



REGIONAL INITIATIVE

Latin America and
the Caribbean free
OF CHILD LABOUR





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Introduction

The **Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour** is a **commitment** by the countries to accelerate the process towards the elimination of child labour. At the same time, it represents an innovative cooperation instrument to consolidate and sustain progress achieved, ensuring the full exercise of children and adolescents' rights in the region.

In a scenario where the economic growth and sustained poverty reduction of recent years contrasts with the persistence of child labour, the Regional Initiative has been created under the leadership of a group of countries to provide a **joint, innovative and urgent response** to the different ways in which child labour is still present in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Regional Initiative aims to declare Latin America and the Caribbean as the first developing region in the world free of child labour. To accomplish this goal, the participation of all the countries in the region is needed.



1. Background

In the past 20 years, Latin American and the Caribbean countries have generated a series of relevant transformations to achieve a child-labour free Latin America and the Caribbean with support from International Cooperation agencies. However, the latest estimates of the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013)¹ show that there is a **worrying stagnation** in reducing child labour and, with the current rate, neither the world nor Latin America and the Caribbean could reach the goal of ending child labour by 2025.²

The persistence of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region with a long cycle of economic growth that has had a positive impact on social indicators, constitutes a **warning sign** that calls for an urgent response. There can be no further delay in implementing a focused, coordinated and integrated approach, both within and among countries and subregional in the continent, seeking the sustainability of the achievements of the last 20 years and avoiding any regressive effects that could exacerbate the problem.

WHAT IS CHILD LABOUR?

- It is the work performed by children and adolescents engaged in economic activities who are under the minimum age to work in accordance with national law and international standards.
- Work performed by adolescents engaged in economic activities who, being of or over the minimum age to be permitted to work, do so in hazardous activities that endanger their health, safety and/or moral development.
- Exploitative child and adolescent work, also called **“the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work”** (such as slavery, trafficking of drugs, commercial sexual exploitation, use in armed conflict, among others).

¹ Marking progress against child labour, Global estimates and trends 2000-2012, International Labour Office (ILO), International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) - Geneva ILO, 2013.

² 2025 is set as a reference for SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, which includes target 8.7 that seeks to “end child labour in all its forms by 2025”. However, it is as well necessary to accelerate the rate of reduction of child labour in the region in order to achieve the target set by the Hemispheric Agenda on Decent Work to “eliminate child labour completely by 2020”.



WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR?

Because:

- Child labour deepens social inequality, depriving children and adolescents of the education and training they need for their own development and for the progress of their family and community.
- Child labour exacerbates the economic and social vulnerabilities of low-income families.
- The discrimination faced by girls, makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and deprivation of their rights.
- Eliminating child labour means realizing the fundamental rights of children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are embodied in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It is an objective included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 8, target 8.7).
- Building global citizenship begins from early childhood (0 - 8 years) in a context of equity and equality of opportunities and of respect for their rights.

The path of cooperation and partnership travelled by the countries of the region leading to the present **Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour**, is the result of a process of progressive appropriation by the countries³ that has included the mass adoption of the ILO Conventions 138 (on the minimum age for admission to employment) and 182 (on the worst forms of child labour), and the ratification of the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016, the creation of national committees, the design and implementation of specific national plans and the inclusion of diverse social actors (employers, unions, indigenous organizations), among other activities⁴.

In addition, it highlights the experiences of joint efforts undertaken by countries within the subregional integration systems of MERCOSUR, SICA and CARICOM, as well as the experience of South-South cooperation.

The contribution of the ILO, through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), established in 1992, has been decisive and has counted on the technical and financial assistance of the Regional Project for Policy Development and the Cooperation Agencies of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United States, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank, which has allowed presence and continuous action during 19 years.

³ Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005). Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (2012).

⁴ Annex 1 contains a chronological summary of the historical background of the Regional Initiative for A Child-Labour free Latin America and the Caribbean.



2. What is the Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean free of Child Labour?

2.1 An alliance among countries

The **Regional Initiative** is a **platform for intergovernmental cooperation**, with the active participation of employers' and workers' organizations, which seeks to accelerate the pace of child labour reduction in the region to achieve the target set by the Hemispheric Agenda on Decent Work to "eliminate child labour completely by 2020" and the SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, including target 8.7 that seeks to "end child labour in all its forms by 2025", set by the Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵

2.2 A historic opportunity

The present moment represents a **historic chance** to eradicate child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean because:

- ❖ The incorporation of target 8.7 in the Agenda for Sustainable Development, referred as to "end child labour by 2025", allows to insert child labour in global and national agendas and align public and private efforts.
- ❖ Updated information on the macro-determinants of child labour is available, and allows countries to formulate innovative proposals to address them.
- ❖ Public policies specifically address prevention and eradication of child labour, with goals and budgets set by the majority of countries.
- ❖ Institutional capacity and a range of programs and services are put in place to provide an effective response to child labour in most of the countries.
- ❖ Countries can rely on specific information and statistics to obtain a more precise consciousness of the magnitude and characteristics of child labour.

⁵ See: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/economic-growth/>



- ❖ Wide and varied experience of regional cooperation has been accumulated, including with modalities of South-South cooperation and exchange of best practices.

Although the pace of economic growth in the region has decelerated, it is of foremost importance to guarantee public funds for social policies⁶ to avoid setbacks in the progress made during the last ten years. This implies paying special attention to the persistence of child labour which is directly related, among others, to the structure of the labour market, the coverage and quality of education, and the incidence of poverty.

The **Regional Initiative** represents the **commitment** of countries to make Latin America and the Caribbean the first developing region free of child labour. This is a clear manifestation of the maturity, consensus and determination achieved on this issue and represents a commitment to join efforts and embrace mutual support, as decisive factors for the eradication of child labour and the achievement of target 8.7 of the Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁶ See: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/39965/S1600227_es.pdf?sequence=1



3. The differential value of the Regional Initiative

3.1 A crucial struggle for development with social justice

Child labour is a serious threat not only to the present and future of each individual child and adolescents, but also to the collective future of the region.

Today, 175 million people live in poverty, and 75 million live in indigence⁷ in Latin America and the Caribbean, where efforts have not been enough to prevent it from being the first region in the world in terms of inequality. The high rates of informal work and social exclusion are largely determinants of child labour, and strengthen the existing cause-and-effect relations. For this reason, the effort to eradicate child labour acquires a strategic role in the development of the region.

At present, there is evidence that the elimination of child labour is a prerequisite for combating poverty, fighting inequality, achieving education for all and gaining full and productive employment and decent work for youths and adults.

Its elimination is rendered particularly important in the fulfilment of bilateral trade agreements in force in the region, as it constitutes one of the principles and rights recognized as fundamental by all parties.

⁷ See: http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/39965/S1600227_es.pdf?sequence=1



3.2 Profile of the child labour situation in Latin America and the Caribbean

The latest global estimates on child labour point out that Latin America and the Caribbean concentrate 12.5 million children and adolescents in child labour, which represents 8.6% of the global share. In this context, a major challenge for the region is to accelerate the pace of reduction until child labour is fully eliminated. This challenge is critical in the face of the stagnation in the rate of child labour reduction shown by the countries. Between 2008 and 2011, the incidence of child labour remained almost unchanged, with 8.2 % (-0.4 %) of children in child labour.



Source: Based on the ILO report "Child Labour in Latin America 2008-2011" (2014).

There has also been a decrease in the rate of child labour reduction regarding hazardous work progress where has been very slow over the past four years (-0.3 %). It should be noted that this activity severely affects children's and adolescents' opportunities because, on average, those engaged in hazardous child labour attend school less regularly and work more hours.

A slowdown in progress is also observed by age group, with a decrease of 1.2% for 15 to 17 year olds as opposed to the 5 to 14 year old age group where rates remain almost the same.

These results show the need to enhance social and economic inclusion policies, especially the quality of education, poverty reduction and social protection.

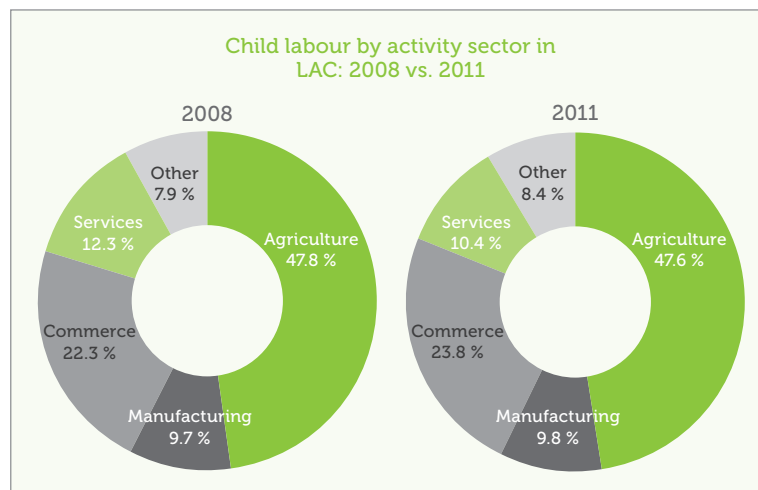


Subregions	2008			2011		
	5 to 14 years old	15 to 17 years old	Total	5 to 14 years old	15 to 17 years old	Total
Southern Region	4.2	13.0	6.2	3.6	11.8	5.5
Andean Countries	10.0	20.0	12.2	10.3	18.3	12.1
Mesoamerica	6.2	19.2	9.1	5.9	18.6	8.8
Latin America	6.2	16.9	8.6	6.0	15.7	8.2

Source: Based on the ILO report "Child Labour in Latin America 2008-2011" (2014).

It should be noted that absolute numbers reflect that the progress towards the elimination of child labour has lowered down in all the region but particularly in the Andean Region and in Mesoamerica.

As to the productive environment at the country level, the agriculture sector has the largest number of working children; especially of boys aged 5 to 14, as unpaid family farming workers. This sector gathers the largest proportion of child labour, but there are big differences among the numbers registered on a sub-regional scale: 61.5% of the all working children and



Source: Author's own work, based on the ILO report "Child Labour in Latin America 2008-2011."



adolescents in this sector are in the Andean countries, while in South Region accounts for 38.4%.

Moreover, commerce –one of the largest generators of employment in recent years– accounts for a significant share of child labour in the region. This share has increased slightly (1.5%) between 2004 and 2008, accounting for 23.8 % of all working children.

Lastly, the region also faces the challenge of eliminating the worst forms of child labour, not known as hazardous work, such as commercial sexual exploitation, child trafficking and slavery, among others. These are crimes in most of the countries and require greater efforts to identify and quantify them because it will be difficult to account them through the countries statistical system. This requires different methodologies to identify the victims and a better coordinated response with strong links between the criminal justice systems and the child protection systems and networks.

3.3 The added value of being part of the Regional Initiative⁸

The Regional Initiative emerged as **catalyst for all efforts** already underway in the mobilization to provide short-term responses to address the plight of child labour and declare Latin America and the Caribbean a child-labour free region by 2025.⁹

At the same time, it constitutes a regional tool to enhance the countries' capabilities and create a multiplier effect in various sectors. The countries conceive the **Regional Initiative** as the most effective and timely tool as it allows to:

- ❖ Think globally and act locally to make a global impact.
- ❖ Promote activities with the highest level of support and political commitment at country level.
- ❖ Act together, respecting differences and building trust and solidarity.

⁸ Annex 2 includes a table with the results of a study on the added value of the Regional Initiative for the group of countries driving the Regional Initiative.

⁹ The member countries of the Regional Initiative reaffirm the target set by the Hemispheric Agenda to eliminate child labour completely by 2020 Decent Work, but commit to the global objective set by target 8.7 of the Agenda for Sustainable Development and align their efforts in that direction.



- ❖ Increase the efficient use of resources to achieve greater impact.
- ❖ Address jointly common problems through various national policies, achieving regional results.
- ❖ Increase international cooperation flows.
- ❖ Generate more detailed information, strengthen national policies and programmes using regionally standardised tools and policy frameworks.
- ❖ Comply with binding regulations.
- ❖ Exchange experiences.
- ❖ Strengthen social and regional outreach, awareness-raising and stakeholder mobilisation networks, focusing on different audiences and issues.
- ❖ Build capacity within the State to provide immediate, relevant responses to the needs of children and adolescents through concrete action programmes.
- ❖ Promote, strengthen and coordinate public-private initiatives, social-responsibility, fair-trade and child-labour-free value-chain networks with the private sector, trade unions and regional bodies.

3.4 A strengthened and enhanced response

Within the framework of the Regional Initiative and in order to provide all the elements necessary for the catalytic acceleration process to be effective, the countries have identified areas of work that require **improvement** to be addressed urgently to promote actions to pick up the pace in reducing child labour. These areas of work are the following:



Area of work	Urgent actions
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Links and joint work among: 1) Latin American and the Caribbean countries; 2) the different sectors of government to include child labour as part of public policies in various sectors (agriculture, education, health, social assistance, labour, justice, among others); 3) different areas of governance within countries to ensure policy implementation (national, regional and local); 4) the State and the business sector; and 5) the public sector, the private sector, trade unions and civil society. ▶ Design and implementation of a quality education system, with socio-cultural relevance and broad coverage that is supportive of the fight against child labour. ▶ Consolidation of systems such as: 1) Child Labour Registration system, 2) follow-up, monitoring and inspection; and 3) compliance monitoring regarding standards.
Economic, social and cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Changing cultural patterns that radically condemn child labour and particularly hazardous child labour. ▶ Deepening of equity and social inclusion as factors for child labour prevention and elimination. ▶ Protected employment opportunities within the context of decent work for adolescents above the minimum age for admission to employment. ▶ Promoting decent job opportunities for youth and adults.
International Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prioritization of child labour prevention and elimination in the agendas of international development cooperation agencies. ▶ Facilitate, expand and strengthen international cooperation in its various forms.



4. Objectives of the Regional Initiative

4.1 General objective

- ❖ Elimination of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2025.¹⁰

4.2 Specific objectives¹¹

- ❖ Acceleration and intensification of policies for the prevention and eradication of child labour.
- ❖ Increase countries' perception of the negative consequence of child labour, especially in its worst forms.

4.3 Expected results

- ❖ Countries have established permanent and sustainable linkage mechanisms with public, private, trade unions and social partners for child labour prevention and elimination.
- ❖ Countries have incorporated in their policies and programmes to combat poverty, inequality and exclusion the groups vulnerable to child labour, with a focus on indigenous and tribal peoples and communities.
- ❖ Countries have mainstreamed the issue of child labour in policies and actions geared at formalizing informal employment.

¹⁰ In accordance with the Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular with SGD 8 and target 8.7 to "end child labour by 2025", the member countries of the Regional Initiative align their efforts to this global goal, recognizing that the region had set a shorter timeframe (by 2020) within the framework of the Hemispheric Agenda for Decent Work.

¹¹ Annex 3 includes a matrix of objectives and main activities.



- ❖ Countries have strengthened intersectoral action, inter-government agency coordination and the ability to act locally to prevent and eliminate child labour, particularly its worst forms.
- ❖ Countries have strengthened labour inspection and other mechanisms to ensure compliance with child labour standards.
- ❖ Countries have developed child labour identification, registration, tracking and monitoring systems, particularly regarding the worst forms of child labour.
- ❖ Countries have mainstreamed child labour concerns into their education policies, especially regarding prevention and elimination of the worst forms.
- ❖ Countries have developed policies to provide youths of or over the minimum age to be permitted to work with job training and protected employment opportunities.
- ❖ The perception of the negative consequences of child labour, especially its worst forms, has increased significantly in the countries.

4.4 Lines of action

The Regional Initiative focuses its work along priority lines of action, allowing acceleration in progress towards child labour elimination through urgent response:

→ Developing national child labour policies

- ❖ Develop effective mechanisms for the linkage of child labour prevention and elimination policies and social safety networks.
- ❖ Promote increased coverage and quality of education, with special emphasis on rural areas with high incidence of child labour.
- ❖ Develop vocational training programmes for youth above the minimum working age.
- ❖ Include the prohibition of child labour in public-sector contracts with suppliers of goods and services.
- ❖ Promote conventions, pacts and commitments against child labour among public, private, trade unions and social partners.
- ❖ Promote the participation of employers' and workers' organizations in the effort to formalise employment and combat child labour.



→ Strengthening capacity for taking direct action

- ❖ Promote local, inter-sectoral and tripartite agreements and with other key civil society actors to develop and implement local plans for preventing and eliminating child labour and protecting permitted work for adolescents.
- ❖ Implement integrated databases fed by various institutions (agriculture, education, health, social assistance, labour, justice, among others) involved in the fight against child labour to facilitate joint action and follow-up.
- ❖ Develop capacity to identify children and families at risk of and/or in child labour in schools, health centres and other relevant institutions and implement a referral system linking together all the institutions involved in addressing the problem.
- ❖ Design and implement incentive mechanisms to reduce dropout rates and encourage school reintegration of children and adolescents in, or at risk of, child labour.
- ❖ Conduct regular studies on supply and demand of employment in order to facilitate the transition from school to decent work.
- ❖ Establish links to social protection programmes and conditional cash-transfer mechanisms.

→ Knowledge generation

- ❖ Promote effective exchange of good practices, lessons learned and meaningful experiences in combating child labour among the countries in the region.
- ❖ Conduct local and sectoral diagnostics to assess the magnitude and characteristics of child labour as an input to formulate and guide action.
- ❖ Conduct, share and disseminate studies on the negative impacts of child labour on children's health, development and education.
- ❖ Exchange information on the development of active policies for identification of child labour, particularly on migration-related child labour.
- ❖ Share experiences in addressing child labour by sectors of activity, age groups and types of work.



→ Policy advocacy

- ❖ Promote public-private partnerships to ensure that supply chains are free from child labour.
- ❖ Expand the experiences of business networks against child labour.
- ❖ Create and/or strengthen multipartite national committees for prevention and elimination of child labour and its worst forms involving government agencies, employers, workers and civil society.
- ❖ Promote closer cooperation and coordination among cooperation agencies in addressing child labour prevention and elimination in the region.
- ❖ Strengthen the trade-union federation's continental initiative against child labour.

→ Legislation and enforcement

- ❖ Establish trans-border arrangements between national and local governments, including the labour inspectorates and the justice sector to coordinate actions against child labour.
- ❖ Establish a regional agreement on a minimum list of hazardous child labour and the criteria to be considered for prioritizing enforcement actions.
- ❖ Harmonise standards, procedures and protocols for child labour inspection.
- ❖ Exchange experiences and implement/strengthen IT-based tools for labour inspection.
- ❖ Implement/strengthen training for labour inspectors on vulnerable groups and sectors and child-labour related activities.

→ Awareness-raising

- ❖ Implement joint thematic and targeted awareness-raising strategies for prevention and elimination of child labour.
- ❖ Implement strategies to sensitize families to the prevention and elimination of child labour.
- ❖ Promote support for and the expression of opinion makers in favour of a child-labour free Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ❖ Promote support for networks of journalists and media advocating to make Latin America and the Caribbean a child-labour free region.



5. Who comprises the Regional Initiative?

5.1 Member countries

The countries have conducted many efforts toward child labour elimination and, concerned about the stagnation in the reduction, they have exchanged information and identified the need to seek renewed approaches ensuring urgent responses to the regional situation. At the Third Global Conference on Child Labour (2013), a group of countries pledged to drive the **Regional Initiative**¹², with the purpose of inviting all the countries of the region to join.

A Latin America and Caribbean free of child labour requires the participation of multiple stakeholders at regional and country level

5.2 Stakeholders

A Latin America and Caribbean free of child labour requires the participation of multiple stakeholders at regional and country level. Under the national authority on the subject, the countries decide what institutions should be involved, what the mechanisms for participation, coordination and representation will be, as well as what roles are to be played by the various stakeholders.

¹² Countries originally involved in driving the Regional Initiative were: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay (October, 2013). Later, Bahamas, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela (October 2014) joined the Regional Initiative. Then, Haiti (July 2015) and, more recently, Grenada (April 2016) joined, reaching 26 member countries to date. In July 2016, Saint Lucia began its accession process.



Sectors	Major stakeholders
Public Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Based on their competencies in each country, the Ministries involved can be the Ministries of Labour, Education, Health, Social Development, Economy, Planning, Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, Construction, Tourism, Justice, Public Safety, Governance, Interior and Foreign Affairs. ▶ Branches of the legislative and judicial bodies ▶ National statistics offices ▶ Local governments ▶ Cooperation agencies ▶ Embassies ▶ Institutions for the protection of children, family and vulnerable groups ▶ Ombudspersons
Social actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ National Commissions for the prevention and elimination of child labour, commissions on commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, and forums on children and child labour. ▶ Employers' organizations ▶ Workers' organizations ▶ Non-governmental, national or international associations, foundations and/or, organizations specialising in children's rights, gender issues, human rights, education, development, among others. ▶ Organizations for and by indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, cooperatives and grassroots Organizations. ▶ Social leaders and opinion makers ▶ The media ▶ Universities
International Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ United Nations system agencies ▶ Inter-American Children's Institute ▶ Development Banks (WB, BCIE/CABEI, KFW, IDB, CAF, among others) ▶ Integration Organization (MERCOSUR, ALBA, UNASUR, OEA, CELAC, CAN, SICA, CARICOM, among others)



6. Implementation and financing

At the programme level, a framework for policy acceleration has been designed to enhance existing investments of countries towards social development, in order to address two priority target groups: i) children and working adolescents below the legal minimum working age and / or engaged in hazardous work; ii) children and adolescents who risk to be victim of child labour, according to their needs and characteristics.

The Regional Initiative combines two approaches:

A **preventive** one, which seeks to achieve the first free generation of child labour by 2025; and a **protective** one, which seeks to restore the rights of children and adolescents who are involved in child labour.

For more information on the procedures, please refer to the Brochure of the Regional Initiative: [“We are ushering in the first generation to be free of child labour”](#).

At the financial level, the Regional Initiative pools resources from various sources:

- ❖ The participating countries' own resources
- ❖ International development cooperation agencies
- ❖ Private sector (businesses, corporate foundations, etc.)
- ❖ Non-monetary contributions to the Regional Initiative through in-kind donations



7. Management of the Regional Initiative

Management of the Regional Initiative will be entrusted to the following entities:

Entity	Composition	Tasks and roles
<p>MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL AUTHORITIES The highest-level political body linked to the ILO American Regional Meeting</p>	Ministers of Labour and representatives of employers' and workers' organizations in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides the highest level of political backing to the actions of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Drives the strategic positioning of the Regional Initiative on political agendas and forums. ▶ Maintains political partnership and representation of the Regional Initiative.
<p>REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS NETWORK¹³ Tripartite executive steering body</p>	Representatives of governments, appointed by the Ministers of Labour; regional representatives of employers and workers, appointed by the pertinent organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides strategic direction to the Regional Initiative through the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provides advocacy at national, sub-regional, regional and global forums to ensure implementation of the Regional Initiative. ◆ Designs, reviews and approves programmes, plans and budgets of the Regional Initiative. ◆ Reviews and approves proposed amendments to guiding documents for the proper functioning of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Performs monitoring, follow-up and evaluation of plans and programmes of the Regional Initiative and their budgetary implementation.

¹³ For the detailed roles and responsibilities of the Focal Points of the Regional Initiative, refer to the specific document adopted by the Network.



Entity	Composition	Tasks and roles
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides technical input to the Technical Secretariat for preparing programmes, plans, documents, reports, proposals for action, projects, etc. ▶ Identifies and follows up on opportunities for mobilising public and private resources to support implementation of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Interacts effectively with the Technical Secretariat for implementing all components of the plans and programmes of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Establishes links with the regional and national levels of the Regional Initiative, disseminating information, socialising agreements and ensuring the flow of coordination and feedback among stakeholders. ▶ Holds four meetings a year –three virtual meetings and one face-to-face meeting– to follow up on the implementation of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Advocates with decision makers at the national level to introduce the Regional Initiative at the various integration and international policy forums that are relevant to the objectives and lines of action of the Regional Initiative . ▶ Makes consensual decisions.



Entity	Composition	Tasks and roles
<p>TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT Technical and operational body</p>	<p>ILO Regional Office for the Americas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides overall technical assistance to the Focal Points Network and the Meeting of High-Level Authorities. ▶ As delegated by the Focal Points Network, ensures compliance with, follow-up on and management of policies and strategies. ▶ Provides technical assistance and support to achieve objectives, follow up on and measure results, identify lessons learned and manage knowledge of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Coordinates with the Focal Points Network on the design, follow-up and implementation of the advocacy and resource mobilisation strategy of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Facilitates interaction of the Regional Focal Points Network with other actors involved in the implementation of the Regional Initiative. ▶ Convenes meetings, prepares the items on the agenda, attends the meetings and drafts minutes of the main agreements of the Focal Points Network.
<p>AD-HOC GROUPS Advisory body</p>	<p>Panels of external thematic expert advisers convened to address specific topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provides technical opinions on specific sectoral or thematic issues as may be required by the Focal Points Network for implementing the Regional Initiative.



8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring progress towards meeting the regional objectives will be made based on the criteria, indicators and targets set by the countries. A periodic progress report will be prepared by the Technical Secretariat and approved by the Focal Points Network.

In terms of implementation, the Regional Initiative will use action plans at various levels (local, national, sectoral, subregional and regional) through which the region will reach the specific objectives. The consistency of the existing plans will be reviewed and plans will be adjusted taking account of their own particular features.



Annexes

ANNEX 1: Key Milestones

Year	Milestone
2015	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development , adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, set 17 Goals and 169 integrated and indivisible targets which encompass economic, social and environmental aspects. It includes Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, and target 8.7 that seeks to "end child labour in all its forms by 2025".
	Declaration on Decent Work for Sustainable Development (Nassau, Bahamas) , adopted at the 9th ILO Meeting of Caribbean Labour Ministers which calls on the countries of the Caribbean to join the Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour.
2014	The Cancun Declaration (Mexico) , adopted within the framework of the Third Ibero-American Meeting of Labour Ministers, within the framework of the XXIV Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State and Government, which welcomed the Regional Initiative and recognised it as an effort by all countries to accelerate the fight against child labour.
	The Lima Declaration (Peru) , adopted within the framework of the 18th American Regional Meeting of the ILO, which is the document establishing the Regional Initiative, signed by 25 Labour Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean.
2013	The Brasilia Declaration (Brazil) , adopted within the framework of the Third World Conference on Child Labour, which reiterated the commitment to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, called to persist with the Roadmap (The Hague, 2010) and urged for action to accelerate the elimination of child labour.



Year	Milestone
2012	<p>Second Presidential Declaration on the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in MERCOSUR (Mendoza, Argentina), signed within the framework of the First Regional Conference on Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour of MERCOSUR. In it, the presidents of the countries reiterated their rejection of child labour and declared their decision to strengthen actions aimed at effective prevention and elimination.</p> <hr/> <p>The Panama Declaration (Panama). Within the framework of the Conference on Successful Experiences and Good Practices for Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour, organised by the Ministry of Labour and Labour Development of Panama, the Ministers of Labour of Central America, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic signed a Declaration in which they pledged to strengthen responsibilities at each of their countries to achieve the targets of the Hemispheric Agenda, as they approached the Third World Conference on Child Labour held in Brazil in 2013.</p>
2010	<p>Global Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016 (Geneva, Switzerland), approved by the Governing Body of the ILO. The Global Action Plan specifically refers to the Roadmap for achieving the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016, adopted at the Second World Conference on Child Labour (The Hague, Netherlands) in 2010.</p> <hr/> <p>Latin American Meeting of Indigenous Peoples and Governments. From Declaration to Action (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia). The meeting provided a forum for indigenous organizations to exchange their views on child labour and strengthen dialogue mechanisms with the governments.</p>
2006	<p>Decent Work Hemispheric Agenda 2006-2015 (Brasilia, Brazil), adopted at the Sixteenth American Regional Meeting of the ILO by the tripartite delegations from the countries of the region. The Agenda includes two specific goals on child labour: eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2015 and child labour in all its forms by 2020.</p>
2005	<p>Mar del Plata Declaration (Argentina), signed by 34 presidents within the framework of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, OAS, including the commitment to protect children from economic exploitation and improving access to and quality of education for all.</p>



Year	Milestone
2002	First Declaration of Presidents of MERCOSUR on Child Labour (Buenos Aires, Argentina) , which binds the States Parties to strengthen national plans through specific measures such as regulatory harmonisation, coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders, participation of workers' and employers' organizations, updated information, permanent awareness, and policy formulation.
1999	Adoption of ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour.
1997	Amsterdam Conference on Combating the Most Intolerable Forms of Child Labour and Oslo International Conference on Child Labour, both of which drew attention to the urgent need for concerted global action to end child labour, and called for expanding the information, statistical and empirical research base to help inform this action.
1996	First Tripartite Ibero-American Ministerial Meeting on the Elimination of Child Labour (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia) , which laid the foundations for national policies by urging the commitment of the countries of the region to establish National Committees, design and implement specific national plans and improve knowledge through information gathering and statistical analysis.
1989	Adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.
1973	Adoption of Convention 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment.



ANNEX 2: Matrix of Main Objectives and Activities

General objective: Elimination of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2025	
Specific objective 1: Acceleration and intensification of policies for the prevention and eradication of child labour	
Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Countries have established permanent and sustainable linkage mechanisms with public, private, trade unions and social partners for child labour prevention and elimination. ▶ Countries have incorporated in their policies and programmes to combat poverty, inequality and exclusion the groups vulnerable to child labour, with a focus on indigenous and tribal peoples and communities. ▶ Countries have mainstreamed the issue of child labour in policies and actions geared at formalizing informal employment. 	<p>Developing national child labour policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop effective mechanisms for the linkage of child labour prevention and elimination policies and social safety networks. ▶ Promote increased coverage and quality of education, with special emphasis on rural areas with high incidence of child labour. ▶ Develop vocational training programmes for youth above the minimum working age. ▶ Include the prohibition of child labour in public-sector contracts with suppliers of goods and services. ▶ Promote conventions, pacts and commitments against child labour among public, private, trade union and social partners. ▶ Promote the participation of employers' and workers' organizations in the effort to formalise employment and combat child labour. <p>Strengthening capacities for taking direct action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote local, inter-sectoral and tripartite agreements and with other key civil society actors to develop and implement local plans for preventing and eliminating child labour and protecting permitted work for adolescents. ▶ Implement integrated databases fed by various institutions (agriculture, education, health, social assistance, labour, justice, among others) involved in the fight against child labour to facilitate joint action and follow-up. ▶ Develop capacity to identify children and families at risk of and/or in child labour in schools, health centres and other relevant institutions and implement a referral system linking together all the institutions involved in addressing the problem.



Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Countries have strengthened intersectoral action, inter-government agency coordination and the ability to act locally to prevent and eliminate child labour, particularly its worst forms. ▶ Countries have strengthened labour inspection and other mechanisms to ensure compliance with child labour standards. ▶ Countries have developed child labour identification, registration, tracking and monitoring systems, particularly regarding the worst forms of child labour. ▶ Countries have mainstreamed child labour concerns into their education policy, especially regarding prevention and elimination of the worst forms. ▶ Countries have developed policies to provide youths of or over the minimum age to be permitted to work with job training and protected employment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Design and implement incentive mechanisms to reduce dropout rates and encourage school reintegration of children and adolescents in, or at risk of, child labour. ▶ Conduct regular studies on supply and demand of employment in order to facilitate the transition from school to decent work. ▶ Establish links to social protection programmes and conditional cash-transfer mechanisms. <p>Knowledge generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote effective exchange of good practices, lessons learned and meaningful experiences in combating child labour among the countries in the region. ▶ Conduct local and sectoral diagnostics to assess the magnitude and characteristics of child labour as an input to formulate and guide action. ▶ Conduct, share and disseminate studies on the negative impacts of child labour on children's and adolescents' health, development and education. ▶ Exchange information on the development of active policies for identification of child labour, particularly on migration-related child labour. ▶ Share experiences in addressing child labour by sectors of activity, age groups and types of work. <p>Policy advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote public-private partnerships to ensure that supply chains are free from child labour. ▶ Expand the experiences of business networks against child labour. ▶ Create and/or strengthen multipartite national committees for prevention and elimination of child labour and its worst forms involving government agencies, employers, workers and civil society. ▶ Promote closer cooperation and coordination among cooperation agencies in addressing child labour prevention and elimination in the region. ▶ Strengthen the trade-union federation's continental initiative against child labour.



Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
	<p>Legislation and enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Establish trans-border arrangements between national and local governments, including the labour inspectorates and the justice sector to coordinate actions against child labour. ▶ Establish a regional agreement on a minimum list of hazardous child labour and the criteria to be considered for prioritizing enforcement actions. ▶ Harmonise standards, procedures and protocols for child labour inspection. ▶ Exchange experiences and implement/strengthen IT-based tools for labour inspection. ▶ Implement/strengthen training for labour inspectors on vulnerable groups and sectors and child-labour related activities.
<p>Specific objective 2: Increased countries' perception of the negative consequence of child labour, especially in its worst forms</p>	
Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The perception of the negative consequences of child labour, especially its worst forms, has increased significantly in the countries. 	<p>Awareness-raising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implement joint thematic and targeted awareness-raising strategies for prevention and elimination of child labour. ▶ Implement strategies to sensitize families to the prevention and elimination of child labour. ▶ Promote support for and the expression of opinion makers in favour of a child-labour free Latin America and Caribbean. ▶ Promote support for networks of journalists and media advocating to make Latin America and the Caribbean a child-labour free region.



ANNEX 3: Added Value of Belonging to the Regional Initiative

Categories	Title	
Globality To think globally and act locally; and to act locally with a global impact.	From the global to the local	Thinking globally and acting locally and acting locally to make a global impact.
	High-level political backing	Promoting activities with the highest level of support and political commitment at country level.
	Space for pluralities	Acting together, respecting differences and building trust and solidarity.
Efficiency More efficient use of resources, thus achieving greater impact.	Resource economisation	Increasing the efficient use of resources to achieve a greater impact.
	Jointly addressing common problems	Jointly addressing common problems through various national policies, achieving regional results.
	Increased international cooperation flows	Increasing international cooperation flows.
Harmonisation Ensure that all actors in the region work in the same direction and under the same standards.	Regional harmonization	Refining information, strengthening national policies and programmes and perfecting its tools within a standard and policy framework with clear regional consensus.
	Complying with binding regulations	Complying with binding regulations.
	Exchange of experiences	Exchanging experiences.



Categories	Title	
Citizenship as an agent for development	Social mobilization	Strengthening social and regional outreach, awareness-raising and stakeholder mobilisation networks, focusing on different audiences and issues.
	Responses adjusted to realities	Building capacity within the State to provide immediate, relevant responses to the needs of children and adolescents through concrete action programmes.
Building shared value Private enterprise as an ally in the prevention and elimination of child labour.	The Private Sector as an ally	Promoting, strengthening and coordinating public-private initiatives, social responsibility, fair trade and child-labour free value chain networks with the private sector, trade unions and regional bodies.

