



Organization of
American States



Hemispheric RIAL Workshop against Child Labor: “Moving toward better horizons for children and adolescents of the Americas”

February 21 and 22, 2013 - San José, Costa Rica

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Inter- American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of the OAS

In partnership with:



Hemispheric RIAL Workshop against Child Labor: “Moving toward better horizons for children and adolescents of the Americas”

1. Overview

Date: February 21 and 22, 2013

Venue: San Jose, Costa Rica – Radisson Hotel

Address: Calle Central y Tercera Av. 15, San José, Costa Rica

Introduction

The XVII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) held in San Salvador, El Salvador in 2011 had the issue of child labor as a cornerstone of discussion, placing it at the center of the hemispheric labor agenda.

In the Declaration of San Salvador, adopted on that occasion, the Ministers of Labor devoted a section to this subject, entitled “The scourge of child labor: an obstacle to the integral development of societies.”

In that Declaration, the labor authorities of the Hemisphere recognized the importance of eradicating child labor in moving toward better opportunities for social progress and the integral development of children and adolescents, highlighting their political commitment to act through multisectoral strategies and actions in which the State has a more active role in ensuring compliance with the regulations governing minimum age for admission to employment, labor conditions for young workers, and compulsory schooling. They also expressed a commitment to strengthening coordination with institutions responsible for childhood and adolescence, focusing their efforts on the prevention and eradication of child labor with the participation of all sectors of society, and especially with that of employers and workers through the establishment of joint actions.

The Declaration also recalls the hemispheric goal of eradicating the worst forms of child labor by 2020, as agreed upon at the Fourth and Fifth Summits of the Americas, and the importance of the participation of the region’s Ministries of Labor at the Third Global Child Labor Conference, to be held in October 2013 in Brasilia, Brazil, in which the theme “Strategies to Accelerate the Pace of Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor” will be addressed.

Furthermore, the international community has established the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labor by 2016, and at the Second Global Child Labor Conference, held in The Hague in 2010, established a Roadmap to achieve that goal. Progress will be reviewed at the Third Global

Conference to be held in Brazil in 2013. Also to be taken into consideration are the results and commitments expressed by labor authorities in other subregional meetings on child labor, as in the one held in Panama City in August 2012, in which the Ministers of Labor of Central America, Belize, Panama, and the Dominican Republic reiterated their willingness to work together to promote the implementation of National and Subregional Roadmaps to declare the region free of child labor. Additionally, the most recent II Congress, “Mercosur United Against Child Labor: in the path of the III Global Child Labor Conference 2013,” was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in November 2012.

The last global report on child labor from the International Labor Organization (ILO) found that there are about 215 million children across the world who are victims of child labor, of whom 115 million are involved in its worst forms. The same report notes that in Latin America and the Caribbean there are approximately 14.1 million children working.

Although Latin America and the Caribbean appears to be one of the regions of the world where the most progress is being made in reducing child labor, more needs to be done to further accelerate the pace of work of all the actors involved in this issue in terms of reflecting on and reviewing the impact of activities, methods, and means to combat child labor. In this context, and taking into account the mandates which arose from the last meeting of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action of San Salvador and in previous declarations, the Hemispheric Workshop against Child Labor will be developed under the theme: “Moving towards better horizons for children and adolescents in the Americas.”

Objectives

- Advance and deepen the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, especially those contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action of San Salvador, on the prevention and eradication of Child Labor and its worst forms.
- Promote the exchange of best practices and successful experiences and identify lessons learned and recommendations for the prevention and eradication of child labor and its worst forms among the countries of the region.
- Provide input at the regional/Americas level and contribute to the hemispheric participation in the Third Global Conference on Child Labor to be held in Brazil in October 2013, taking into account the inputs resulting from regional and subregional forums on child labor conducted to date.
- Discuss lessons learned and policy recommendations to promote multi-stakeholder participation in the fight against child labor.

- Analyze and highlight the close relationship between child labor, education, health, and social inclusion.
- Assess obstacles and propose measures to accelerate progress in the prevention and elimination of child labor and its worst forms to bring the region into compliance with the goals of the ILO’s Hemispheric Agenda on Decent Work.

Participants

- Authorities and officers of the Ministries of Labor of the OAS Member States responsible for the area of child labor.
- Workers’ and employers’ representatives grouped in the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) and Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL) as consultative bodies of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML/OAS).
- Representatives from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and other international organizations relevant to eradication of child labor.
- Representatives of Civil Society.

Methodology

The workshop will comprise 4 Panels, each with its own thematic focus, and will include presentations of programs, strategies, best practices and successful experiences developed by the ministries of labor in the region, the perspectives of workers, employers, presentations from experts and other civil society actors and open space for dialogue. The Workshop will be highly participatory, so spaces for dialogue will be more ample than the spaces for speakers’ presentations. Furthermore, work in subgroups will be done to facilitate the discussion and identification of lessons learned, recommendations and proposals to bring to the Global Conference in Brazil in 2013. Each subgroup will have a moderator who will present its conclusions at the end of the event, where all participants will define the regional proposals bound for Brazil.

The Guiding Questions (Pg.7 of this Document) should be responded to by all participants in order to prepare their contributions and make the debates more dynamic.

2. Program

A more detailed agenda complements this document.

DAY 1 – February 21

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30-9:00	Opening: Chair of the IACML, Authorities of the Ministries of Labor of Costa Rica, Brazil and OAS
9:00-10:00	<p>INTRODUCTORY SESSION – CHILD LABOR: INJUSTICE AND OBSTACLE TO THE PROGRESS OF SOCIETY AND THE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.</p> <p>Speakers: Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), International Labor Organization (ILO) and UNICEF (the latter t.b.c.) – (15” each)</p> <p>Q&A Session – 15”</p>
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 12:45	<p>PANEL 1 – ROLE OF THE STATE IN THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR, SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES.</p> <p>Speakers: 2 or 3 representatives of Ministries of Labor (15” each) Dialogue among participants (1 hour 45 min.)</p>
12:45-14:00	Lunch
14:00-16:30	<p>PANEL 2 – EXPERIENCES OF INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND ARTICULATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR.</p> <p>Speakers: 2 or 3 representatives of Ministries of Labor (15” each) Dialogue among participants (1 hour 45 min.)</p>
16:30-16:45	Break
16:45-17:00	Conclusions and adjournment

DAY 2 – February 22

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30-10:00	<p>PANEL 3 – THE ROLE OF EMPLOYERS, WORKERS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR.</p> <p>Speakers: 1 representative from CEATAL, 1 representative from COSATE, 1 representative from Civil Society (15 min. each)</p> <p>Dialogue among participants (45 min)</p>
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-13:00	<p>PANEL 4 – RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOR AND ITS WORST FORMS (PROPOSALS).</p> <p>Speakers: representatives from the ILO, OAS and the Ministry of Labor and Employment of Brazil (5 to 10 min. each)</p> <p>Work in subgroups (2 hours y 30 min.) – Each group will choose a moderator</p>
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	<p>SYNTHESIS – Proposals and approaches to take to the Global Conference on Child Labor in Brazil 2013.</p> <p>Presentation by moderators of the subgroups on their conclusions that will serve as input to the general discussion.</p> <p>Agreements among participants on lessons learned and proposals at the Americas-wide level for the Global Conference on Child Labor.</p>
16:00-16:15	Break
16:15:-17:00	Closing - Authorities of the IACML, Costa Rica and OAS

3. Guiding questions

These questions seek to guide formal presentations, facilitate the exchange in the designated spaces for dialogue, and define inputs from the Americas towards the Global Child Labor Conference to be held in October 2013 in Brazil.

We kindly request all participants to answer these questions and send them to the Technical Secretariat (trabajoddse@oas.org) no later than **February 14**. Thank you for your collaboration.

PANEL 1 - Role of the State in the prevention and elimination of child labor, successful strategies

1. What strategies, policies or programs is your government developing to prevent and eliminate child labor?
2. What are the challenges, successful elements, and lessons learned from the above strategies, policies and programs?

PANEL 2 – Experiences of inter-institutional coordination and articulation form the prevention and elimination of child labor

3. Does your country have a national strategy against child labor that involves different government agencies? If so, please indicate both the coordination and articulation mechanism used to achieve the strategy’s objective as well as the key elements of said strategy. If not, has the development of such a strategy been considered, and at what stage of its development does it currently stand?
4. What are the primary challenges and successes that your government has encountered in achieving an effective coordination between different government agencies in the battle against child labor?

PANEL 3 – The role of employers, workers and civil society in the prevention and elimination of child labor

5. Which initiatives (programs, projects, etc.) to eliminate child labor led by employers’, workers’ and/or civil society organizations stand out in your country? Please elaborate on their successful elements and lessons learned.

PANEL 4 – Recommendations to accelerate progress towards the elimination of child labor and its worst forms (proposals)

6. What challenges has your country identified in fulfilling the goals to eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2016 and to eradicate child labor completely by 2020, and in fulfilling the Roadmap established in The Hague in 2010?
7. In light of your experience, what recommendations could you formulate to accelerate progress towards the elimination of child labor and its worst forms?
8. Looking towards the Global Child Labor Conference to be held in Brazil in October 2013, what proposals to eliminate child labor do you think that the Americas should present at this meeting?

4. Logistics and Travel Information

Registration: Participants must fill out the Registration Form enclosed to this bulletin and send it to the IACML Technical Secretariat, as indicated.

Funding: Each delegate is responsible for his/her own travel expenses. However, the OAS may cover the travel expenses (airfare and per diem) of officers responsible for the area of child labor from Ministries of Labor of small economies using resources from the Voluntary Contribution Fund of the RIAL.

Lodging: Each participant is responsible for booking a room in the hotel of his or her preference, except those who will be granted financial assistance, in which case the OAS will make their reservations at the Radisson Hotel.

Recommended hotels:

Radisson Hotel (*venue of the event*)

Address: Calle Central y Tercera Av. 15 - San José

Tel: (506) 8828 4329, (506) 2010 6000

Rate: \$ 88 USD, plus 13% taxes – includes breakfast

Contact person: Yorleni Cano, Sales Department

Participants not funded by the OAS, please make your reservation by **February 13th by calling the above number or sending an e-mail to: ycano@radisson.co.cr with the enclosed “Hotel Reservation Form”. Please note that after this date room availability is not guaranteed.

Crown Plaza Hotel

Address: Sabana Norte, San José, Costa Rica

Tel: (506) 2543- 6000

Fax: (506) 2231- 6063

Rate: \$108 USD, plus 13% of taxes

Distance to venue: 15-minutes taxi drive

Contact person: Beliza Solis -beliza.solis@corobicicp.co.cr

Intercontinental Hotel

Address: Autopista Próspero Fernández, Escazú, Costa Rica

Tel: (506) 2208-2110

Fax: (506) 2208-2248

Rate: from \$169 USD, plus 13% of taxes

Distance to venue: 25-minutes taxi drive Contact person: Denis Segura -denis.segura@r-hr.com

Transportation from and to the airport: Each participant is responsible for making his/her own arrangements for transportation, except those who will be granted financial assistance. The Radisson Hotel offers a private pick-up service for \$ 27 USD for two passengers; if you are interested, please make arrangements with the hotel directly. Taxis will also be available upon arrival at the airport.

Arrival and departure requirements: Participants are responsible for meeting visa requirements established by Costa Rica. Consult the requirements for each country at the web site of the General Directorate of Immigration: <http://www.migracion.go.cr/extranjeros/visas.html>

Important Note – Yellow fever vaccine: It is mandatory that all travelers coming from Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and French Guyana have an international certificate of the yellow fever vaccine. According to the national authorities, the vaccine must be applied a minimum 10 days before entering the Costa Rican territory.

Language: Interpretation to English and Spanish will be provided at the Meeting.

Currency: The Costa Rican currency is the Colón. The Exchange rate is USD \$ 1 = CRC \$ 498.50, approximately.

Weather: The weather in San José can be hot and humid. The temperature varies between 26 °C (79 °F) y 18 °C (64°F).

For further information on the Meeting, please contact:

OAS Department of Social Development and Employment

Att. Maria Claudia Camacho or Carolina Ahumada

Tel: (1202) 458-3207, (1202) 458-3446 – mcamacho@oas.org , cahumada@oas.org

In case of emergency please contact:

OAS National Office in Costa Rica

Mrs. Rossy Araya Alfaro

Tel: (506) 2290-8911 / 2290-8912; Mobile: (506) 8895-7112

All information regarding the Workshop will be updated periodically at: www.sedi.oas.org/ddse

5. Appendix: Registration Form

RIAL Hemispheric Workshop against child labor "Moving toward better horizons for children and adolescents of the Americas"

February 21 and 22, 2013 – San Jose, Costa Rica

Last Name		First Name	
Title			
Organization			
Country			
Telephone	Fax	E-mail	

Do you need financial assistance to participate in the meeting? *

Yes ___ No ___

Should you require financial assistance, please submit the registration form to the Technical Secretariat of the IACML no later than January 21, 2013. Otherwise, the final deadline for submitting this form is February 4.

*The OAS will cover the travel expenses (airfare and per diem) of officers responsible for the area of child labor from Ministries of Labor of small economies using resources from the Voluntary Contribution Fund of the RIAL. Resources are limited; therefore, funding assistance will be provided only to officers who satisfy this requirement.

Send Form to:

E-mail: trabajoddse@oas.org

Tel: 1 (202) 458-3446

Fax: 1 (202) 458-3149

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM RADISSON SAN JOSE COSTA RICA

ENTERPRISE: SG-OAS

NAME: _____
CHECK-IN: _____
CHECK-OUT: _____

ROOM: SINGLE _____ DOUBLE _____

RATE: \$88 \$98

Buffet breakfast
Wifi Access

Credit card: VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____
DINNERS _____ AMERICAN EXPRESS _____

Number on card: _____
Expiration date : month _____ year _____
Name on card: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Do you wish pick up transportation airport - hotel Yes _____ Cost \$27 No _____

If so, please send information:

Arrival time: _____
Airline: _____
Flight: _____

The confirmation of this reservation should be sent to: _____
Email: _____

Please send to ycano@radisson.co.cr (Yorleni Cano) - Tel: (506) 2010-6000, ext. 5581

