

**3rd ITUC Asia Pacific Conference
Resolution No.11**

CHILD LABOUR

Conference reiterates that child labour is an important workplace issue which trade unions have a responsibility to tackle as a matter of principle of solidarity and social justice; as child labour violates children's rights, trade unions are firmly committed to outright opposition to the exploitation of children at workplace and other places.

Conference welcomes that global action has resulted in a significant reduction in child labour from 246 million in 2000 to 168 million (2013), where trade unions have been always playing a pivotal role; ITUC-AP and its affiliates have been vigorously carrying out campaigns against child labour in the past two decades such as CBA negotiations for setting a minimum age for employment, various school projects, pressurizing MNCs including their global supply chains by using ILO Declaration on Multinational Companies, Codes of Conducts, Framework Agreements and Corporate Social Responsibility codes; the ITUC-AP and its affiliates have also joined the campaigns such as the World Day against Child Labour on June 12 each year; in addition, trade unions have also been taking direct action such as giving scholarships and running education programmes for children and mobilising union inspectors to save children from child labour.

However, Conference also notes that the Asia-Pacific region still has the largest number of child labourers, almost 78 million or 9.3% of child population. In our region, eradication of child labour is yet within our reach; not all countries have ratified the ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182. Their ratification is important to declare the will of the government to eradicate the child labour. Child labour deprives children of the inherent right to life and opportunity of development as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child uphold.

We have to continue our action through intensive campaigns nationally and regionally such as ratification and implementation of these two Conventions, increase in family income supported by higher income policy with a sufficient level of national social protection floor, strong collective bargaining power to eradicate child labour, a tripartite dialogue to improve legislation and its enforcement, and to define policies and programmes to eradicate child labour and combat the worst forms of child labour and to monitor their implementation.

Conference also stresses that, as child labour is widely visible in the informal economy, organising informal economy to empower the working poor should be the most effective way to reduce child labour - bringing children from the workplace to school. In the meantime, there should be concrete action to withdraw children from the worst forms of child labour in the informal sector through strengthening monitoring mechanisms.

The Conference commits the ITUC-AP, working with affiliates and GUFs to:

- Promote free and compulsory education for all children as essential part of social safety nets;
- Continue campaigns for ratification of the ILO Conventions regarding the minimum age for employment (C138), the worst forms of child labour and forced labour (C182) and their effective implementation;
- Campaign for effective implementation of existing national legislations for eradication of child labour;
- Coordinate with ITUC and GUFs in the campaign for elimination of child labour in supply chains;
- Intensively campaign against child labour in all its manifestation in line with the ILO

Conventions, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UN Convention on the Right of the Child;

- Strengthen interaction and cooperation with international agencies such as ILO and UNICEF and other relevant organisations with purposes of protection of rights of child, promotion of campaign against child labour and poverty eradication; and
- Intensive campaign to integrate child labour issues into National Decent Work Programme.