Regulations

Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of Child Labour

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1. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

1.1 Nature of the Regional Initiative

The Regional Initiative constitutes a commitment by the countries of the region arising from the need to accelerate progress in Latin America and the Caribbean toward meeting the goals of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and the complete elimination of child labour by 2020, in response to the urgent call of the Global Roadmap and the goals of the Hemispheric Agenda on Decent Work, which were ratified at the III Global Conference on Child Labour (2013) through the Brasilia Declaration, endorsed by representatives from 154 countries.

The Regional Initiative is a clear demonstration of the maturity, consensus and decision-making achieved by the countries in the region on this issue and a commitment towards a joint effort and mutual support as a key factor to make child-labour elimination an achievable goal, thus contributing to get a world without child labour.

1.2 Objectives and principles governing the Regional Initiative

The objective of the Regional Initiative is: Total elimination of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean by the year 2020.

Therefore the Regional Initiative will concentrate its endeavours on:

i) Accelerate and intensify child labour prevention and elimination by strengthening institutional coordination within and among sectors and the different levels of government.

ii) Increase awareness in the countries about negative consequences of child labour, especially in its worst forms.

The principles governing the initiative are:

1. National ownership and leadership
2. Alignment with regional and national policies
3. Effectiveness, efficiency and harmonization of efforts
4. Transparency and accountability
5. Regional action and local impact

1.3 Lines of action

To achieve its objectives, the Regional Initiative has identified six priority lines of action:

a) Developing national child labour policies
b) Building capacities for taking direct action
c) Knowledge generation
d) Legislation and enforcement

e) Policy advocacy

f) Awareness-raising

1.4 Member countries

The Regional Initiative was driven in a first phase by a group of countries consisting of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

Given the regional scope and inclusive nature of the Regional Initiative, all countries in the region have been expressly invited to join the Regional Initiative by manifesting their formal interest.

1.5 Official languages

The official languages of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean are Spanish, French, English and Portuguese. All documents and communications will be translated, as far as possible, into these four languages.
2. Organisation and operation of the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean free of Child Labour

2.1 High-Level Meeting

The High-Level Meeting is the highest political instance and it is associated with the Regional Meeting of the Americas of the ILO.

- Membership: The High-Level Meeting is composed of the Labour Ministers and representatives of regional employers organizations and trade unions.

- Major duties: i) Endow the actions of the Regional Initiative with the highest political backing; ii) Boost the positioning of the Regional Initiative in political agendas and spheres; iii) Exercise the political representation and dialogue of the Regional Initiative.

- Meetings: The High-Level meetings will be regularly held under the framework of the Regional Meeting of the Americas of the ILO.

- Decision-making: Decisions shall be made by consensus.

2.2 Focal Point Network

The Focal Point Network is the tripartite executive direction instance.

- Membership: it is composed by government representatives, appointed by the Labour Ministers, and the regional representatives for employers and workers, appointed by the corresponding organization.

- Major duties: i) Provide strategic direction to the Regional Initiative; ii) Articulate the regional, national and institutional levels of the Regional Initiative, disseminating information, socializing the agreements taken and maintaining a flow of coordination and feed-back among the implied actors, iii) Detect and follow-up opportunities for the mobilization of public and private resources that are likely to support the implementation of the Regional Initiative.\(^1\)

\(^1\) For further detail on the Focal Points tasks and responsibilities please consult the corresponding document which has been developed as part of the managing tools of the Regional Initiative.
• Meetings: The Focal Points Network meets on a regular basis four (04) times per year, 1 of the in-person and the rest by using virtual channel. The Focal Points Network might extraordinarily meet if requested so.

• Decision-making: Decisions shall be made by consensus.

2.3 Technical Secretariat

The International Labour Organizations’ Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean takes on the Technical Secretariat by express mandate of the countries that make up the Regional Initiative.

• Membership: The Regional Direction of the ILO will appoint the officers responsible for the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative.

• Major Duties: i) Provide general technical assistance to the Focal Points Network and to the High-Level Meeting; ii) ensure, by delegation of the Focal Points Network, the fulfilment, follow-up and management of the politics and strategies; iii) Provide technical assistance and support for the fulfilment of the objectives, the follow-up, the outcome measures, the identification of lessons learnt and the knowledge management of the Regional Initiative; iv) Coordinate together with the Focal Points Network the Regional Initiatives’ advocacy and resource mobilisation strategy design, follow-up and setting up, v) Smoothen the Focal Points Networks’ interaction with other actors related to the implementation of the Regional Initiative; and vi) call, prepare the agenda, take part of the meetings of the Regional Initiative Network and write a minute containing the main taken agreements.

• Meetings: The Technical Secretariats’ nature is permanent.

• Decision-making: Regarding to its’ functions and in attendance to its technical and operative character, the Secretariat will take the decisions needed in order to comply with the delegation made by the Focal Points Network.

As to ease the Regional Initiatives’ management, it has been agreed that the electronic consults made by the Technical Secretariat to the Focal Points will comply with the following characteristics:

• Nature of the consults: The consults made by using this procedure must cover simple issues which can be easily solved.
• Terms: the consults must be sent with a minimum of three (03) working days for its solution by the Focal Points. The term begins to run on the first working day on which the consult has been sent. Every consult must indicate, by the moment of its shipment, a limit date for the submission of responses.

• Publicity of the responses: Responses of Focal Points to the consults must be public for all the members of the Network. Therefore, the Technical Secretariat will make available the most suitable mechanisms that facilitate the exchange of information.

• Nature of the responses: The responses to the consults must be as precise as possible. The Technical Secretariat will use, as far as possible, consult forms facilitating the clearness and precision of the responses.