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International Labour Organization
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Enhancing mobilization to prevent child trafficking and labour: The contribution of parliaments

Regional seminar jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the International Labour Organization (ILO), in cooperation with the Parliament of the Economic Community of the Western African States (ECOWAS) and with the support of UNICEF

ECOWAS Parliament, 23-24 November 2018, Abuja (Nigeria)

Background

Child trafficking and labour are violations of the rights of the child as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The IPU made it a priority to engage parliamentarians to promote these rights and, more specifically, a general mobilization against child trafficking and labour which remain prevalent despite efforts to eradicate them.

In line with this commitment, the IPU, with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and in collaboration with the ECOWAS Parliament and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized a regional parliamentary seminar from 25 to 26 May 2016 in Abuja.

The 2016 Abuja seminar aimed at harnessing West African parliamentarians' efforts to combat child trafficking and labour by sharing synergies that could be used to improve existing strategies against these phenomena, identifying priorities and implementation strategies, and examining opportunities of establishing interregional—West and Central Africa—cooperation to combat these scourges. The specific actions parliamentarians should take against child trafficking and labour are contained in the seminar's outcome document. Some national parliaments have followed up on these recommendations.

The IPU, ILO and the ECOWAS Parliament will be organizing a capacity building seminar on 23 and 24 November 2018 on the premises of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja to review the implementation of the 2016 Abuja seminar recommendations. The aim of the 2018 Abuja regional workshop will be to identify some good practices at the national level, and to harness further parliamentary efforts to combat child trafficking and labour in the region. The seminar will also be an opportunity to brief the West African parliamentarians on the ILO–SDG Alliance 8.7 which first sub-regional consultation was held in September 2016 in Abidjan.

Finally, the documentary film *The Price of Free* of Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Prize laureate and long-time crusader against child labour, will be screened to the West African parliamentarians during this seminar.

Specific Objectives

- To take stock of the implementation of the 2016 Abuja regional seminar recommendations;
- To share national good practices against child trafficking and labour;
- To readjust parliamentary strategies to build up a general mobilization against these plagues;
- To brief on the SDGs, target 8.7 and related targets; to garner (West African) parliamentary contribution to their achievement;
- To engage in a dialogue on these issues with different stakeholders.

Participants

The seminar is open to ECOWAS parliamentarians. Other stakeholders including representatives of the ECOWAS Commission, the civil society and international organizations will be invited to this meeting.

Debates

The seminar will be run using an interactive approach. Experts will deliver their presentations by way of a question-and-answer session with a moderator, which will last around 12 minutes. That will be followed by a discussion, including questions, comments and reflections on past experiences from the seminar participants. Where there are a large number of questions, the experts will answer them in batches of five. The debates will be held in the three official languages of the ECOWAS Parliament (English, French and Portuguese): interpretation into and from these three languages will be provided.

Expected results

- A greater awareness within parliaments of the continued existence of child trafficking and labour, with the aim of parliaments deciding to take action to tackle the issue as a matter of priority;
- Strengthened cooperation with other stakeholders so as to harmonize strategies against child trafficking and labour;
- Better knowledge of the ILO–SDG Alliance 8.7 and identification of opportunities to get more parliamentary involvement;
- Parliamentary engagement in response to Satyarthi's call to join the mobilization as recommended in the film.

Date and venue

From 23 to 24 November 2018 at the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja.