

**Asia Tripartite Regional Meeting to discuss the Draft Resolution
on Child Labour Statistics [to be submitted to the 18th ICLS]**

(31 January – 01 February 2008, Manila)

Report on the proceedings

The Asia Tripartite Regional Meeting to discuss the Draft Resolution on Child Labour Statistics (to be submitted to the 18th ICLS) was held from 31 January – 1 February 2008 at the ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Asia, Manila. The objective of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to interact with the governments and ILO constituents of selected countries of the region with the purpose of alerting them to the agenda item on child labour statistics at the forthcoming 18th ICLS (to be held in Geneva from 24 November to 5 December 2008), and to obtain their detailed comments and suggestions on the draft resolution.

Delegates to the meeting were the following: (i) officials from Ministries of Labour of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan and the Philippines, (ii) officials from the National Statistical Office of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, and the Philippines, (iii) representatives of employers' associations of India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the Philippines, and (iv) representatives of workers' associations of India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines. The list of participants is attached as *Annex I* of this report.

The meeting was inaugurated by Ms Keiko Niimi, Deputy Director, ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Asia, who welcomed delegates to Manila, and emphasized the importance of the regional tripartite meeting and its agenda to the work of ILO and of IPEC. For conducting the meeting, Ms Criselda Sy (Philippines) was elected as Chairperson. Ms Sy thanked the delegates for the confidence placed on her, and looked forward to their cooperation and active participation. The programme of the meeting as adopted is provided at *Annex II* of this report.

Delegates were informed that the draft resolution, when approved by the 18th ICLS, shall bring into use an agreed international statistical definition of child labour. This should contribute significantly to greater reliability, harmonization and comparability of child labour statistics between countries and over time. The draft resolution would indicate the parameters within which countries will have flexibility to adapt and apply the contents of the instrument to suit their national requirements, and also provide guidelines in terms of statistical tools on child labour data collection and measurement. Delegates were urged to express freely their views on the content and language of the draft resolution to facilitate its progressive modification, such that eventually at the ICLS it may be adopted by consensus.

During the deliberations, the following were noted as main comments and suggestions:

| Paragraph | Comments |
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| Preamble | Make clear that the resolution is concerned only with the measurement and collection of child labour statistics through surveys ... will make operational the statistical measurement of child labour as defined by ILO Conventions C138 and C182 (and corresponding Recommendations R146 and R190). |
| 1 | <i>Rewrite paragraph as:</i> The principal objective of child labour statistics is to provide reliable, comprehensive and timely data concerning working children. Children are engaged in various types of work, but not all of it should be deemed as child labour slated for abolition. This resolution aims to set out standards of good practice for the collection, compilation and analysis of statistics of child labour and working children as guidance for countries to update their existing statistical system in this field, or to establish a new one. |
| 2 | At end of 1 st sentence, <i>replace</i> 'statistics on child labour' by 'child labour statistics'. (Throughout the draft resolution this expression should be maintained). |
| 3 | <p><i>a.</i> After 'impact' <i>insert</i> 'on their health, well-being and morals'</p> <p><i>b.</i> <i>Rewrite last sentence as:</i> 'The collected data should therefore assist in quantifying the incidence of child labour, as also with the identification and prioritization of the child labour forms and geographical locations that targeted interventions should address.'</p> |
| 4 | <i>Rewrite first sentence as:</i> 'In order to fulfil the above objectives, the national programme of child labour data collection should, in principle, cover all activities that children engage in, and measure these in terms of the time spent in each.' |
| 5 | <i>Replace</i> (i) 'reflect' with 'be based on' and (ii) 'be amenable to' with 'allow for'. |
| 6 | ----- |
| 7 | <p><i>a.</i> <i>Delete</i> 'supplementing'</p> <p><i>b.</i> <i>Delete</i> the last sentence</p> |
| 8 | <i>Delete</i> 'the' (before 'ILO') in first line. |
| 9 | <i>Rewrite paragraph as:</i> International labour standards on child labour provide guidance to national legislation and allow for flexibility and exceptions to general prohibitions of child labour, and there can be no uniform definition of child labour for universal application across countries. Therefore, while national statistical offices are required to mould the criteria for data collection on child labour and working children as closely as possible to the prevailing national laws and regulations, it should be useful if such data may allow further compilation and are sufficiently disaggregated to also facilitate international comparability. |
| 10 | <p><i>a.</i> In 5th line <i>re-write</i> '17 years' as '17 completed years'</p> <p><i>b.</i> The last sentence may be <i>re-written as:</i> National statistical offices may, however, in consultation with the responsible government offices for</p> |

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| | education and for child welfare, set the lower age threshold of 5 years as a function of their respective country situations, with the caveat that it may not be higher than the official age for entry to compulsory schooling. |
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| 11 | <p><i>a.</i> Paragraph 11 (with changes <i>b. – d.</i> below) to become paragraph 12. <i>b.</i> In 8th line <i>delete</i> ‘whether for the market or not,’ <i>c.</i> In last sentence <i>replace</i> ‘Domestic duties’ with ‘Household chores’ <i>d.</i> <i>Add new sentence</i> at end of the paragraph: The concepts of “currently active population” and “usually active population” should also apply to working children. <i>e.</i> INSERT a new paragraph: <i>Child Labour Measurement Framework</i> 11. The framework for child labour (defined in paragraph 28) measurement consists of the totality of ‘working children’ (defined in paragraph 12) which may be estimated through known survey techniques, and that part of ‘worst forms of child labour’ (defined in paragraph 15) which cannot be measured presently by available statistical data collection methods.</p> |
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| 12 | <i>Delete</i> paragraph. (The issue of measuring working children by both currently active and usual activity status may be discussed under ‘Data Collection’ section). |
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| 14 | ----- |
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| 15 | Include treatment of ‘child beggars’ within scope of 15(a) and 15(c) →common features are: compulsory/ forced labour, use of child for illicit activities, and statistical methods for reliable estimates are not currently available |
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| 19 | <p><i>a.</i> In 1st sentence, 4th line <i>replace</i> ‘choose to obtain’ with ‘need to adopt’ <i>b.</i> In last sentence, <i>insert</i> ‘national classifications based on’ <u>after</u> ‘specific’ and <u>before</u> ‘International’.</p> |
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| 24 | At the very end <i>add</i> an additional filter ‘ – children working under conditions that are likely to have an adverse impact upon their morals’ |
| 25 | ----- |
| 26 | 4 th line <i>replace</i> ‘might either’ with ‘should’ <u>and</u> ‘or’ with ‘and’. |
| 27 | ----- |
| 28 | In sub-para ii) ... word should be ‘jeopardize’ |
| 29 | Delegates suggested that language required more precision. Suggested reformulation of paragraph: Child labour is the total of (i) a subset of economic activities performed by children (that may be measured through surveys conducted with known statistical measurement techniques) and (ii) children in those worst forms of child labour that cannot be measured with existing methods (principally, the unconditional forms of child labour). The approach to child labour estimates in countries where child labour statistics have been collected is to set out the limitations of the data, and compile child labour as a subset of children’s economic activities. It has the advantage that the statistical standards for the measurement and classification of economic activities are well established, and considerable uniformity prevails across countries in regard to the concepts and definitions of the data targeted for collection. Occasionally, country practices diverge on the treatment of time spent by a child in fetching water and collecting firewood for estimating his/her hours of economic activity. Nonetheless, countries are encouraged to collect statistics on the time spent by children in fetching water and collecting firewood in order to analyze their impact, if any, on children’s schooling. |
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| 34 | In 4 th line, <i>replace</i> ‘should’ by ‘may wish to’. |
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| 37 | Did establishment surveys include informal sector? ILO clarified that the aim of establishment surveys was to interview the employer and get supplementary information relating the child worker: CL number estimation was not an objective. |

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| 40 | 2 points made regarding the section 'Data collection Methods and Programmes': <i>a.</i> A low cost approach to child labour data collection is the review of data contained in existing census and surveys on working children and their characteristics. Since child labour is a scarce population, should such data be available, this may be the preferred option by countries to compile basic data on working children at periodic intervals in situations where personnel and financial resources do not permit resource allocation separately to even a modular child labour survey. Efficient combination of the data from different sources could, however, be a difficult task. <i>b.</i> Expand on issue of development of the sampling frame for surveys. |
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| 41 | <i>a.</i> A more focused title was suggested. <i>b.</i> 3 rd line, after 'unconditional' insert 'worst'. |
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| 42 | Reference should be made to Article 2 paragraph 2 and Article 13 paragraph 1 of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child. |
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| 43 | <i>Replace</i> last sentence by: Child labor data collection should be undertaken by persons specially trained to the type of survey being conducted. |
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| 50 | 5 th line, after 'brought to courts' insert 'and other relevant official authorities like police stations,'. |
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| 54 | In the Appendix, under Section II Socio-economic characteristics of the Household, <i>add</i> as suggested statistic 'whether or not child living with both |

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| | natural parents, and if not, why’. |
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The closing session was addressed by Mr Ubaidur Rehman Usmani of Pakistan representing the employers associations and Mr Julius Cainglet of the Philippines on behalf of the workers representatives; Mr Md. Azizur Rahman of Bangladesh spoke for the Government delegates. Each speaker reiterated the importance of tripartite discussions and dialogue, and thanked ILO, especially IPEC and the Sub-Regional Office in Manila for organizing the regional meeting to obtain the views of ILO constituents on the draft resolution on Child Labour Statistics to be submitted to the 18th ICLS. The need to have the draft resolution accepted at the ICLS and thereby establish agreed international standards on the statistical measurement of child labour was emphasized, as greater reliability of the number of child labour was crucial for preparing effective policies and intervention programmes to combat child labour. In her capacity as Chairperson, Ms Criselda Sy thanked all delegates for contributing to the success of the meeting by their intensive discussions and ILO for selecting Manila as the venue for the Asia tripartite regional meeting on this very important issue. She wished a safe journey home to participants from abroad.

On behalf of ILO, Mr Bijoy Raychaudhuri, in his closing remarks, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the discussions, and mentioned that he was impressed with the commitment by all participants. He expressed gratitude to delegates for providing very valuable suggestions, and noted that IPEC had achieved what it had desired from the meeting as the resultant draft resolution on child labour statistics was now a much stronger instrument. He informed that the report of the meeting would be sent by e-mail to the participants within a week, and expressed the hope that they keep occasional contact among themselves. Subsequently, the report would also be placed on the ILO-IPEC website in the section on ‘CL Statistics’, along with reports of other tripartite meetings. At a later date, the draft resolution on child labour statistics, as progressively amended following comments received at successive tripartite meetings, may also be viewed on the IPEC website.

Annex I

ASIA TRIPARTITE REGIONAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CHILD LABOUR STATISTICS
ILO Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City
31 January – 1 February 2008, Manila

List of Participants

| No. | Name | Position / Designation | Organization/ Office/ Country | Address | Tel. No. / Email Address |
|-----|-----------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 1. | Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman | Joint Secretary Ministry of Labour & Employment | Ministry of Labour Bangladesh | Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka Bangladesh | Tel: +88 02 716 8605 Cell: +88 01717 015042 E-mail: dcnett55@hotmail.com |
| 2. | Md. Abul Kalam Azad | Director (Demography & Health) Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Ministry of Planning | National Statistics Office Bangladesh | E27/A Agargaon Dhaka – 1207 Bangladesh | Tel: + 88 02 812 7937 Cell: + 88 01715 244536 E-mail: fbkalam@yahoo.com |
| 3. | Mr. P. K. Ray | Director-General National Sample Survey Organisation | National Statistics Office India | Central Statistical Organisation Sardar Patel Bhavan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 001, India | Tel: + 91 11 2336 1080 + 91 11 2331 1805 E-mail: pk.ray@nic.in |
| 4. | Dr. Mrs. Malti Baad | Executive Secretary Gujarat Employers' Organisation | Employers' Representative India | Vadodaro, Gujarat, India | Tel: + 91 265 225 0072 Cell: + 91 98255 91979 E-mail: georgn@dataone.in |
| 5. | Mr. M. Subramanian | General Secretary Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Thoshilalar Aykkiya Sangam | Workers' Representative India | 7 V M Street Royapettely Chennai – 400 017, India | Tel: + 91 44 2847 6527 Cell: + 91 94442 07640 E-mail: |
| 6. | Mr. Yuli Adiratna | Head, Division on Labour Inspection on WFCL, Ministry of Manpower & Transmigration | Ministry of Labour Indonesia | Jalan Jenderal Gatot Subroto Kaveling 51 Jakarta 12950, Indonesia | Te:l: + 62 21 – 527 6687, 526 0489 Cell: E-mail: adirat_naufal@yahoo.com |
| 7. | Mr. Uzair Suhaimi | Head Sub-Directorate of Wage Statistics, BPS Statistics Indonesia | National Statistics Office Indonesia | Jalan Dr Sutomo No. 6-8 Jakarta 10710, Indonesia | Tel: + 62 21 - 384 1195, 384 2508 Cell: E-mail: uzair@mailhost.bps.go.id |

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| No. | Name | Position / Designation | Organization/ Office/ Country | Address | Tel. No. / Email Address |
|-----|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 8. | Ms. Ema Liliefna | Equal Committee Training & Education | Workers' Representative Indonesia | Jalan Cipinang Muara Raya No. 33, Jatinegara. Jakarta Trinur, Indonesia | Tel: Cell: E-mail: liliefnaema@yahoo.co.id |
| | | | | | |
| 9. | Ms. Baasansuren Alimaa | Deputy Director, Labour Policy & Coordination Dept. Ministry of Social Welfare & Labour | Ministry of Labour Mongolia | United Nations Street – 5 Ulaan Baatar – 46 Mongolia | Tel: + 976 51 264 157 E-mail: b.alima@yahoo.com alimaab@mswl.pmis.gov.mn |
| 10. | Ms. Oyunchimeg Dandar | Director (Social Statistics & Population) National Statistical Office | National Statistics Office Mongolia | Baga Toiruu 44, Govt. Building 3 Ulaanbaatar Mongolia | Tel. + 976 51 264 554 E-mail: dnoyun@yahoo.com |
| 11. | Ms.Tsiiregzen Uurdmandakh | External Relations Officer Mongolian Employers' Federation | Employers' Representative Mongolia | Baga Toiruu 44A, Ulaanbaatar – 48 Mongolia | Tel: + 976 11 314 579 E-mail: uurdee@vnonef.mn monef@magicnet.nm |
| | | | | | |
| 12. | Mr Abdul Fattah Ujjan | Section Officer Ministry of Labour and Employment | Ministry of Labour Pakistan | Room No. 613, Block B, Pakistan Secretariat Islamabad 46000, Pakistan | Tel: + 92 51 921 3536 E-mail: f.ujjan@yahoo.com |
| 13. | Mr. Ubaidur Rehman Usmani | Member, Managing Committee | Employers' Representative Pakistan | 2 nd Floor, State Life Building No. 2 Wallace Street, off IChundriges Rd. Karachi 74000, Pakistan | Tel: + 92 21 2411049 E-mail: efpak@cyber.net.pk |
| 14. | Mr. Hassan M. Bhatti | Vice President (CP) Pakistan Workers' Federation | Workers' Representative Pakistan | Bukhtiar Hall 28 Nisbat Road Lahore, Pakistan | Tel: + 92 42 - 722 2191, 722 9419 E-mail: munir_bhatti2003@yahoo.com |
| | | | | | |
| 15. | Ms. Ma Criselda R. Sy | Director IV, Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics Dept. of Labor & Employment | Ministry of Labour Philippines | 3/F DOLE Building General Luna Street, Intramuros Manila, Philippines | Tel: + 63 2 527 300 Loc. 315 E-mail: criseldasy@yahoo.com |
| 16. | Ms. Paula Monina G Collado | Deputy Administrator National Statistical Office | National Statistics Office Philippines | G/F Solicarel Building I, Sta. Mesa Raymon Magsaysay Boulevard Manila, Philippines | Tel: + 63 2 – 716 0369, 715 7758 E-mail: m.collado@census.go.ph |
| 17. | Mr. Robert Ela | Manager, Corporate Communications and Publications, Employers Confederation of the Philippines | Employers' Representative Philippines | 3/F ECC Building 355 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Extn. Makati City, Philippines | Tel: + 63 2 890 4845/47 E-mail: corpcom@ecop.org.ph |

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| No. | Name | Position / Designation | Organization/ Office/ Country | Address | Tel. No. / Email Address |
|-----|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 18. | Mr. Jose Molina | Senior Adviser for International Affairs and Consultant, Employers Confederation of the Philippines | Employers' Representative Philippines | 3/F ECC Building 355 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Extn. Makati City, Philippines | Cell: + 63 – 091784 12749 E-mail: joeyrmolina@yahoo.com |
| 19. | Mr. Julius Cainglet | National Coordinator, FFW Labour Initiatives Towards the Elimination of Child Labour, Federation of Free Workers Philippines | Workers' Representative Philippines | FFW Building 1943 Taft Avenue Malate 1004 Manila, Philippines | Cell: + 63 – 091893 09475 E-mail: + dabigdyul@gmail.com |
| 20. | Mr. Ramon Certeza | FFW - LITE Trade Union Congress of the Philippines | Workers' Representative Philippines | | |
| | | | | | |
| 21. | Mr. Bijoy Raychaudhuri | Senior Statistician International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour | ILO Geneva | International Labour Organization Route des Morillons 4 CH 1211, Geneva, Switzerland | Tel : + 41 22 799 6115 Cell : + 41 798 327 329 E-mail : raychaudhuri@ilo.org |
| 22. | Mr. Hakki Ozel | Senior Statistician International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour | ILO Geneva | International Labour Organization Route des Morillons 4 CH 1211, Geneva, Switzerland | Tel: + 41 22 799 6744 Cell: + 41 797 711 175 E-mail: ozel@ilo.org |
| 23. | Ms. Keiko Niimi | Deputy Director ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Asia | ILO Manila | 19th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines | Tel: + 63 2 580 9900 E-mail: niimi@ilo.org |
| 24. | Ms. Ma Conception Sardana | Senior Programme Officer ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Asia | ILO Manila | 19th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines | Tel: + 63 2 580 9900 E-mail: sardana@ilo.org |
| 25. | Ms. Alacia Fernando | Secretary ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Asia | ILO Manila | 19th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines | Tel: + 63 2 580 9900 E-mail: |
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Annex II

**Asia Tripartite Regional Meeting to discuss the Draft Resolution on
Child Labour Statistics [to be submitted to the 18th ICLS]**

31 January – 1 February 2008, Manila

(*Venue:* ILO Auditorium, International Labour Organization
Sub-Regional Office for East Asia, 19th Floor Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines)

Programme

Thursday 31 January 2008 (Day One)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 08.30 – 09.00 hrs | Registration of Participants |
| 09.00 – 09.45 hrs | Welcome Statement Introduction of Participants ICLS and Expected Workshop Outcome Format of each Session (presentation/ discussion) Adoption of Tentative Programme |
| 09.45 – 10.30 hrs | Session I [Objectives and Scope of a National System of Child Labour Statistics (paragraphs 1 – 9)] |
| 10.30 – 10.50 hrs | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 10.50 – 12.00 hrs | Session II [Definitions and Measurement Approaches (paragraphs 10 – 14)] |
| 12.00 – 13.30 hrs | <i>Lunch Break</i> |
| 13.30 – 15.10 hrs | Session III [Definitions and Measurement Approaches .. <i>contd.</i> (paragraphs 15 – 27)] |
| 15.10 – 15.30 hrs | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 15.30 – 17.00 hrs | Session IV [Definitions and Measurement Approaches .. <i>contd.</i> (paragraphs 28 – 34)] |

Friday 1 February 2008 (Day Two)

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| 09.00 – 09.30 hrs | Draft Summary Record of Day One Discussions (Distributed and time given for reading) |
| 09.30 – 10.00 hrs | Comments/ Suggestions on Draft Summary Record |
| 10.00 – 10.30 hrs | Session V [Data Collection Methods and Programmes (paragraphs 35 – 43)] |
| 10.30 – 10.50 hrs | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 10.50 – 12.00 hrs | Session VI [Global Estimation Processes (paragraphs 44 – 48)]; Other Sources of Child Labour Information (paragraphs 49 – 50); and Items of Data Collection (paragraphs 51 – 55 and <i>Appendix</i>)] |
| 12.00 – 13.30 hrs | <i>Lunch Break</i> |
| 13.30 – 15.10 hrs | Session VII [Items of Data Collection .. <i>contd.</i> ; and Further Action (paragraphs 56 – 57)] |
| 15.10 – 15.30 hrs | Closing Remarks |
