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CLEAR COTTON

ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED LABOUR IN THE COTTON,
TEXTILE AND GARMENT VALUE CHAINS:
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

BRUSSELS
20 NOVEMBER 2018

CONFERENCE REPORT

Workshop and launch of the project
on the elimination of child labour
and forced labour in the cotton,
textile and garment value chains

CLEAR COTTON



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Executive Summary

On 20 November 2018 was held the workshop and project launch for the CLEAR Cotton project, on the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains, co-organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union (EU).

Cotton is one of the world's most widely grown crops and represents a significant source of living income in developing countries. Considering its use in the textile and garment production, cotton also contributes to the generation of additional income and employment in various sectors. However, its value chain is often associated with poor working conditions, including occurrences of child and forced labour. The CLEAR Cotton project will contribute to the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains through an integrated approach.

Event

The workshop brought together 90 practitioners to discuss innovative approaches to eliminate child and forced labour in the cotton industry. Participants included representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, governments, social partners, civil society, supply chain actors, cotton producers, ginning and textile factories, traders, buyers, consumers, and media.

Reference was made to the relevant EU policies and action plans and the pledges made at the Global Conference on the sustained eradication of child labour held in Buenos Aires in 2017.

Opening remarks were made by Ms. Henriette Geiger, Director "People and Peace" in the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission (DG DEVCO), Ms. Beate Andrees, Head of the ILO Fundamentals Principles and Rights at Work Branch, and Mr. Rodrigo De Lapuerta, Director of the FAO Liaison Office in Brussels.

They were followed by interventions by members of the European Parliament and two panel discussions involving representatives from the targeted countries – Burkino Faso, Mali and Pakistan – as well as from the IOE, the ITUC, C&A, Cargill, Consumer Goods Forum, the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the International Cotton Advisory Committee. Social partners were represented by Mr. Jeroen Beirnaert, ITUC, and Mr. Alvaro Schweinfurth from the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain representing the IOE.

Closing remarks were made by Mr. Leonardo Mizzi, Head of Unit, DEVCO C1 "Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition".

Discussion

In the opening session, the ILO's representative highlighted that with this project, the EU is delivering on the pledge it made one year ago at the Buenos Aires conference on the sustained eradication of child labour. The ILO will combine tools including the promotion of social dialogue, sustainable enterprises and social protection in the rural economy in order to ensure that the production of cotton becomes a source of economic growth and well-being.

The EU's representative stressed the fact that the project will look at the entire value chain, from field to factory, from producer to consumer. The FAO's representative stated that by

working together with the European Commission and with the ILO, stakeholders can better influence large-scale agriculture programmes to make them more responsible for decent work and for child labour.

The Members of the European Parliament, which supporters of the EU Garments engagement, highlighted the commitment of some European government to end child labour and forced labour and support due diligence efforts. They expressed their high expectations from the Clear Cotton project.

The opening session was followed by presentations of the project's framework from the EC, the ILO and the FAO as well its objectives and by two panels.

- **Panel 1 on “Towards Responsible Cotton, Textile and Garment: the Role of Companies and Actors within the Supply Chains”**

It was composed of representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, the consumer goods forum as well as producers represented by their cooperatives, major ginning companies, and textile companies at the national level, in addition to global traders and global garment companies. The aim of this session was to help all participants better understand the different perspectives along the supply chain with regard to child labour and forced labour as well as discrimination and freedom of association.

- **Panel 2 on “Setting the Stage for Impact at the Community Level: the Role of International and National Actors in Developing Adequate Strategies against Child and Forced Labour and in Empowering Cotton Communities”**

It examined how international actors, governments, private sector, and labour representatives are working together to develop an appropriate framework at the national and international level to prevent and eliminate child and forced labour and to promote a sustainable supply chain. The session tried to identify the tools that can offer a strong leverage in the targeted countries and the gaps in the international and national policy legal and policy frameworks. In addition, the session explored current initiatives aiming at eliminating child and forced labour through interventions that are community-based especially those that target cotton productions areas in particular.

Conclusion

The ILO's representative highlighted the importance to put the beneficiaries in the driver seat, as well as the value of putting together all the actors of the value chain. He emphasized the need for strengthened partnerships to contribute to the Alliance 8.7. The EU's representative emphasized the importance of the CLEAR Cotton project and the need for a tripartite approach to any discussion on child labour. He recalled the need for all relevant stakeholders to work in close collaboration and to better communicate on the efforts accomplished by this project.

Background

Cotton is one of the world's most widely grown crops. In 2017-2018, the total global production of cotton amounted to 26.93 million metric tons¹ and cotton is the most used textile fibre in the world as it provides the raw material for 40 to 50 per cent of all textiles in its form as cotton lint.² Cotton production is grown in more than 75 countries and represents a significant source of living income in developing countries. For many of these countries, the cotton value chain especially if extended to textile and garments production is central to economic growth but is often associated with poor working conditions. While problems associated with the value chain include various aspects related to the sustainability of cotton production, the high incidence of both child labour and forced labour remains a particular challenge. During the last decade, a number of relevant initiatives have developed. As such, governments, workers' and employers' organizations, private companies, producers and their organizations, and civil society organizations are reshaping their roles to strengthen the governance and the sustainability of the supply chain including through developing the appropriate mechanisms to eliminate child labour and forced labour.

Within this context, the CLEAR Cotton project will contribute to the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains through an integrated approach. It is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The project seeks to promote enhanced national legislation and policies, to address the basic needs and rights of children engaged or at risk of child labour, and of victims of forced labour. It adopts an integrated area-based approach, embedded in a value chain approach, to cooperate with local producers, industries and international buyers. The Project will be implemented over a period of four years starting in March 2018 and will mainly target three countries: Burkina Faso, Mali and Pakistan, together with a set of awareness raising activities in Peru.

The project includes an inception phase of six months that aims at refining and detailing the project strategy and interventions in the selected countries, in light of a mapping of existing information and interventions. Consultations with the representatives of the respective governments, employers' and workers' organizations, producers' organizations, CSOs, UN agencies, communities and other stakeholders aim at assessing and discussing national priorities, determining the major areas of interventions and the role of the relevant stakeholders through a participatory approach.

Purpose of the event

The main purpose of the event organized jointly by the ILO and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) was to launch the project and present its objectives and expected results. Further to the recent completion of the inception phase, the project also aims at linking the proposed country interventions to global efforts for the promotion of the sustainability of the cotton, textile and garment supply chains.

The event offered the opportunity of discussing and sharing information on relevant approaches and initiatives. The event also served to strongly identify opportunities to anchor the project in EU relevant policies and action plans and the pledges of Buenos Aires Conference and in Alliance 8.7, reinforcing its contribution to the achievement of Target 8.7.

¹ US. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign agricultural service, July 2018.

² International Labour Organization (2016), Child labour in cotton: A briefing.

The date of 20 November was selected to coincide with Universal Children's Day³ to remember that too many children still do not enjoy their basic rights and childhood because they are engaged in child labour in many sectors.

³ <http://www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/>

Opening Remarks

Ms. Henriette Geiger, *Director, DEVCO.B “People and Peace”, European Commission*, emphasized the importance of the commitment of all stakeholders for the EU projects to have an impact. When it comes to child labour, she noted that there are 152 million children involved in child labour and 25 million of those are entrapped in forced labour, mainly in the agricultural sector, fisheries, mining, construction, and domestic work. Cotton is another key sector with a high incidence of both child labour and forced labour.

Cotton is present in our everyday life; it is used in the textile and garment industry. It helps drive economic growth, and it is a significant source of income for producer contracts, and yet it is often associated with poor working conditions and abuses of various kinds. That is why the EU is co-funding the CLEAR Cotton project which reflects the collective commitment of the EU and its Member States to a sustainable garment industry worldwide by looking at the entire value chain, from the field to the factory.

The aim is to promote responsible and sustainable garment production in combining measures to uphold social environmental norms in order to improve working conditions and to make decent wage a reality, especially for women while, at the same time, insisting on transparency and traceability along the value chain— from small producer to consumers — by putting in place mechanisms to guarantee traceability that are both sustainable and transparent.

The project comprehensive approach tackles issues from various angles. It will work to improve laws and policies; address the basic needs and rights of children and their families; raise awareness and promote training; and provide decent jobs among young people and women in rural areas.

Ms. Geiger highlighted the importance of working together with other actors, especially the private sector, in order to reach the objective of eradicating child labour by 2025. She remains confident that the CLEAR Cotton project will help achieve target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda. She called upon participants to join forces and act now to end child and forced labour.

Ms. Beate Andreess, *Chief, FUNDAMENTALS Branch, ILO*, emphasized the strong commitment of the EU to the promotion and protection of human rights and the support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the long-standing commitment to the promotion of core labour standards. With this project, the EU is delivering on the pledge it made one year ago at the Buenos Aires conference on the sustained eradication of child labour. She also highlighted the long history of collaboration between the EU and the ILO, and the FAO and the ILO.

Ms. Andreess explained that the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights are at the core of the ILO’s mission and that the CLEAR Cotton project is deeply aligned with this strategy which recognizes that fundamental rights in the world of work are inalienable and indivisible human rights. She noted that there has been a lot of progress towards the eradication of child labour since it was first placed on the agenda in 1919.

However, progress remains too slow to achieve the SDG Target of ending all forms of child labour by 2025 and forced labour by 2030 — nearly no progress has been made over the last four years in the eradication of child labour of the youngest (For more information: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575499.pdf). Therefore there is a need to step up efforts, accelerate and coordinate action.

The CLEAR Cotton project will support stakeholders to take effective action to stop child and forced labour and should serve as an example to all 75 countries that produce cotton. Ms. Andrees believes we are in the right place and with the right combination of partners to find synergies and opportunities for the success of the CLEAR Cotton project.

Agricultural stakeholders play a major role in the supervision of child labour as they can have access to remote settings. They can provide complementary services; advise families on how to avoid work that may be inappropriate for the child's age and harmful to his health and well-being. Also, producers' organizations can promote good agricultural practices preventing the use of hazardous pesticides by children and explaining why children are more at risk than adults. Agriculture does not have to include child labour. Rural communities could place better value on education if offered the opportunities to secure production and their livelihoods.

The FAO believes that progress or failure on child labour elimination will be decided in the agriculture sector. Together with the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA), the FAO is ready to increase and scale up efforts to address the drivers of child labour in agriculture.



From left to right: Mr. Rodrigo De Lapuerta, Ms. Beate Andrees, Ms. Henriette Geiger, and Mr. Francesco D'Ovidio

The International Framework

The EU International Development and Cooperation Framework

Ms. Françoise Millecam, *Head of Sector, DEVCO B3 "Employment and Social Inclusion" Sector, European Commission*, focused on the political framework the European Union has been setting since 2006, with the adoption of several normative and working papers on the issue of global value chains and social responsibility of enterprises, including the Communication "Trade for all"⁴ published in October 2015 which focuses on commitment of partners at the corporate level on the responsible management of value chains and the EU flagship initiative in the garment sector adopted in 2017.

She noted that, in particular after the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013, there has been a firm commitment from the EU on the subject of responsible global supply chains, trying to promote decent work and to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically to Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Ms. Millecam praised the value of the CLEAR Cotton project as a pilot project for the EU, in collaboration with ILO and FAO, in key countries involved in all the stages of cotton production — Burkina Faso, Mali and Pakistan — and expressed her hopes of being able to replicate the good results of the project in other countries at a later stage.

ILO Relevant Action in the Field of Child Labour and Forced Labour

Mr. Francesco D'Ovidio, *Head, Solutions and Innovations Unit, FUNDAMENTALS, ILO*, recalled the ILO's engagement towards the elimination of child labour and, in particular, forced labour which started with the adoption of ILO Convention on Minimum Age in the Industrial Sector in 1919 (No. 5) and continued with the Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment in 1973 (No. 138).

He noted that the real impetus to fight child and forced labour came in 1998 and 1999 when the Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182) was first discussed with the idea to show to the world that a change could happen and that it was actually possible to fight child labour. In addition, after the adoption of ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) a holistic approach was adopted to tackle child labour also looking at forced labour, non-discrimination, freedom of association and collective bargaining. He stressed the importance of public policy and governance to tackle these issues.

Mr. D'Ovidio believes ILO's approach was successful since almost one hundred million children have been withdrawn from child labour in sixteen years. He noted however that the failure of trade liberalization to deliver job-rich economic growth in rural areas, increased inequality and persistent labour rights violations in complex value chains and caused a shift in the interventions to tackle child labour — reducing field interventions. In order to reach the target of 2025 to end child labour in all its forms, countries need to go faster, new partnerships have to be created between all relevant

⁴ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153846.pdf

stakeholders, and other possibilities to fight against child labour should be explored, such as technology-enabled solutions.

Last, Mr. D'Ovidio stressed the importance of focusing the action in those countries which have high incidence of child labour. That is why the ILO is promoting the "Pathfinder countries" idea to show that it is possible –building on country commitments- to make a difference, to be innovative and to go faster in the fight against child labour.



Mr. Francesco D'Ovidio, ILO and Ms. Françoise Millecam, European Commission

Intervention by Members of the European Parliament

Mr. Arne Lietz, *Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament*, mentioned the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear sector⁵ and highlighted the German Textile Initiative, in which around 50 percent of the German businesses have come together to work towards putting an end to child labour. He reiterated the commitment of the German government to end child labour and praised the strong commitment and due diligence of the Netherlands and Denmark. Moreover, Mr. Lietz stressed the importance of working with NGOs and businesses to try to build capacity and focus on due diligence. He noted that the next EU parliament should look at adopting an EU-wide regulation as the answer to labour standards in the global supply chains as trade should not only concern national markets but the EU as a whole.

Ms. Lola Sánchez Caldentey, *Member of the Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left* expressed her eagerness on the objectives of the CLEAR Cotton project. She noted, however, that a quick overview of the cotton industry reveals the huge challenges lying ahead to the elimination of child labour and forced labour. The social and environmental consequences of cotton farming need to be integrated with the labour, human rights and the broader economic dimension. She highlighted that while cotton covers only 2.4 percent of the world's cultivated land, cotton production uses 6 percent of all pesticides and 16 percent of all insecticides, more than any other single crop. Furthermore, it takes 10,000 liters of water to produce one kilo of cotton, it takes about 2,700 liters to make one cotton t-shirt. To conclude, Ms. Sanchez noted that the development of multi-stakeholder projects on the ground should not be used to postpone the actions still needed in Europe, on a legislative aspect, including binding due diligence legislation based on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises⁶. She believes that guaranteeing human dignity and basic human rights should be neither a recommendation nor an option but a clear obligation.

Discussion

The following issues were highlighted through questions from participants and answers from panellists.

Pakistan and its GSP+ Status

Despite its shortcoming when it comes to human rights violations and child labour, Pakistan was granted Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) status by the EU in 2014. However, this came after a long process of monitoring and assuring that the necessary reforms had taken place in the country. Moreover, there was a strong commitment to carry out further reforms from the government of Pakistan and social partners before Pakistan was finally granted GSP+ status.

EU Flagship Initiative

When it comes to the EU Flagship Initiative, the request is for binding legislation on due diligence in the whole supply chain — using the OECD Guidelines. The EU member States are moving along and making some very good proposals and passing legislation, such as the French Corporate Duty of Vigilance Law,⁷ on this issue and on the control of the supply chain by the businesses. Moreover, public pressure is mounting as the general public now knows how clothes are made.

⁵ <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/oecd-due-diligence-guidance-garment-footwear.pdf>

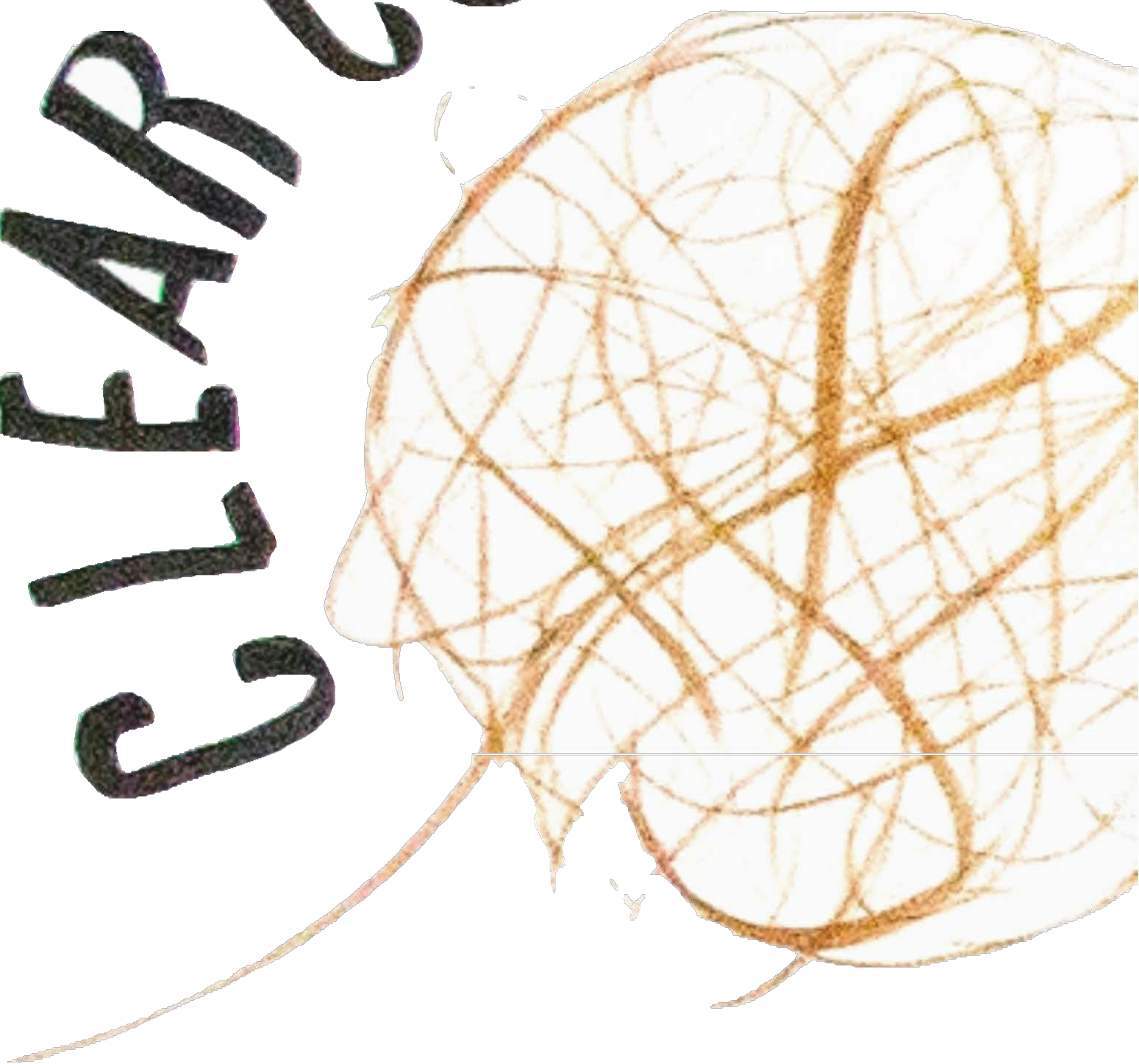
⁶ <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/guidelines/>

⁷ <http://corporatejustice.org/documents/publications/french-corporate-duty-of-vigilance-law-faq.pdf>



Mr. Arne Lietz and Ms. Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Members of the European Parliament

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The CLEAR Cotton project

The EU Support to Clear Cotton

Ms. Maria Rosa De Paolis, *Policy Officer*

for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

pointed out that the EU has already funded around 150 projects to end child labour in approximately 65 countries. In 2016, the EU wanted to better tackle child labour and conducted a study to understand the best ways to address child labour in a new, globalized world. At the end of the study, the EU was recommended a more integrated approach, which would engage with stakeholders on practical issues and support organizations that represent the victims of child and forced labour and the marginalized groups to which they often belong.

Taking an integrated approach in the global value chain of cotton production, the CLEAR Cotton project will focus on countries with high prevalence of child and forced labour, linked with the European market in global value chains. With ILO's advice, the EU decided to focus on Burkina Faso and Mali, two cotton producers' countries where child labour is very prevalent. Pakistan is also part of the countries covered as a cotton producer country but also a manufacturer. Moreover, some awareness-raising activities will be implemented in Peru.

Presentation of the Project

Key issues concerning child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment supply chain and the project's response

Ms. Badra Alawa, *Chief Technical Advisor, ILO*, explained that the CLEAR Cotton project is co-funded by the EU Development Cooperation Instrument and will be implemented by the ILO in collaboration with the FAO, in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and Peru. The project, which has a duration of four years, started in March 2018 and is now coming to the end of its inception phase and will start being fully implemented.

Ms. Alawa noted that the project beneficiaries are children and their families working at any level of the cotton, garment and textile production chains; victims of forced labour and workers at risk of forced labour. The project aims at contributing to the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains in target producing countries. It promotes enhanced national legislation and policies to address the basic needs of children engaged or at risk of child labour.

Ms. Alawa noted that the two main outcomes of the project are to strengthen national legislation, regulations, policies and programmes to combat child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment sector; and to work with local governments, public service providers, and other relevant stakeholders to take effective action to stop child labour and forced labour in target growing districts and communities and garment/textile factories. The project combines integrated area-based and value chain approaches cooperating with governments, social partners, local farmers, communities, industries, and international buyers. Child labour is found mainly in tier 4 of the supply chain in land preparation; crop protection including manipulation of pesticides; weeding; irrigation; manual harvesting as well as in weaving and cotton seed oil production. In tiers 4, 2 and 1, there are forms of bonded labour, withholding of wages, restriction of movement, excessive overtime, and abusive working and living conditions involving adolescent labour.

She noted that from the perspective of eradicating child labour and forced labour throughout the full range of activities from informal settings to markets, the systemic value chains approach will seek to working with different types of actors in order to identify where children are working and where they are victims of forced labour, understand the economic, social and/or cultural reasons for this and implement adequate solutions.



Ms. Maria Rosa De Paolis, European Commission

The Project's focus on livelihoods, the role of the FAO

Mr. Bernd Seifert, *former* *Director of Decent Rural Employment*

officer and focal

FAO, noted that the FAO will work on livelihoods and vulnerable families, focusing its intervention at the community level. Given that the FAO is already present in all three beneficiary countries, it will use the experience acquired, including in sustainable cotton production and value chain development.

Mr. Seifert stressed that since poverty and hunger are among the core drivers of child labour, the FAO wants to make the linkage to already existing programmes and new upcoming programmes in the target countries, as one way of reaching scale. Moreover, the FAO will assist the appeal to influence agricultural policies and strategies and strategic programs in the country.

He noted that in the livelihood aspect there are two typical drivers of child labour: poverty and the lack of livelihoods alternative. One solution could be to explore and pilot additional income generating activities; to increase profitability or quantity of production in the cotton field in order not to depend on child labour anymore. Another solution could be to identify other practices and technologies in cotton farming which removes the hazardous tasks that children are usually engaged in.

The second underlying cause of child labour that the FAO will address is the widespread perception in

local communities that children working alongside adults represent a safe element of socialization — replacing or complementing common education. There will be a capacity development and awareness raising component looking to change the behaviours of communities towards child labour through participative approaches.

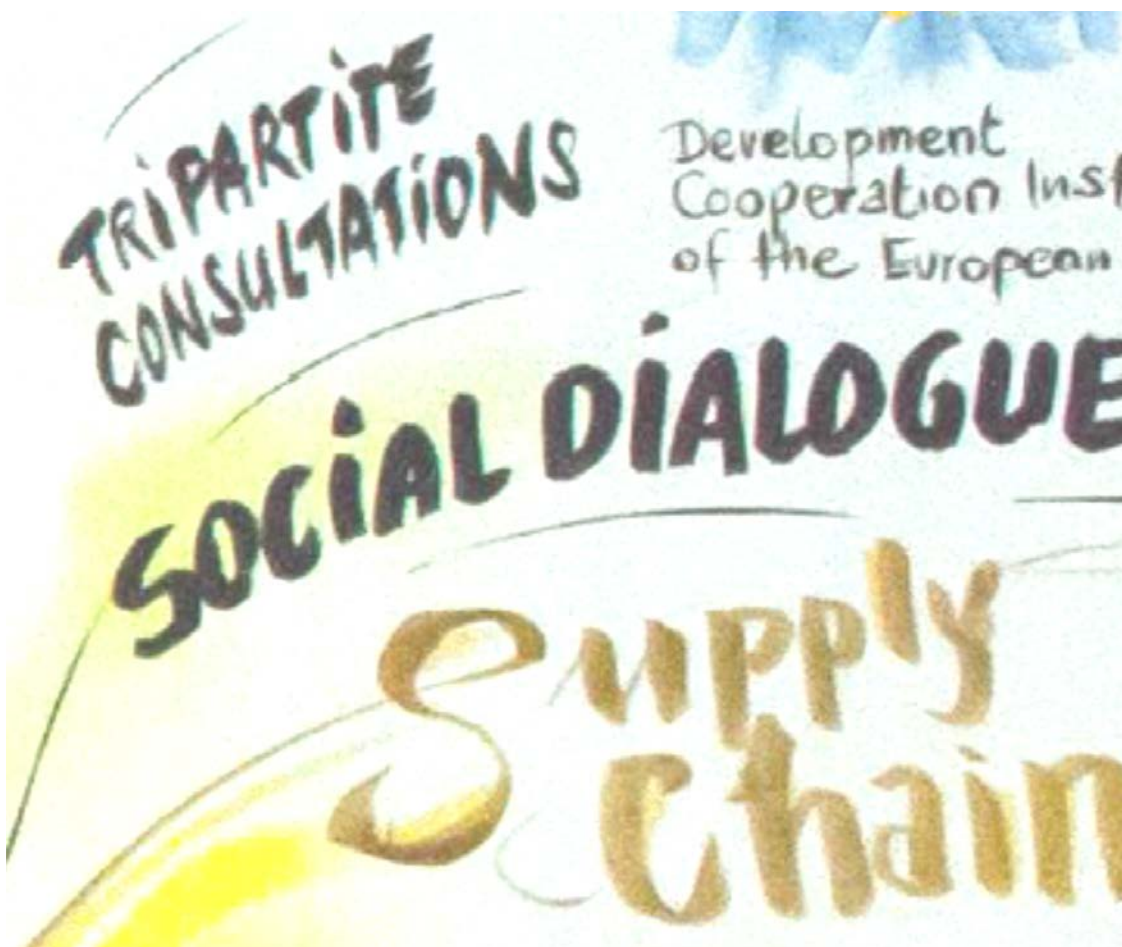
In addition, since fifty percent of the budget goes to civil society, the FAO will look at ways of operating and partnering with local NGOs and others to create more awareness on this issue. To conclude, Mr. Seiffert thinks the CLEAR Cotton project should link to larger existing programs, such as food security programs and agricultural programs, where the positive experience of the CLEAR Cotton project could be taken up and rescaled to reach more communities and to have a bigger impact.

Panel 1: Towards responsible cotton, textile and garment: The role of companies and actors within the supply chain

This panel examined how child labour and forced labour occur deep in the supply chain, farmers struggle with challenges in ensuring a sustainable income and decent working conditions for their families, including children, and businesses often lack visibility of the problem and leverage to ensure sustainable solutions.

The panel was composed by representatives of employers' organizations, workers' organizations, the consumer goods forum as well as producers represented by their cooperatives, major ginning companies, and textile companies at the national level, in addition to global traders and global garment companies.

The aim of this session was to help all participants better understand the different perspectives along the supply chain with regard to child labour and forced labour as well as discrimination and freedom of association. Presentations were followed by a question and answer session. The panel was chaired by Ms. Beate Andrees, Chief, FUNDAMENTALS Branch, ILO.



Mr. Alvaro Schweinfurth, *Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE), member of the International Organization of Employers (IOE)*, described what the IOE does to promote fundamental principles and rights at work and to address challenges in the supply chain, which is mainly to raise awareness leading to action by guiding companies on how to use the UN Guiding Principles and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as a guide. Moreover, it is also helping companies to identify and mitigate the risks of child and forced labour. Mr. Schweinfurth noted that while all the big companies are implementing codes of conduct, the idea is to promote this on medium and small companies as well.

Mr. Jeroen Beirnaert, *Human and Trade Union Rights Coordinator, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)*, noted that when it comes to issues such as child and forced labour, cotton production and agriculture are some of the most challenging sectors to organize. There will be none, or only a few, representatives/trade union structures along the supply chain. He emphasized the existence of regulatory frameworks, which prevent workers in agriculture from organizing in several countries — including Pakistan — and the need to work towards modifying this legislation. Last but not least, he noted that agriculture is largely informal which makes it harder for unions to reach out to workers, thus the need to be creative and form alliances between actors to do so.

Mr. Raymond Dansoko, *Confederation of Cooperative Societies of Cotton Producers Mali*, explained the challenges producers face and what confidence cooperatives can make. He noted that the confederation works on the promotion and valorisation of cotton production in particular, to guarantee the revenue of the producer.

Mr. Dansoko focused on the causes of child labour and forced labour in Mali, including poverty, and the risks this carries for children — including contact with hazardous materials. He praised the work of the FAO in this respect since, with the help of its visual guides, women and children are spared from any contact with pesticides and insecticides in Mali. Moreover, Mr. Dansoko stressed the importance of education in the eradication of child labour noting that a child not attending school is a child that is exposed to work.

Mr. Sibiri Sou, *Burkinabe Society of Textile Fibres, Burkina Faso*, focused on the challenges the country faces and how it engages with the producers to tackle child labour in the fields and on the farm. He noted that while Burkina Faso has ratified all key international Conventions concerning child labour and established national laws and regulations related to child labour, it is now necessary to implement this on the ground in order to eradicate child labour.

He stressed the importance of moving beyond awareness raising and the need to support producers to deter them from using child labour by providing alternatives, such as mechanization or solar power equipment, especially during harvest when there is a great need for labour.

Mr. Azhar Majeed Shaikh, *Arzoo Textile Mills Ltd, Pakistan*, focused his attention on the economics of child labour in countries where cotton is grown. He noted that cotton-producing countries are not able to provide basic services, such as education, health and food security, to children.

Mr. Majeed shared the view of other panelists on the need for children who are working in the cotton farms and garment producing factories to be in school. He remains confident that with the commitment of the international community child labour can be eliminated in the near future.

Mr. Carl Peltzer, *Commercial Manager for Cotton, Cargill Incorporated*, emphasized that Cargill is fully aware of the need for due diligence and responsibility by putting measures in place, such as pre-qualification from their suppliers to embed more contractual terms around this issue. He noted that

several of the suppliers are governmental entities that should engage in the process and assume the responsibility of their role in the issue. He highlighted the engagement of Cargill with the ILO as a fundamental change in their attitude towards a decent work approach. To conclude, he praised the corporate mentality that aims at doing things right and to work towards the elimination of child labour.

Mr. Aleix Gonzalez Busquets, *Global Head of External Stakeholder Engagement and Global Sustainability, C&A*, explained the company faced internal — from shareholders — and external pressure to understand the power of the supply chain and it had been, slowly but steadily, going upstream in the supply chain in a quest that started 15 years ago. He stressed the importance for all organizations to work on transparency and to focus on collaboration between partners to be able to tackle child labour.

Mr. Didier Bergeret, *Director of Social Sustainability, Consumer Goods Forum*, explained they are working to commit the whole industry to eradicate forced labour. He noted there still is a large denial on the issue of forced labour globally — at the industry, company, country, and consumer levels — largely due to the complexity of the issue. However, it is now time to move away from denial and get the industry to effectively recognize the problem.

Mr. Bergeret noted the importance that companies recognize existing forms of forced labour in the supply chain. The Consumers Good Forum developed three principles to guide company actions against forced labour so that every worker could have freedom of movement; that no one pays for a job; and no worker should be coerced to work. He highlighted the pertinence of the CLEAR Cotton project's approach in that regard. Finally, he reiterated the need to stop duplicating efforts and start organizing efforts.



Mr R. Dansoko (CSCPC), Mr. J. Beirnaert (ITUC), Mr. A. Schweinfurth (CEOE/IOE), Mr. D. Bergeret (CGF) and Ms. B. Andrees (ILO).

Discussion

The following issues were highlighted through questions from conference participants and answers from panellists.

Voluntary Standards

Voluntary standards certification can be a good aggregator or facilitator as one way of moving forward in the agenda of child labour eradication. However, there are a growing number of voluntary standards with different methodologies in place, making it difficult for companies to decide on which certification to use. Setting up homogeneous standards is key. Moreover, while they are helpful exercises, they have limitations, as they do not push the bar higher in understanding what due diligence in the supply chains means for companies. How companies need to interpret due diligence goes well beyond certification schemes and voluntary standards. There needs to be an engagement with local stakeholders, with cooperatives, and especially with workers throughout the supply chain.

Competition

In developing emerging economies, of the 24 million tons of cotton produced 10 million are traded with international buyers and the other 14 million are sold locally. So how do companies which are trying to buy from trusted sources can compete with other traders that do not have such strong ethical policies or pressure from the government? While in developed countries, the playfield of cotton production is very equal, in developing countries, it can be distorted because different traders uphold different standards.

Procurement

How to encourage business to not just strive for compliance, but also to actually look for solutions in a collaborative manner? There is a need to guide governments to form a level playing field and to get them to implement an adapted procurement process that will send a clear market signal that cotton produced in Mali, Burkina Faso and Pakistan meets international standards — which can seriously change the way international markets are functioning.



Mr. S. Sou (Sofitex), Mr A. Busquets Gonzales (C&A) and Mr. C. PLetzer (Cargill Imtd)

Children is all we have

Cotton is the main source of Income in Mali!!!

La Phénomène et localiser principalement dans la **PAUVRETE**

CLEAR COTTON

Abdoulaye Diarra - Mali

GINNING FACTORY

TEXTILE FACTORY

ACT!

Integrated approaches on a zone by zone basis

Importance to giving representation to women in decision making bodies

Children shouldn't get out of the Cotton Sector to go work into another sector

Amie Rodra Awa

Pollination using child labour

Production of Cotton Seeds

PLANTATION

SMALL HOLDER FARMERS

Act in an integrated fashion and do it globally!

Une Coalition des Gouvernements!

Mr. Sekou Di Gassou - Mali

Transforming local industries to remove children from the fields..

Small scale farms to boost their income

Delphine Zougrana - Burkina Faso

Main Reasons

- For farmers to send children to work
- Induce children to prostitution
- Shortage of manpower
- Lack of revenue in cotton
- Land holding

Transit educative socialisant

Government Procurement

Mme. Olde Olhof - Netherlands

One size fits all approach may not work



GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Omar Hameed - Pakistan

Structure of Rural Economy is based on Profit, Loss Sharing and not Employer, Worker, Relationship

TRANSPORT

We want to see concrete results

The International Instruments help forces to identify their responsibilities

Multistakeholder Agreements to promote decent work

Structure of fund against Child Labour

Panel 2: Setting the stage for impact at the community level: the role of international and national actors in developing adequate strategies against child and forced labour and in empowering cotton communities

This session examined how international actors, governments, private sector, and labour representatives are working together to develop an appropriate framework at the national and international levels to prevent and eliminate child and forced labour and to promote a sustainable supply chain. This session tried to identify the tools that can offer a strong leverage in the targeted countries and the gaps to be filled in the international and national legal and policy frameworks.

In addition, the session explored current initiatives aiming at eliminating child and forced labour through interventions that are community-based, especially those that target cotton production area. Presentations were followed by a question and answer session. The panel was chaired by Mr. Bernd Seiffert, Decent rural employment officer and focal point on child labour in agriculture, FAO.

Ms. Conny W. Olde Olthof, *Head of Unit, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the Netherlands*, expressed her beliefs that international instruments (United Nations Guiding Principles on Human Rights, OECD Guidelines, ILO MNE declaration, etc.) offer an overarching framework for countries and businesses to promote decent work and human rights in the workplace. However, for many countries, including the Netherlands, international instruments go beyond national legislation and they can help member States to identify their human rights responsibilities in the workplace.

Ms. Olthof also elaborated on the Dutch government's initiatives to promote decent work through a multi-stakeholder approach by promoting sustainable sourcing and due diligence of businesses. Some of the initiatives of the Dutch government are: a structural fund against child labour to help find the root causes of child labour in partnership with NGOs and local actors; the promotion of sustainable and decent production; to strengthen regulation and enforcement in production countries; to influence the international agenda and foster cooperation and international fora — including Alliance 8.7; and to conduct research and knowledge sharing on decent work, for example, research and support to monitor the pledges that were made at the Global Conference in Buenos Aires in 2017 as it is necessary not only to record the pledges but also to measure their concrete impact.

H.E. Sekou dit Gaoussou Cisse, *Ambassador, Embassy of Mali in Brussels*, congratulated the organizers of the event and highlighted the importance of being a beneficiary country of the CLEAR Cotton project for Mali since cotton and children are very central to the public policies of the country. He emphasized the government of Mali's works in collaboration with key partners such as the EU, the ILO, the FAO and UNICEF, within an integrated and global approach.

Mr. Cisse noted the country's commitment to fight child labour. In this regard, Mali has adopted a National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour. The first step towards the elimination of child labour is to focus on the social aspect of the issue by bringing the school closer to the children and ensuring their access to quality education. It is key to raise awareness and communicate with farmers on the dangers child labour carries for children and the need for them to be schooled.

With regard to empowering cotton farmers and developing transformation industries, Mr. Cisse stressed the need to better equip farmers, assist in the mechanization and use of innovative technology to

improve production and transform local industries.

To conclude, Mr. Cisse expressed his belief that Mali can do even better by forming a coalition between the government, the private sector, and international organizations — such as the ILO; towards the elimination of child labour.

Mr. Omar Hameed, *Economic Minister, Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels*, elaborated on the structure of agriculture in Pakistan, based on cost and benefits sharing between the farmers and the landlords. He noted that the government is focused on farmers' welfare and has put in place several programmes and incentives — such as loans — for farmers.

With regard to child labour in the cotton value chain in Pakistan, Mr. Hameed indicated that in his views, there are other sectors more vulnerable to child labour than cotton and that child labour incidence varies from province to province in the country. He highlighted that in 2017, the National Assembly passed the National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act aimed to protect children's rights.

Mr. Hameed thanked the Dutch government for their guidance at the ongoing Pakistan Buyers' Forum, an initiative aimed at improving productivity, workers safety and compliance of the country under the GSP+ scheme.

Ms. Delphine Zoungrana, *Technical Advisor, Union of Cotton producers (UNPCB), Burkina Faso*, explained that UNPCB is the umbrella organization for all cotton cooperatives of Burkina Faso. It brings together more than 350,000 farms with more than 3 million beneficiaries. She indicated that there are 28 provinces that produce cotton in Mali and that the Union represents many small-scale family farms.

Ms. Zoungrana noted that the main reasons for farmers to send their children to work are: a way of introducing their children to their profession — social and education based form of work; shortage of manpower — a by-product of the school sector; lack of revenue for certain agricultural holdings; distance from home to school and cost of sending children to school; and difficulty for certain children in experiencing success at school, thus the decision to teach them a trade instead.

As a cooperative, since 2004, UNPCB has been working in the promotion of fair and organic cotton among women and small farmers as well as on awareness raising activities to promote compliance with labour standards and obtain a fair organic certification. When asked about the measures enabling smallholder farmers not to depend anymore on child labour, Ms. Zoungrana emphasized the need to promote organic cotton production among small farmers and women-led businesses; to focus on agricultural mechanization; to provide income generating activities; and the need to enhance access for small farmers to finance.

She noted that promoting a bottom-up change is really important for the implementation of the CLEAR Cotton project in Burkina Faso, as well as the dissemination of information in order for all the different actors to come together and work towards the eradication of child labour in the country.

Mr. Abdoulaye Diarra, *Technical Advisor, Malian Company for Textile Development (CMDT)*, highlighted that cotton is the main source of income in agriculture in Mali and, as such, fundamental for Mali's development. However, children do a lot of the work in the cotton fields manually. Children often plow the land, which could be replaced by animals and mechanization, reducing the need to have children working in farms.

Mr. Diarra noted that poverty is the main cause of child labour and emphasized the need to create income-generating activities for women to allow them to complement men's work and, therefore,

eliminate child labour. In this regard, the CMDT is working together with villagers in the most remote farms in the rural areas by providing them training to monitor child labour. Working together with the villagers is key for the development of their activities.

Ms. Badra Alawa, *Chief Technical Advisor, ILO*, explained that the ILO has carried out projects related to the elimination of child labour in 115 countries since 1992, working on national action plans, policies and, strategies to fight against child labour, with employers and workers organizations. These interventions consisted of integrated approaches in the fight against child labour on a zone-by-zone basis, at the level of the community, looking at the multiple dimensions of the problem and seeking to approach the question of child labour in an integrated manner. The ILO has also been working on forced labour issues through more than 60 projects since the past twenty years.

Access to basic and quality education and vocational training and putting in place a monitoring system that follows the situation of every child in a regular manner are key to guarantee children move out of the vicious circle of poverty. The idea is to assure zones free of child labour. Interventions in the communities that are contributing to the supply chains and using an integrated area-based approach are essential to strengthen community resilience and ensure the complete elimination of the different forms of child labour and forced labour. Ms. Alawa noted that there needs to be a synergy between the actions within the CLEAR Cotton project and other initiatives to ensure that children removed from child labour situations in the cotton sector are not being employed in another sector.

She highlighted the importance of looking at the issue in an integrated approach also taking into account other challenges concerning fundamental principles and rights at work and forced labour and to do so by coordinating with all the actors involved in the process, including private companies

Ms. Alawa emphasized the importance of giving higher representation to women in decision-making bodies including those of cooperatives and studying the specific needs of girls in child labour situation as well as the importance of social dialogue, especially in the garment sector where working conditions need to be monitored.

Mr. Kai Hughes, *Executive director, International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)*, explained that the International Cotton Advisory Committee is an intergovernmental body formed in 1939 based in Washington D.C., representing 58 countries, including Mali, Burkina Faso and Pakistan. It is the only intergovernmental body representing the cotton and textile value chain and only one of seven international commodity bodies recognized by the United Nations.

ICAC's mission is to foster a healthy world cotton economy, through serving as a forum for governments to develop policies and solutions to problems. It encourages the development and dissemination of knowledge; promotes transparency, objective debate, and the harmonization of common practices throughout the cotton value chain; and it also promotes sustainability and traceability. ICAC produces statistics and information on cotton and provides technical research — with a network of over 2,000 cotton research scientists. Moreover, ICAC organizes the forum for global policies on cotton, where member governments meet once a year to serve as a catalyst for cooperative action on issues of significance.

Last, Mr. Hughes noted that while mechanization is a solution to eliminate child labour from the cotton fields, yields could also be a solution. Africa has the lowest yields in the world, increasing the yields and growing more cotton in that same land would mean an extra million tons which would be enough to bring farmers out of poverty.

Discussion

The following issues were highlighted through questions from conference participants and answers from panellists.

Improving the situation in all value chains

The CLEAR Cotton project will not tackle child labour in cotton isolation but instead it will be adopting a wide definition of the value chain to be as inclusive as possible and it will be addressing the legislation and policies in child labour in general. Besides, it will not be an isolated action, as it will be linked to other ILO and FAO work on the subject.

Fair price

To guarantee the elimination of child labour in the cotton supply chain producers need to receive a fair price for their product. There is a minimum price that is guaranteed to the producer. Costs and prices of cotton in the international market are considered and then the price is fixed together with the producers.



From left to right: H.E. Sekou dit Gaoussou Cisse, Ms. Conny W. Olde Olthof, Ms. Badra Alawa, Mr. Bernd Seiffert, Ms. Delphine Zoungana, Mr. Abdoulaye Diarra, and Mr. Omar Hameed



Workshop's participants



RESULTS



Main Takeover from the Event and the Way Forward

Mr. Francesco D'Ovidio, *ILO*, praised the political commitment expressed by the representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Ambassador of Mali, the representative of the Dutch government to achieve a clear cotton production. He stressed the importance of the beneficiaries of the CLEAR Cotton project to be on the driver seat, communicating what is feasible and works in their countries.

Mr. D'Ovidio highlighted the value of putting together all the actors of the supply chain: producers, consumers, workers, employers, governments, retail, and buyers. It is worth making an extra effort to map out the cotton supply chain in a coherent way and to identify the Decent Work deficits and work to address them. He noted that at the community level, there are several needs and challenges when it comes to education, awareness raising and enterprise upgrading. There is also a need to give a voice to those who are not heard, the workers themselves and particularly women. Moreover, he emphasized the need for local solutions, including innovation and mechanization.

Mr. D'Ovidio stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships to contribute to the Alliance 8.7. To conclude, he suggested a localized approach, including a consultation of the cotton global supply chain in Africa, to visualize what the beneficiary countries would like to achieve by the end of the CLEAR Cotton project.

He noted that three additional important themes were highlighted during the panel discussions: the importance of fair prices, transparency, and traceability.



From left to right: Ms. Maria Rosa de Paolis, Mr. Bernd Seiffert, Mr. Leonard Mizzi, Mr. Francesco D'Ovidio and Ms. Badra Alawa

Closing Remarks

Mr. Leonard Mizzi, *Head of Unit, DEVCO C1 “Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition”, European Commission*, highlighted the importance of this project implemented by both the ILO and the FAO. He recommended tracking the activities of the project while working in close collaboration with other UN agencies, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to ensure a one UN approach and see how all the actors involved are contributing to the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, Mr. Mizzi underlined the importance of a tripartite — governments, employers and trade unions — approach in any discussion on child labour. He expressed his desire to see more work on certification on the role of sustainable investments in value chains. Last but not least, he emphasized the need to provide a framework to make agriculture a business that is viable and safe.

Mr. Mizzi highlighted the importance of better communicating the work — and impact — the CLEAR Cotton project has on the ground by involving the civil society and the local communities to promote a culture of change that would not only be top-down but also bottom-up.



Mr. Leonardo Mizzi, Head of Unit, DEVCO C1, European Commission

Annexes

Annex 1 | Agenda

8:30-9:00	Welcoming co freelance registration
9:00-9:30	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Henriette Geiger, Director B "People and Peace", DEVCO, European Commission Ms. Beate Andrees, Chief, FUNDAMENTALS Branch, ILO Mr. Rodrigo De Lapuerta, Director, Liaison Office in Brussels, FAO
9:30-10:00	The International Framework <p>The EU International Development and Cooperation Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Françoise Millecam, Head of Sector, DEVCO B3 "Employment and Social Inclusion" Sector, European Commission <p>ILO relevant action in the field of child labour and forced labour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Francesco D'Ovidio, Head, Solutions and Innovations Unit, FUNDAMENTALS, ILO
10:00-10:30	Intervention by Members of the European Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Lola Sanchez Mr. Arne Lietz
10:30-11:00	The CLEAR Cotton project <p>The EU support to CLEAR COTTON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Maria Rosa De Paolis, Policy Officer, Employment and Social Inclusion, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission <p>Presentation of the project: Key issues concerning child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment supply chain and the project's response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Badra Alawa, Chief technical advisor, ILO <p>The project's focus on livelihoods, the role of the FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Bernd Seifert, Decent rural employment officer and focal point on child labour in agriculture, FAO
11:00-11:30	Co freelance break
11:30-13:15	Towards responsible cotton, textile and garment: the role of companies and actors within the supply chain <p><u>Objective of the session:</u> Recognizing that the primary role of implementing</p>

	<p>international labour standards and in enforcing the law remains with the governments; private companies can have an important complementary role in promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW), in particular with regard to fighting child labour and forced labour along the supply chain. This implies engaging with workers and their representatives, producers and farmers to develop a more sustainable supply chain that is free of child labour and forced labour and guarantees decent work. This session will explore the key role of private companies and actors within the supply chain, including informal settings, in improving working conditions in general, and in monitoring the prevalence of child labour and forced labour and fighting it. This session will also allow to get the view of workers through their representatives, farmers, producers, producers groups, and companies in the higher tiers on the means that can best have an impact on eliminating child labour and forced labour from their perspective.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Beate Andrees, ILO <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Alvaro Schweinfurth, Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE) ▪ Mr. Jeroen Beirnaert, International Trade Union Confederation ▪ Mr. Didier Bergeret, Consumer Goods Forum ▪ Mr. Raymond Dansoko, Confédération des sociétés coopératives des producteurs de coton, Mali ▪ Mr. Sibiri Sou, Société des Fibres Textiles, Burkina Faso ▪ Mr. Azhar Majeed Shaikh, Arzoo Textile Mills Ltd, Pakistan ▪ Mr. Aleix Gonzalez Busquets, C&A ▪ Mr. Carl Peltzer, Cargill Incorporated <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
13:15-14:15	Lunch Break
14:15-15:45	<p>Setting the stage for impact at the community level: the role of international and national actors in developing adequate strategies against child and forced labour and in empowering cotton communities</p> <p><u>Objective of the session:</u> This session will examine how international actors, governments, private sector, labour representatives are working together to develop an appropriate framework at the international and national levels to eliminate and prevent child labour and forced labour and to promote the sustainability of the supply chain in general. It will try to identify the tools that can offer a strong leverage in the targeted countries and the gaps in the international and national policy legal and policy frameworks. In addition, interventions in the communities that are contributing to the supply chains, using an area-based approach, are essential to strengthen community resilience, prevent displacement from one form of child labour and forced labour to another, and thus ensure the complete elimination of these forms. As such, this session will explore as well the current initiatives aiming at eliminating child labour and forced labour through interventions</p>

	<p>that are community-based especially those that target cotton productions areas in particular.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Bernd Seiffert, FAO <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. C.W. Olde Olthof, Head of Unit, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, The Netherlands ▪ H.E. Mr. Sekou dit Gaoussou Cisse, Ambassador, Embassy of Mali in Brussels ▪ Mr. Omar Hameed, Economic Minister, Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels ▪ Ms. Delphine Zoungrana, Technical Manager, Union of Cotton Producers, Burkina Faso ▪ Mr. Abdoulaye Diarra, Technical Advisor, Malian Compagny for Textile Development (CMDT) ▪ Ms. Badra Alawa, ILO ▪ Mr. Kai Hughes, Executive director, International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
15:45-16:15	Co break
16:15-17:00	<p>Main takeover from the event and the way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Francesco D'Ovidio, ILO
17:00-17:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, DEVCO C1 "Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition", European Commission

Annex 2 | List of Participants

The ILO and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) thank all participants for their precious contributions and invaluable insights. Present at the Conference were:

Participants	Organization	Role/Function
Aziz AHAMMOUT	Human Resources Without Borders	Director of Operations
Francesca ALAMPI	CNA Federmoda	
Badra ALAWA	ILO	CTA
Javier ALCAZAR	European Commission	DG AGRI International Relations
Beate ANDREES	ILO	
Myrto ARVANITI	FAO	Marketing and Communications Officer
Mambila BANSE	Embassy of Burkina Faso in Brussels	
Jeroen BEIRNAERT	ITUC	
Ana María BELINCHÓN MARTÍN	Press agency Agencia EFE	Journalist
Didier BERGERET	Consumer Goods Forum	
Adriano BOLCHINI	ILO-Brussels	Intern
Andrea BROUWER	International Justice Mission	Political Advisor
Aleix BUSQUETS GONZALEZ	C&A	Global Head of External Stakeholder Engagement - Sustainability
Benjamin CLARKE	UK Representation to the EU	Justice and Home Affairs
Raymond DANSOKO	Confederation of Cooperatives Companies of Cotton Producers in Mali (Confédération des Sociétés Coopératives des Producteurs de Coton)	Coordinator
Michel DE KNOOP	European Commission	Head of EU delegation to ICAC
Rodrigo DE LAPUERTA	FAO	Director FAO Brussel
Maria Rosa DE PAOLIS	European Commission DEVCO B3	Policy Officer Employment and Social Inclusion

Participants	Organization	Role/Function
Karolien DEBEL	FOS	
Romain DEVEZE	Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)	Global programme manager
Lamine DIALLO	European Commission	Employment and social inclusion sector
Abdoulaye DIARRA	Malian Compagny for Textile Development (Compagnie malienne pour le Développement des Textiles - CMDT)	Technical Advisor in Agronomy
Javier DÍAZ PENA	Inditex	Social Sustainability Manager
Sekou DIT GAOUSSOU CISSE	Embassy of Mali in Brussels	
Sita DJELANTIK	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands	Policy officer
Francesco D'OVIDIO	ILO	
Heloise DUBOIS	World Bank	
Yasmine EL AGHAOU	ULB (Solvay)	Final year master student
Laure EVEN	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Attaché
Rossita FRUEGER	Fairtrade	
Susanne GASDE	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Head of Division CSR
Marjorie GASS	Nike	Director Sustainability / Government and Public Affairs
Henriette GEIGER	European Commission	DG DEVCO Director B "People and Peace"
Ariane GENTHON	FAO	
Monique GERSON	Amfori	Social System Coordinator
Daphné GOGOU	European Commission	Senior policy officer
Gustavo GONZALEZ-QUIJANO	COTANCE	Secretary General
Samuel GRUMIAU	Education International	Consultant/Coordination anti child labour projects
Eva HAEVERANS	Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs	Policy Officer

Participants	Organization	Role/Function
Omar HAMEED	Pakistan Mission to the EU / Embassy of Pakistan	Economic Minister
Caitlin HELFRICH	ILO	
Kai HUGHES	International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)	
Anja IBKENDANZ	Solidar Suisse	Desk officer
Franziska JÖRNS	CARE International	EU Advocacy Assistant
Jeff KENNER	Rights Lab, University of Nottingham	Professor of European Law
Lucie LAFFONT	European Commission	
Angela LAKE	Fifty Eight	Director
Anne-Françoise LE GRELLE MARTIN	ILO-Brussels	Finance and administration
Audrey LE GUÉVEL	ILO-Brussels	Programme and Operations Officer
Brecht LEIN	KU Leuven	Research Fellow
Marta Leon MONEDERO	Permanent Representation of Spain	
Arne LIETZ	European Parliament	MEP
Georgiana-Catalina MACOVEI	European Commission	Policy Analyst
Azhar Majeet SHAIKH	Arzoo Textile Mills, Pakistan	
Luke MAKINISHI	Zambia Congress of Trade Unions	Trainer/Educator
Olivia MERTENS	Save the Children	Senior Advocacy Advisor
Françoise MILLECAM	European Commission-DEVCO B3	Senior Expert
Leonard MIZZI	European Commission DEVCO C1	Head of Unit
Cristina NEGOIESCU	World Vision	Project Officer
Sheetal NISCHAL	Primark	Environmental Sustainability Projects Manager
Mikkel Kofod NORGARD	WFTO-Europe	Project Officer
Conny Olde OLTTHOF	Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment of the	Head of International Affairs Unit

Participants	Organization	Role/Function
	Netherlands	
Ioana OPRISAN	European Commission	VET and Skills Development
Polina OSHCHEPKOVA	Lappeenranta University of Technology	Academia/student
Alia PAPAGEORGIOU	EuropeAid	Social Media Manager
Carl PELTZER	Cargill Incorporated	Director
Elisa Perpignan	Manumit 87	Human Rights Consultant
Maria Dolores PICOT	ILO	Consultant
Fleur RONDELEZ	ILO-Brussels	Communication and Public information
Lola SANCHEZ	European Parliament	MEP
Alvaro SCHWEINFURTH	Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain	
Bernd SEIFFERT	FAO	Officer, Decent Rural Employment Team
Stefano SIGNORE	European Commission DEVCO B3	Head of Unit
Klara SKRIVANKOVA	Anti-Slavery International	Senior Private Sector Advisor
Kamila SLANSKA	U.S. Homeland Security Investigations	Program Manager
Angela SOLANO DONCEL	Global March Against Child Labour	
Sibiri SOU	Fibers Textiles Society, Burkina Faso (Société des Fibres Textiles)	Deputy Director – cotton production
Ana Luisa TEIXEIRA	Caritas Luxembourg	
Susanne TEMPEL	India Committee of the Netherlands	Researcher
Alastair USHER	Ergon Associates	Director
Indre VAICEKAUSKAITE	European Commission DG TRADE	Policy Assistant
Stefano VALENTINO	Mobile Reporter	Journalist
Cristina Melinda VERES	European Commission	Administrative Assistant. EP Questions/Petitions Coordinator

Participants	Organization	Role/Function
Katrien VERWIMP	Wereldsolidariteit - Solidarité Mondiale	Coordinatrice Service de Plaidoyer et de Recherche
Blerina VILA	Wexam Consulting	Director
Tom WILLS	Traidcraft Exchange	Policy Adviser
Irene WINTERMAYR	ILO-Brussels	Policy Officer
Delphine ZOUNGRANA	Union of Cotton Producers, Burkina Faso (Union des producteurs de coton)	

Annex 3 | The Clear Cotton Project in the News and in Social Media

CLEAR Cotton project against child labour launches in Brussels

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/clear-cotton-project-against-child-labour-launches-brussels_en

Statement by the European Commission on the occasion of Universal Children's Day

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-6487_en.htm

Event tackles cotton sector labour abuses

<https://www.ecotextile.com/2018111623864/shows-events/event-tackles-cotton-sector-labour-abuses.html>

Workshop to discuss innovative approaches to eliminate child and forced labour in the cotton industry

https://www.ilo.org/brussels/press/press-releases/WCMS_649895/lang--en/index.htm

Proyecto cofinanciado por UE combate trabajo infantil en sector del algodón (Spanish only)

Workshop to tackle child and forced labour in cotton industry

https://www.just-style.com/news/workshop-to-tackle-child-and-forced-labour-in-cotton-industry_id135049.aspx



ILO @ilo · Nov 20

Cotton is one of the most common commodities produced with child labour.

This #WorldChildrensDay, the ILO, @europeaid and @FAO are launching the #ClearCotton project to eliminate child and forced labour in the cotton industry

bit.ly/2Tikwg7



ILO_NOchildlabour @ILO_Childlabour · Nov 20

#TODAY A workshop brings together key stakeholders to discuss possible approaches to eliminate #childlabour and #forcedlabour in the #cotton, textile and garment value chains. bit.ly/2yVlyoT





ILO-Brussels @ILOBrussels · Nov 20

In the cotton, textile and garment value chains, there is a high incidence of child labour, and there are indicators of forced labour, such as bonded labour, withholding wages and abusive working conditions. Today, experts exchange relevant approaches to end this [#ClearCotton](#)



EuropeAid @europeaid · Nov 20

"It is shocking that when we consume a product we have no idea if child labour is involved," [@geiger2050](#) [#clearcotton](#) [#childrensday](#)



EuropeAid @europeaid · Nov 20

"152 million children are involved in labour today. Child labour and forced labour are intrinsically linked. 25 million children are entrapped in forced labour,"

[@geiger2050](#) [#clearcotton](#) [#ChildrensDay](#)





EuropeAid  @europeaid · Nov 20

"70% of agriculture activities include child labour," says @geiger2050 mentioning that the fisheries, mining, construction and domestic service industries also have high figures. #clearcotton #ChildrensDay



Podemos en Europa @EuroPodemos · Nov 20

Nuestra eurodiputada @LolaPodemos presenta hoy el Proyecto **Clear Cotton**: un proyecto multisectorial promovido por la UE, la OIT y la **FAO** para eliminar el trabajo infantil y forzado en las cadenas de valor del algodón. #FairClothingEU #TextilConDerechos pic.twitter.com/oCKQSBugkv



EuropeAid  @europeaid · Nov 20

Producing sustainable cotton around the world 🌍 We have partnered w/ the @ilo & @FAO on projects which intervene in all steps of garment making in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan & awareness raising in Peru. More on #clearcotton bit.ly/clearcotton #ChildrensDay 🧒🧒





Prof Jeff Kenner @ProfJeffKenner · Nov 20

EP policy on binding due diligence Treaty on labour rights in global value chains outlined by LolaSanchez MEP [#ClearCotton](#)



EuropeAid @europeaid · Nov 20

Today in Brussels sees the launch of [#clearcotton](#) a project funded by @europeaid and implemented by the @ilo and @FAO which will look at the entire value chain of the cotton, textile and garment industry from field to factory



Aziz AHAMMOUT @AzizAhammout · Nov 20

"To achieve zero hunger we must achieve zero child labour in agriculture" @FAO @RHSF2 [#clearcotton](#)



Podemos en Europa

@EuroPodemos

Follow

Nuestra eurodiputada @LolaPodemos presenta hoy el Proyecto Clear Cotton: un proyecto multisectorial promovido por la UE, la OIT y la FAO para eliminar el trabajo infantil y forzado en las cadenas de valor del algodón.

[#FairClothingEU](#) [#TextilConDerechos](#)

Translate Tweet





FAO Brussels @FAOBrussels · Nov 20

Today on [#WorldChildrensDay](#) [@FAO](#), [@Europeaid](#) and [@ILO](#) are teaming up to launch the **CLEAR COTTON** Project, striving to eliminate child and forced labour in the **cotton**, textile and garments value chain industry, an essential step towards achieving [#SDG8](#).

bit.ly/2S6gSVn



ILO-Brussels @ILOBrussels · Nov 20

The Dutch government supports the Alliance 8.7, says [@MinisterieSZW](#). It can be a key driver for sharing knowledge and good practices [#worldchildrensday](#) [#clearcotton](#)





FAO Brussels @FAOBrussels · Nov 20

"We need to work more on certification schemes and traceability, as well as on sustainable investments in the cotton value chain" @europeaid Head of Unit Leonard Mizzi closing the Clear Cotton event #childlabour #clearcotton



ILO @ilo · Nov 21

The #ClearCotton project will contribute to a sustainable cotton, textile and garment value chain that is free of child labour and forced labour with a focus on Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and Peru.

ilo.org/clearcotton

#NOchildlabour



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www.ilo.org/clearcotton

 @ILO_Childlabour #clearcotton #50ff

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CLEAR COTTON

