and that helps a lot to advance in that work.

Regarding the Multi-donor Fund, she pointed out that it is designed to strengthen the economic sustainability of the Regional Initiative, in that sense, the idea is that it be a fund executed by the ILO (due to a feasibility issue), regardless of whether other formulas can be seen complementary. One of the lines proposed by the Plan is to analyse the membership requirements with the Network. On the part of the ILO, PARDEV, as the Resource Mobilization Department, has its ethical codes for partner access, which can be shared and validated and in the event that there is an additional recommendation, a specific protocol is made. It is an issue that must be worked on, it is not a closed process, quite the opposite. It is a process that must be composed together, with the necessary standards and requirements, within the framework of the ILO.

Regarding having a regional specialist in child labour to coordinate the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, she pointed out that it is an issue that should be discussed, to identify which is the best formula. It will also be an advocacy and internal identification work for the ILO.

Finally, she referred to the regional child labour observatory as a very useful tool, because it opens possibilities to articulate regional work, to have spaces for exchange and monitoring of compliance with goals, not only of the Regional Initiative Plan but also of the region. It can make a difference and be a reference in how to move forward and join forces and can be attractive to add new commitments.

Final Conclusions

- There are no objections to the Strategic Plan 2022-2025. The Plan as a whole is considered validated.
- The Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative will share a complete document of the Plan, with additional content to that received by the FP (for the meeting).
- The title of the Plan is put to vote. Three possible names are raised and an online survey was launched.

By voting of **57%** of the participants, it was decided by **Option 1: Let us join efforts for a childhood free of child labour.**

SESSION 4: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT LABOUR, PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN THE REGION

Objective: Learn about and discuss the estimation of the impact of COVID-19 on child labour in the region, its associated factors and policy recommendations.

Iván Rodríguez, Senior Consultant and Specialist in Child Labour, began his presentation by highlighting data on child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean. He indicated that progress has been made in the eradication of child labour, although the pace has been slowing down. It is highlighted that, as of 2020, there are 8.2 million children and adolescents working, of which 51.3% live in rural areas, 48.7% work in agriculture, 34.4% in services and 17% in industry; 49.9% are family workers, 42.1% are employees and 8% are independent employees.

15.5% of working children and adolescents, he stated, are out of education and represents a particularity that 84.5% combine work and study, this, he emphasized, is essential to be able to identify this population. For this reason, he considers that children and adolescents should be prioritized in education and interventions should be focused on those who are outside the educational system.

Likewise, what the figures show is that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, as age increases, there is a greater proportion of minors working. Boys are the ones who work

more than girls, working hours longer than 21 hours a week. However, this hides the real situation of many girls and adolescents who perform child labour in the sphere of domestic work.

In this context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been major economic impacts, which have affected employment. 47 million jobs have been lost and, although there has been a recovery, the jobs have been of poor quality and concentrated in men. Women, on the other hand, have less access to the job market. More than 30% of poor women do not participate in the labour market, due to the high burden of family and care responsibilities. All this in a context of informality in the region.

This crisis has also affected the collection of statistical data, so today there is less data. A study carried out in 5 countries in the region (Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina), between 2020 and 2021 shows that between 2019 and 2020 there was a significant reduction in employed children and adolescents, which is due, in part, to the measures imposed to mitigate COVID-19 infections, such as the restriction of the use of public spaces. All this, in the year 2021, is reversed and a growth of busy children and adolescents is visualized.

He states that poverty is one of the determining problems of child labour in the region that has worsened with the pandemic, going back 12 years in the fight against poverty and 20 years in the fight to reduce extreme poverty. In 2019 onwards, there has been an increase of 22 million people living in poverty and 8 million living in extreme poverty in the region. These impacts have occurred in a differentiated way, in particular, according to the area of residence. Poverty and extreme poverty have a greater impact in rural areas compared to urban areas. In the same way, the figures for the incidence of child labour indicate that it predominates in rural areas.

The educational level of the home is also closely related to poverty, the lower the educational level in adults, the higher the incidence of poverty. Due to the impact of the pandemic, 3.5 million children and adolescents are at risk of being excluded from education. The possibility of completing secondary education has fallen by 62%. The largest proportion of families with low educational levels are living in rural areas.

Another dimension is the analysis by age groups. 51.3% of boys, girls and adolescents, between 0 to 14 years old, are in a situation of poverty. This indicates that poverty has the face of a boy and a girl. Therefore, it is necessary to address problems such as education and poverty in order to take effective action on child labour.

Likewise, **Kathia Romero, member of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour**, presented the recommendations of the report prepared by UNICEF and the ILO, on the overview of social protection, advances and setbacks in the face of the pandemic, in relation to the following axes:

Increase access and improve targeting of social protection

The pandemic has exposed deficiencies in social protection in Latin America and the Caribbean, where its effects have been greatest. Before, 56% of the inhabitants had some type of social protection coverage. It is important to advance in social protection that guarantees health and economic security for all, since it has an effect on child labour. Social protection contributes to inclusion, reducing poverty and improving productivity.

Defend and promote the education of children and adolescents

It is necessary to carry out return-to-school campaigns and design policies to monitor dropout. Likewise, establish early childhood development and care centres and pre-school care and ensure that admission to employment coincides with the completion of compulsory schooling. It is necessary to eliminate school fees and associated costs. Finally, have more flexible and accessible educational offers available.

Roadmap in the labour world

The following has been discussed:

- Address the growing vulnerability of workers in the informal economy.
- Increase social dialogue.
- Improve rural livelihoods.
- Reduce the risk of child labour in global and national supply chains.
- Address child labour in disaster situations and other crises, as they can express its worst forms.
- Adopt adequate legal frameworks, promote compliance, and seek the ratification of national laws that allow action.
- Fulfil the promise of international cooperation and alliances.

Below, the intervention of the Focal Points:

Silvana Bitencourt, Government Focal Point, Uruguay, highlighted the indicators of child labour in rural areas and in agriculture and how the work, coordinated between institutions and State agencies, is of utmost relevance to address the various problems. Such is the case of Uruguay, with the work coordinated between the Ministry of Labour, which has the powers to sanction and supervise, and the National Institute for Minors, which has the powers to care for children and adolescents and their families. In this sense, she suggests joining forces and redoubling efforts to eradicate child labour.

On her part, **Cecilia Flores, Employers Focal Point, Peru**, highlighted two relevant aspects in the recommendations for the eradication of child labour. On the one hand, the vulnerability of workers in informal economies which, with the COVID-19 pandemic, has generated setbacks and a more complex context. Such is the case in Peru, where the informal economy exceeds 80% and which, with the pandemic, has put child labour at greater risk. For this reason, she calls for the State to identify risk areas and monitor them.

At the local level, in Peru, she pointed out how the National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labour is addressing the local problem, from a tripartite perspective.

Regarding the reduction of child labour in supply chains, she mentioned that the business sector is contributing to greater formalization, which is why specific clauses are established in the contracts so that products from suppliers that involve the child labour are not purchased. However, she emphasizes the need for a leading role for the State, which executes, measures and ensures the exercise of rights. She highlighted the public-private effort, commitment and consensus to achieve the goal of eradicating child labour and reducing the gaps.

Hinginia Ciprian, Workers Focal Point, Dominican Republic, made a call to reflect on the causes that have led to the increase in poverty and the risk of child labour, in a context of pandemic, and suggested measures to deal with it. On the one hand, strengthening tripartism and social dialogue tables in the region and at the local level, which are crucial to advance with the commitment to economic recovery and the eradication of child labour. In that sense, she suggests that the ILO increase resources and governments provide their support.

On the other hand, for the development of rural areas, she suggested promoting agricultural care policies for the diversification of crops in the field and promoting decent work, as well as spreading the norm of gender and discrimination that, she considers, is a

cause of the increase in child labour. Finally, she pointed out that the unions propose to develop proposals to deal with informality and put an end to child labour.

Below, the round of direct interventions is presented:

Susana Santomingo, Workers Focal Point, Argentina, suggested reviewing the tripartite statement on COVID-19 between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay of Mercosur. She also proposed strengthening tripartite actions and redoubling efforts to eradicate child labour, in a context where poverty has worsened, through the design and implementation of public policies and ensuring social protection.

Carmen Alicia Taitt, Workers Focal Point, Panama, reflected on the post-pandemic scenario, with the worsening of the economic crisis and its impact on employment, education, health and the increase in child labour. Given this, she suggested strengthening public policies and a greater commitment of government.

Rosalía Zingales, Government Focal Point, Venezuela, emphasized the need to identify the students who have dropped out and to invite them to insertion. Also, in a context of humanitarian crisis and human mobility, she stressed that public policies are more inclusive for adolescents, since it increases the risk of their incorporation into child labour.

SESSION 5: TOWARDS THE V GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED LABOUR (SOUTH AFRICA, 2022)

Objective: Learn about the process of regional consultations and the preparation of the V Global Conference on Child Labour and Forced Labour

The session began with the moderation of Ana López, coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative, who posed some questions to Philippe Vanhuynegem, head of the ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Service:

Why is it important to participate in the V Global Conference on Child Labour and what is the route?

Philippe Vanhuynegem, considers that these types of world conferences are of great relevance to discuss good practices and experiences that are carried out in different countries at a global level to achieve target 8.7. He also provided some arguments:

1. It is a space to position the issue of child labour and place it on the political agenda, since it is still a great challenge.

2. Share good practices, such as the Regional Initiative and the strategies that Latin America and the Caribbean have designed and implemented in terms of public policies, which inspires many countries and regions.

Prior to the V Global Conference, regional consultations will be held. On November 16 and 17 is the Consultation for the Americas, to decide the technical content. It will be an opportunity to share information on the various strategies that have worked and those that have not worked in the region and listen to the different tripartite actors on the issues to be addressed at the Conference.

What is the role of Latin America in this context? What could be most relevant?

Vanhuynegem emphasized that there are great differences between regions. In the last 4 years there has been an improvement in Latin America and the Caribbean, which shows that the target can be achieved. Progress has been made in public policies, such as, for example, social protection has been extended, conditional transfer programs have been implemented, access to education has increased, among others, which has contributed to attacking the structural causes of child labour. That, he believes, is something that should be shown at the Conference.

Also, publicize cooperation models such as the Regional Initiative, its tools, coordination strategies that, he considers, is an innovative model that can be an inspiration for other regions. In the same way, practical tools such as CLRISK, which is already being implemented at the local level.

Finally, it is important to make progress on proposals for follow-up mechanisms in public policy commitments.

What opportunities for collaboration can there be between RI and Alliance 8.7?

He stated that Alliance 8.7 has great potential because it brings together different organizations, its governance system is different, but with the same purpose as the Regional Initiative, to eradicate child labour and reduce forced labour. It has been transformed into a space for coordination and concrete application. In this sense, he suggests that the Regional Initiative and Alliance 8.7 can collaborate, and even merge, each maintaining its autonomy, and thus not duplicating efforts.

Below, the intervention of the panellists is presented:

Sergio Díaz, Government Focal Point, Argentina, shared his experience in organizing the previous Global Conference held in Argentina and emphasized the need for continuity of inter-conference agreements. He highlighted some progress: i) the consolidation of spaces such as the Regional Initiative and Alliance 8.7, ii) in institutional matters and iii) in raising awareness. For this reason, he states that it is necessary to make known experiences that show progress.

He concluded his intervention by highlighting the importance of redoubling efforts and strategies in this context, where the characteristics of child labour have been transformed. In this sense, he suggests taking advantage of knowledge, experiences and creativity to think about how to respond to these new problems

On her part, **Carla Caballeros, Employers Focal Point, Guatemala**, emphasized the importance of the Global Conference goal being to achieve Target 8.7 and thus maintain the outcome and alignment through Alliance 8.7. She believes that actions must go beyond programs and projects, that there must be integrated public policy commitments.

She highlighted the various specialized networks, in addition to the Regional Initiative, by type of sector that exist in the region. In this sense, she considers that the Global Conference is an opportunity to make known what the region has been doing. To do this, she suggested making a prior effort to select experiences and how to make them known, especially the governance model that, she considers, should scale to other regions.

Paola Egúsquiza, Workers Focal Point, Peru, began her speech by highlighting the importance of monitoring the agreements and actions and the need for their sustainability; She emphasized that public policies are grounded to the reality of each country and designed according to a budget established by the State. From the union sector, they have kept their promises in the fight against the eradication of child labour, through training programs and including the issue on the agenda in their spaces for dialogue.

Taking into account the current context, it is necessary to have the capacity for resilience and avoid setbacks in the achievements made. For this, she indicated, it is necessary to innovate in policies and follow up on the actions of the States, companies and workers.

She ended her intervention by suggesting that the Global Conference not cover more topics and that the promises made be remembered.

The round of direct interventions is presented below:

Susana Santomingo, Workers Focal Point, Argentina, reinforced the idea of focusing the Conference on child labour and not covering more topics. Also, she raised the debate on

the collaboration and proposal for the unification of the Regional Initiative with Alliance 8.7 since, she considers, that the strategies, the form of governance and policies are different from the perspective of the union sector.

Finally, **Philippe Vanhuynegem, Service Chief of FUNDAMENTALS, ILO**, once again emphasized the importance of investigating the form of articulation with Alliance 8.7, taking into account the differences in governance strategies, which he considers a potential. Likewise, he agreed that actions be followed up, that allow us to move from declarations and agreements to action and that progress and difficulties be shown. Finally, he did not close the option of discussing other topics at the Global Conference, as he considers they are related.

SESSION 6: BALANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

Objective: Present a balance of the activities of the region in the International Year and obtain inputs for the commemorative activity at the end of the year.

Prior to the presentation by **Raisa Voyvodich, member of the Technical Secretariat**, a summary video was presented that illustrates the balance of the campaign for the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, which had as its pillars “act, inspire and scale”. Throughout the 12 months, various communication strategies were carried out in order to awaken interest in the subject. Below is a table with the actions carried out:

Activity	In	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Campaign for social media												
Conversation season												
Campaign “Let us face the pandemic without child labour”												
Global campaign and associated events by June 12												
Campaign “Migrate without rights shortens their dreams”												

Between December 2020 and January 2021, the ground was being prepared for the launch of all the campaigns through the design and publication of three illustrations with content that addressed the closure of schools in the context of COVID-19 and within the framework

of the International Day of Education. She recommended continuing to take advantage of important dates to link them with child labour.

As illustrated in the table above, throughout the year various awareness-raising strategies have been carried out that have managed to position the issue among different audiences. Below is a table with the actions carried out and the scope:

Period	Activity	Characteristics	Scope
Jan-Apr	Global launch of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour	At a global, regional and national level.	
Jan-May	Action commitments	To intensify tripartite action and accelerate the achievement of target 8.7.	
Apr-May	Digital TV season	In Colombia, the issue of child labour was introduced in 10 programs of the digital TV program "Desde Casa" that managed to reach new audiences.	10 programs on child labour under different approaches.
May- June	Campaign "Let's face the pandemic without child labour"	It was carried out through community media aimed at families and adolescents about the risks of increased child labour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 271 stations broadcast the news and interviews produced. • A total scope of 4,168,411 people was achieved
June	#ChallengeAccepted: adolescents and young people facing child labour	Its objective was to make the experiences of adolescents and young people visible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 youth spokespersons • 300 attendees • 20 adolescents and young people
June	Alliance with Pictoline	Graphic pieces on new world estimates on child labour in history format.	Total scope: Facebook: 113,400 Instagram: 908,505
June	Campaign "Myths and realities of child labour"		
June-Aug	Participation of the Regional Initiative in events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 30 organized activities • More than 15 events in which the Technical

			Secretariat of the RI participated as a panellist
Sept	Campaign "Rethink the press"	Held within the framework of the International Journalist Day, to propose alternative ways of addressing child labour in the media.	
Oct	Alliance with Pictoline	Graphic pieces and an animated video on poverty, COVID-19 and child labour.	Total scope: Facebook: 2,828,825 Instagram: 180,228
Oct – Dec	Campaign "Migrating without rights cuts your dreams"	It seeks to raise awareness about the risks that children and adolescents have during the migration route.	

Based on all that has been done, the space was opened to generate ideas about the end of the International Year and the path to the V Global Conference, and to reflect on how to continue to maintain the current theme. To do this, the session was divided into four workrooms to answer four questions. The following is a summary of the ideas expressed:

What do we mostly rescue from the International Year 2021?	The great effort and commitment of the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative and the focal points are recaptured, in a challenging context. To spread and raise awareness through various media, particularly social networks and to have spaces to be able to dialogue and exchange opinions on a global level.
Would we like to have a closing event or activity?	All groups agreed on their interest in holding a closing event or activity. The ideas were diverse, from organizing an awareness campaign, through the various media, with images that impact and making known the work done at the time, to an event where the work of the current meeting is presented and the points to be discussed at the Global Conference. Also, they suggested holding a global concert.
Is there a character that we consider key to invite to this moment?	Some groups agreed that it be a boy, girl or adolescent involved in child labour or, on the contrary, adolescents who work in dignified and safe conditions. It was also suggested that those who founded the Regional Initiative, representatives of workers, employers and the government be invited. Finally, they suggested inviting a public figure.

<p>What word or phrase best describes or ends this year for you?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hope, integration, mobilization, unity, courage, drive for change. ● "let's raise our voices for those who cannot do it" ● "Build something new, childhood free of child labour" ● That it be associated with the international year, but also with the crisis ● "In a new normal, without child labour" ● Highlight what has been achieved: dedication, optimism, virtuality ● "As a group, things can be achieved, commitments can be carried out together" ● Commitment
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Next, the intervention of the panellists is presented:

Daniela Peralta, Government Focal Point, Ecuador, took stock of what was presented and indicated that the Regional Initiative has been a tool that has allowed, through social dialogue, to guide and materialize actions such as, for example, directing public policies with a gender approach, making domestic work more visible, among others. All this, she indicated, has been a great inspiration for the government of Ecuador, which, in June, held a discussion in which all the strategic actors in charge of tackling child labour were involved. She highlighted the commitment of the focal points and the various organizations that, despite the difficulties of the pandemic, have managed to capture ideas and achieve significant changes. However, she emphasized that States need to achieve structural changes to address child labour.

Juliana Manrique, Employers Focal Point, Colombia, also highlighted the work carried out, by governments and workers, to make child labour visible, despite the difficulties and effects of the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, she highlighted the effort and commitment of the focal points, in the midst of such a deep crisis, in carrying out various events and campaigns, through various strategies, to make the problem visible. She highlighted the case of Colombia that, through the implementation of the digital program "From Home", it was possible to reach the population in a clearer and closer language.

Likewise, she highlighted the role of entrepreneurs, of the OIE, which also contributed to the design of a campaign with the aim of taking action and generating dialogue in the business sector for the commitment to eradicate child labour. A competition for initiatives was implemented between various countries and Guatemala was the winner, which has been an example of good practices for other employers and alliances have been created with Alliance 8.7 to accelerate actions.

On his part, **the Workers Focal Point, Alejandro Avilés, Mexico**, agreed that this year was very important to make visible the importance of eradicating child labour and publicize progress. Also, despite the critical situation, actions were carried out accompanied by the Regional Initiative, as was the case with the application of the CLRISK. He calls for actions to continue, despite the crisis continuing. That this is reflected in a higher budget and that they are based on evidence. He considers that the balance is unfinished, since the actions have not yet been completed. From the union sector, the efforts made at the moment are recognized.

CLOSING SESSION

Farouk Mohammed, Government Focal Point, Trinidad and Tobago, began the session by highlighting the challenging and critical context in the fight for the eradication of child labour, despite which, it has been possible to exceed the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Currently, he indicated, stage 3 of the Regional Initiative is beginning, which seeks to evaluate and generate sustainability for the actions carried out. One of the lessons learned identified by the Regional Initiative is CLRISK, as a prevention tool. However, there are still several challenges to analyse, with a view to the next strategic plan.

He recognizes that the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 is an adequate plan, but it is necessary to continue with the financial and technical support of the cooperation agencies to implement it. Also, think about how to ground it at the national level and in a context such as, for example, in the Caribbean, which has been devastated by the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and natural disasters. Finally, to highlight sectors such as agriculture and rural areas where it has been stated that child labour occurs with greater emphasis. With regard to the governance structure of the Regional Initiative, he suggests evaluating whether this structure is sufficient and whether it represents the needs of all countries, taking into account the context of changes and growth. Taking this into account, he proposes creating a sub-regional space for the Caribbean.

Laura Giménez, Employers Focal Point, Argentina, highlighted the effort to exchange ideas, efficiently, in a critical context, where consensus has been established to continue moving forward. In this balance of results, the commitment to make the problem of child labour visible has been visualized. Likewise, the Regional Initiative is viewed as a work methodology that can be replicated in other regions.

She pointed out that the event closes with an innovative action plan, with many tasks ahead in the territories and eager for more actions. For this, she states that it is necessary to create

the position of regional specialist, renew the commitment and achieve strategic consensus to ensure sustainability. From the employer sector, they are satisfied with the work done and hope that the actions will be put into practice and the opportunity to achieve a world free of child labour will be seized.

Susana Santomingo, Workers Focal Point, Argentina, highlighted the active work of the working sector who, during the pandemic, have redoubled their efforts at the territorial level, providing resources to advance the goal. The causes of child labour are multiple, however, she considers that it is due to political aspects such as, for example, the lack of redistributive policies, the setback in ensuring the human rights of workers, among others. For this reason, they call on governments to evaluate their strategies and the economic model.

However, she considers the context and the economic sustainability of the Regional Initiative worrisome, since it is very operational and fundamental for the eradication of child labour. They value the support of cooperation since, within their lines of work, they have adapted to the needs of the Regional Initiative. They agree with the employer sector in many aspects and reaffirm their commitment as a union sector.

Anton Leis, Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), in a recorded message, reaffirmed AECID's commitment to building a world without child labour. He considers it to be a key moment, where there has been progress, thanks to the efforts of the Regional Initiative. However, the pandemic and the triple health, economic and social crisis put this progress at risk. Therefore, the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 is more important. To achieve this, it is necessary to increase the collective, sustained and strategic effort and with concrete actions.

The Deputy Regional Director of ILO for Latin America and the Caribbean, Claudia Coenjaerts, began her speech appreciating the ongoing commitment of the Regional Initiative which, she considers, is the essence of success and can be a reference for other processes. A strategic plan is concluded, but a new one is started that has various strategic axes and actions, such as, for example, the creation of an observatory that will allow greater management of knowledge and monitoring of progress. To move forward with the objective and with the commitment, efforts will be made for economic sustainability. Likewise, there is a very important regional report, prepared jointly through Monitora 8.7, which can be improved.

This international year for the eradication of child labour closes with many promises kept since it has put the rights of the most vulnerable child population on the international

agenda and, thus, be more efficient in achieving target 8.7. The Global Conference is an opportunity to influence the international agenda; she considered that the region has much to contribute.

The meeting culminated in a live virtual concert and a tribute was offered to Elsa Ramírez, Honduras focal point, due to her upcoming retirement.

V. ANNEXES

- Annex 1: [Event Agenda. EN](#)
[Event Agenda. ES](#)
[Event Agenda. FR](#)
[Event Agenda. PR](#)
- Annex 2: [List of participants](#)
- Annex 3: [Session 1. Compliance Report. Strategic Plan 2018-2021. EN](#)
[Session 1. Reporte de Cumplimiento. Plan Estratégico 2018-2021. ES](#)
[Session 1. Rapport de Conformité. Plan Stratégique 2018-2021. FR](#)
[Session 1. Relatorio de Desempenho. Plano Estratégico 2018-2021. PR](#)
- Annex 4: [Compliance Report Strategic Plan. 2018-2021. EN](#)
[Reporte de Cumplimiento Plan Estratégico. 2018-2021. ES](#)
[Rapport de Conformité Plan Stratégique. FR](#)
- Annex 5: [Session 2 and 3. Strategic Plan 2022-2025. EN](#)
[Session 2 and 3. Plan Estratégico 2022-2025. ES](#)
[Session 2 and 3. Plan Stratégique 2022-2025. FR](#)
[Session 2 and 3. Plano Estratégico 2022-2025. PR](#)
- Annex 6: [Session 4. Child labour and COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean. EN](#)
[Session 4. Trabajo infantil y COVID-19 en América Latina y el Caribe. ES](#)
[Session 4. Travaux des enfants et la COVID-19 dans l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes. FR](#)
[Session 4. Trabalho infantil e COVID-19 na América Latina e Caribe. PR](#)
- Annex 7: [Session 6. Balance 2021. Act, inspire, scale up. EN](#)

[Session 6. Balance 2021. Actuar, inspirar, escalar. ES](#)

[Session 6. Bilan 2021. Agir, inspirer, faire évoluer. FR](#)

[Session 6. Revisão 2021. Agir, inspirar, escalar. PR](#)

Annex 8: [Session 6. Group work answers](#)

Annex 9: [Meeting recording](#)

Annex 10: [Photos](#)