



Virtual Symposium on Ending Child Labour by 2025 to ‘Act, Inspire and Scale Up’ in Agriculture and Value Chains

Monday, 10 May 2021
10:00-12:00 CET

Please register [here](#)
For further update please visit our [website](#)

Context

As we enter into the Decade of Action to Deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021 will be a pivotal year and our actions will determine whether we meet our target SDG 8.7 of ending child labour and all its forms by 2025. Today, of the 152 million children estimated to be victims of child labour, about 71% of them work in agriculture including fishing, forestry, livestock herding and aquaculture (ILO 2017/FAO 2020).

2021 has been designated as the International Year of the Elimination of Child Labour. It is time to re-double collective efforts, renew international commitments and scale-up actions to consign child labour into history. While the pace of progress has slowed down, and new challenges are keep occurring, the solutions are known. Therefore, commitment and resources need reinvigorating. In joining hands with our partners, we believe we can ‘Act, Inspire and Scale Up’ our efforts in giving children the future they deserve.

Sustainable agriculture, together with fisheries and aquaculture, remain the key driver for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The EU is committed to develop agricultural value chains, which benefit the poor by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by local and global markets to create decent jobs and value added. The EU considers value chains as a major channel for agriculture development from “farm to fork.”

Objective and approach

On the occasion of Europe Day 2021, the Delegation of the European Union in Rome wishes to contribute to raising awareness on the need to eliminate child labour and all its forms by organising a symposium focusing on three guiding questions:

1. *What challenges are we facing with child labour in agriculture and food supply chains and how could we address them?*
2. *How can partnerships throughout the whole supply chain make a difference for children and their families?*
3. *How to accelerate action towards the achievement of SDG 8.7? How do we get from where we are now to where we want to be by 2025?*

It is crucial to understand that child labour is both a cause and consequence of poverty, inequality, discrimination, social exclusion, and lack of access to education. Therefore, the EU together with its partners, will aim to:

- identify key challenges and opportunities related to child labour in agriculture and food supply chains;
- highlight best practices and lessons learnt in fighting against child labour;
- reflect on the impact of Covid-19 and its socioeconomic consequences to child labour; and
- raise the visibility of child labour in the broader agenda for agriculture, food security, Covid-19 pandemic, protracted crises and climate change.

Agenda

10:00 - 10:05	Event opening, Ms Jacki Davis, Moderator
10:05 - 10:10	Welcoming remarks by H.E Alexandra Valkenburg, Ambassador of the European Union
10:10 - 10:15	Video message of the Secretary General of the European External Action Service, Stefano Sannino
10:15 – 10:45	Introductory remarks by each panellists
	H.E. Gilbert F. Houngbo , President, International Fund for Agricultural Development on ‘Sustainable livelihoods to end child labour’
	H.E. Cardinal Peter Turkson , Prefect of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development on ‘Advocacy of the Holy See and pastoral work against child labour’
	H.E. Hon. Ignatius Baffour-Awuah , Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana on ‘Experiences and lessons learnt from Ghana’
	Ms Els Haelterman , Head of International Partnerships and Fundraising, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative, Beyond Chocolate Partnership on ‘the added value of multistakeholder partnerships in the cocoa sector’
	Mr Maximo Torero Cullen , Chief Economist, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on ‘Child labour in agriculture’ (TBC)
	Mr Martin Seychell , Deputy Director General of International Partnerships, European Commission
10:45 – 10:50	Launch of the video on the Clear Cotton Project in Pakistan – <i>Protecting children from pesticides</i> (TBC)
10:50 – 11:50	Interactive panel discussion with a Q&A session
11:50 - 11:53	Video message from Laura Pausini , <i>Grammy and Golden Globe Award-winning singer and songwriter, Academy Award nominee</i>
11:53 - 12:00	Closing remarks