

6th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour

IOE SIDE EVENT

Good business practices for the prevention of child labour

Palais des congrès de Marrakech, Morocco – Wednesday 11 February 2026, 17h30-19h00

Concept Note

1. Background

Child labour remains a persistent global challenge, yet the trajectory of progress in various regions demonstrates that eradication can be an achievable goal. A fundamental driver of this positive shift has been the increasingly active role of the employer sector. Moving beyond traditional compliance, businesses are now leading the charge by integrating prevention strategies directly into their corporate governance and building strategic partnerships. This transition from passive adherence to proactive leadership is essential for creating the systemic change required to protect vulnerable children worldwide.

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) has been instrumental in identifying and scaling these efforts through the inauguration of the IOE Elimination of Child Labour Change Maker Award in 2021. This initiative serves as a global stage to showcase innovative and sustainable solutions that have been successfully implemented on the ground. Our award winners have demonstrated that employer-led initiatives are not just theoretical models but practical, high-impact realities. These winners represent a diverse array of sectors and geographies, proving that when businesses take ownership of the challenge, they can develop prevention models that address the root causes of child labour.

Sharing practices increases cross-national and cross-regional awareness and encourage innovative solutions to prevent child labour on the ground. Especially when businesses operate within the same sector/ region, it also allows to develop solutions and prevention measures that take into account regional specificities and challenges, leading to more effective actions and tangible results.

The VI World Conference Against Child Labor, organised in Morocco, provides a strategic opportunity to highlight and position these good business practices, promote their replicability, and further strengthen cooperation between regions, including South-South cooperation.

2. Objectives

This employers' side event will focus on the strategic role of the private sector in the prevention and eradication of child labour, drawing on employer-led experiences from different regions around the world. The session will examine how business initiatives have addressed child labour through integrated and sustainable approaches.

The event will highlight the impact, sustainability, and potential for replication of these good practices, emphasising their relevance for other sectors and regions. It will also promote the exchange of

experiences between different regions, and support the strengthening of partnerships between the employer sector, governments, and international organisations.

By showcasing concrete business models and recognised good practices, including those acknowledged through the IOE Elimination of Child Labour Change Maker Award, the session aims to reinforce the contribution of employers to global efforts to eliminate child labour and to foster cooperation for scaling up effective solutions.

3. Format

Moderator: Roberto Suarez Santos, IOE Secretary General

Panelists:

- Douglas Opio, Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Uganda Employers
- Andrea Carolina Bolaños Coloma de Vidal, Sustainability Manager, Guatecaña
- Samiuela Vea, President, Tonga Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Jyostna Shrestha Subba, Vice-President and Chairman of Employers' Council, FNCCI
- José Tulio González Escamilla, President, Fundación de la Caficultura para el Desarrollo Rural
- Lindiwe Sephomolo, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Lesotho Employers and Business

Format: In person

Languages: English and Spanish

4. Agenda (1h30)

Activity	Time
Welcome remarks and contextualization of the event	5 min
Panel discussion: Sharing Good Practices	1h
Q&A	20min
Closing remarks and conclusions	5min