



Concept Note for a Thematic Session on

## Immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour

at the 6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, Marrakech,  
Morocco

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 09 :15-11 :00

### 1. Background

Despite global commitments under Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for States to “*take immediate and effective measures to [...] secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms,*” this target has not been achieved. Millions of children continue to endure severe exploitation, violating their fundamental rights and dignity.

The worst forms of child labour, as defined by the International Labour Organization’s Convention No. 182, include slavery and practices similar to slavery (such as trafficking, debt bondage, and forced labour), sexual exploitation, involvement in illicit activities (including drug trafficking), and hazardous work that threatens health, safety, or morals. These violations are also prohibited under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.

While global estimates exist for hazardous work, there are no reliable figures for other worst forms of child labour, largely due to their hidden and illicit nature. This invisibility leaves countless children uncounted and unsupported.

Eliminating these practices requires tailored strategies, but one principle is clear: every child subjected to these forms of exploitation must be recognised and treated as a victim, entitled to comprehensive support for safety, recovery, and reintegration. Strong child protection systems, with specialised capacities in social welfare and justice sectors, are essential to prevent and respond effectively. Complementary measures include access to education, social and economic support for families, and robust legislative and policy frameworks to ensure businesses respect children’s rights.

### 2. Issues Addressed

This session will provide actionable insights and showcase promising practices to accelerate the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. It will open with a scene-setting intervention by Professor Tomoya Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, who will draw on his 2025 report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/60/28](#)) to outline global trends, key challenges, and recommendations. Building on this global



perspective, representatives from governments, civil society, and the private sector will share concrete examples and lessons learned from different regions. The discussion will explore how **child protection systems** can be strengthened through investment in a robust social service workforce, how **multi-sectoral initiatives** are expanding access to education and supporting families to address root causes, and how **businesses** are implementing preventative measures through human rights and environmental due diligence and adapting business models to eliminate risks. It will also address persisting and emerging forms of exploitation, including those linked to the digital environment, and identify strategies to scale up effective approaches. By fostering dialogue across sectors and regions, the session aims to renew global momentum and drive concrete action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour without further delay.