

6th Global Conference on Child Labour side-event proposition

Making child labour-free trade real: labour provisions and due diligence in supply chains

Modality (in-person / virtual): In-person side event

Lead organization and partners:

Lead (to be confirmed): Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

Co-organisers / partners (to be confirmed): International Labour Organization (ILO) – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific / Project “Trade, Labour and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in South-East Asia (FPRW & Trade)”; ASEAN Secretariat; OECD; workers’ and employers’ organisations; other regional organizations; business and civil-society representatives.

Brief description & speakers

This side event explores how labour provisions in trade agreements and due diligence requirements can be used in practice to reduce child labour and other fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW) violations in supply chains. In a focused, interactive format, a multi-stakeholder panel will answer two guiding questions: *what has helped or could help these tools reduce child labour, and what single change is most needed in policy, business practice or social dialogue to make child labour-free trade real?* Designed as a “decision lab” rather than a traditional panel, the session will distil three to five key shifts for child labour-free trade, drawing on regional experiences such as ASEAN’s roadmap on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and similar initiatives in other regions. A short QR-based poll will capture participants’ views on the biggest gaps and cooperation priorities, and the moderator will close with 3–5 concise messages and suggested next steps for governments, social partners and international partners to inform Conference outcomes and follow-up work.

Indicative speakers: one government or regional representative (for example from ASEAN, another regional body or a trade/labour ministry); one workers’ organisation representative; one employers’ organisation representative; one due diligence or standard-setting representative (for example OECD or an industry platform); an ILO technical expert on trade, labour and child labour as moderator.

Session objective and relevance:

- Show, through concrete examples, how labour provisions in trade agreements and due diligence requirements are being used, or could be used, to reduce child labour and other FPRW violations in supply chains.
- Agree on 3–5 practical priorities that, if implemented, would materially reduce child labour in the most exposed trade-related supply chains over the next five years, and channel these into the Conference outcomes and the ILO’s forthcoming work on FPRW, trade and responsible business conduct, including the design and future implementation of a gap assessment, capacity-needs mapping and due diligence/responsible business conduct pilots.
- Use regional initiatives on child labour, for example ASEAN’s roadmap on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and emerging 2026 discussions, alongside experiences from other regions, as concrete illustrations that can inform future regional and ILO initiatives without pre-empting ongoing analytical work.

The moderator will synthesise the discussion and poll results into a short 'Five Shifts for Child Labour-Free Trade' note with agreed priorities and cooperation opportunities, to be submitted to the Conference organisers as an input to the Conference outcome document and shared with relevant regional and global efforts to eliminate child labour in trade-related supply chains, in order to support follow-up action.

Target audience

Government officials working on labour, trade, child labour and responsible business conduct in all regions; workers' and employers' organisations; regional organisations (for example ASEAN and other regional integration bodies); businesses and industry associations engaged in supply chains; international organisations, donors, academia and civil society.