



Concept note for a thematic session

The role of regional and interregional cooperation in ending child labour

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

Thursday, February 12– 14.30 to 16.30

Unofficial translation. Original document in Spanish.

I. Context

Child labour remains a persistent challenge that, in many cases, extends beyond national borders. Cross-border dynamics linked to labour migration, regional and global supply chains, gaps in data and knowledge, and disparities in institutional capacity create structural challenges that cannot be effectively addressed through national action alone.

In this context, regional and interregional cooperation plays a strategic role in translating global commitments into coordinated and sustained action at national and subnational levels. Regional organizations and cooperation platforms have supported countries through the development of shared strategies, regional roadmaps, joint action plans and accountability mechanisms that reinforce the implementation of national, regional and global commitments to end child labour.

South–South cooperation is of particular relevance within this framework. By promoting peer learning and facilitating the exchange of practical and context-specific solutions, it enables countries facing similar challenges to strengthen policy design and implementation and to scale up effective approaches within and across regions. Triangular cooperation can complement these efforts by providing additional technical, financial or methodological support, in line with priorities identified by countries of the Global South.

Against this background, regional and interregional cooperation represents an important bridge between global ambition and effective national



implementation, and a key driver of collective progress towards ending child labour.

II. Issues to be addressed

Following a brief contextual introduction, the session will examine a range of regional and interregional initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation to address cross-border challenges related to child labour. Drawing on concrete experiences from different regions, the discussion will explore how countries and regional groupings have used regional roadmaps and action plans, joint monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, and regional cooperation platforms to support prioritization, knowledge sharing, coordination and mutual accountability, with a view to accelerating progress towards the elimination of child labour.

The session will place particular emphasis on South–South cooperation as a mechanism for peer learning, the exchange of practical solutions and the scaling up of effective approaches among countries facing similar structural challenges. It will also examine how financing and sustainability models, including regionally funded initiatives, can be shared, adapted and replicated across different contexts.

In addition, the discussion will explore how interregional and triangular cooperation can complement South–South cooperation, particularly in thematic areas that, by their nature, require coordinated action across regions, such as labour migration and transnational supply chains. These areas illustrate the importance of cooperation between countries of origin and destination, as well as across different regional groupings, to address the root causes and structural drivers of child labour.

Taken together, the initiatives and experiences discussed in the session will highlight the strategic importance of regional and interregional cooperation as a key enabler of collective progress and as a critical link between global commitments and their effective implementation at national level.