

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

(26 – 27 March 2008, Addis Ababa)

Report on the proceedings

The Africa Tripartite Regional Meeting to discuss the Draft Resolution on Child Labour Statistics (to be submitted to the 18th ICLS) was held from 26 – 27 March 2008 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in collaboration with the ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Africa. 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. As participation was drawn from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa, the meeting was conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation provided throughout the proceedings.

Delegates to the meeting were the following: (i) officials from Ministries of Labour/ Employment/ Manpower of Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania, (ii) officials from the National Statistical Office of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, and Tanzania, (iii) representatives of employers' associations of Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania, and (iv) representatives of workers' associations of Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, and Tanzania. The list of participants is attached as *Annex I* of this report.

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr George Okutho, Officer-in-Charge, ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Africa, who welcomed delegates to Addis Ababa, and emphasized the importance of the Africa regional tripartite meeting and its agenda to the work of ILO and of IPEC. For conducting the meeting, Mr Zerihun Gezahegne (Ethiopia) was elected as Chairperson, and Ms Thiam Aida Sarre (Senegal) as Vice-Chairperson. Mr Gezahegne thanked the delegates for the confidence placed on him, and looked forward to their cooperation and active participation. For steering the discussions at the afternoon sessions on 26 March 2008, Mr Gezahegne requested Vice-Chairperson to occupy the Chair. The programme of the meeting as followed 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 measurement standard for 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.

Although the Africa regional tripartite meeting was the last in a series of 4 regional meetings being organized by IPEC to obtain views of ILO constituents on the draft resolution, this meeting was of crucial importance because of the large child labour population in Africa. Delegates were therefore 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. Moreover, as this was the only regional meeting in the French language, delegates were requested to especially advise on the French terms to be applied in the resolution for distinguishing working children (some of whom may be engaged in permissible work and employment) from child labour (slated for abolition).

During the deliberations, delegates of almost all countries emphasized that in the Africa context child labour should not be restricted to a subset of only those children engaged in economic production activities. Beyond a certain threshold of daily (or weekly) hours spent in household chores, children thus engaged should also be taken into account while identifying child labour; in fact, some African countries had actually followed such a criterion in estimating the child labour population.

Delegates also stressed the need for ILO (IPEC) to develop methodology to make reliable estimates of the worst forms of child labour, including for hazardous work by children, as these could account for most of the child labour population in future due to introduction of increased legislation against employment of children.

On the French terms to be applied for ‘child labour’ (slated for abolition) when used by itself, it was suggested that ‘travail des enfants’ may be suitable. When it is necessary to make a clear difference between ‘child labour’ (slated for abolition) and ‘working children’, the former may be reflected by ‘travaux dommageables’ or ‘travail des enfants à abolir’. ‘Working children’ may be termed as ‘enfants travailleurs’ or ‘enfants économiquement actifs’.

Specific comments on the text of the resolution, or the order of the sections and paragraphs were few. The following were noted as the main specific comments and suggestions:

Paragraph	Comments
12.	The current resolution may go beyond definitions set up in previous ICLS sessions, especially for the purpose of defining ‘work’ in the context of a child by also including household chores which is not an economic activity.
30.	At the end of the paragraph <i>add</i> a sentence: ‘National governments are encouraged to develop indicative guidelines that will enable to determine a time threshold beyond which engagement in household chores will affect adversely the education and health of the child.’

The closing session was addressed by Mr Seydou Diarra of Mali on behalf of the workers representatives, and Ms Anna Maistry of South Africa representing the employers associations; Mr Zerihan Gezahegne of Ethiopia 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 East Africa 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 his capacity as Chairperson, Mr Gezahegne thanked all delegates for contributing to the success of the meeting by their intensive discussions and wished a safe journey home to delegates from abroad.

On behalf of IPEC, Mr Bijoy Raychaudhuri acknowledged satisfaction with the outcome of the discussions and appreciated the commitment by all delegates. He expressed gratitude to them for their participation at the meeting and 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 stronger instrument. Delegates were informed that the report of the meeting would be placed on the ILO-IPEC website in the section on 'CL Statistics' within a week, and reports of the other regional tripartite meetings, as also the draft technical report on child labour statistics (with the draft resolution as its Annex) for the forthcoming Meeting of Experts on 1-4 April 2008 in Geneva may also be viewed. He also thanked the ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Africa, and its staff, for the excellent support provided to ensure smooth organization of the meeting.

In his closing remarks, Mr George Okutho thanked the delegates for reviewing the draft resolution on child labour statistics, and their commitment to the deliberations at the meeting. He assured that their suggestions shall be considered in revising the draft resolution and the technical report. In establishing standards that are to stay for a long time, participation in international meetings was very important, and he urged that the work should be extended at the national level on behalf of ILO. He expressed the hope that delegates would network and maintain occasional contact. He also thanked the host Government of Ethiopia for the excellent working relationship.

Annex I

AFRICA TRIPARTITE REGIONAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CHILD LABOUR STATISTICS
Hilton Addis Ababa Hotel, Menelik II Avenue, Addis Ababa
26 – 27 March 2008

List of Participants

No.	Name	Position / Designation	Organization/ Office/ Country	Address	Tel. No. / Email Address
1.	Mr. Ndjomo Sébastien	Sous directeur Institut National de la Statistique (INS)	Cameroon/ Statistics	INS B.P.134 Yaoundé	Tel: (237) 77-68-59-39 E-mail: ndjomoseb@yahoo.fr
2.	Mr. Gezahegne Zerihun		Ethiopia/ Ministry of Labour		
3.	Mr Kassu Gebeyehu	Expert Team Leader / Manpower, Wages and Salaries Statistics	Ethiopia/ Statistics	Central Statistical Agency P.O. Box 1143 Addis Ababa	kassugebeyehu@yahoo.com
4.		CETU	Ethiopia/ Workers' Group		
5.			Ethiopia/ Employers' Group		
6.	Mrs Allotey Jemima	Ministry of Manpower	Ghana/ Ministry of Labour		Tel: (233) 216-845-17 E-mail: jenaasi@yahoo.com
7.	Ms. Sepah Emma	GSS	Ghana/ Statistics	Ghana Statistical Service P.O. Box 1098 Accra	Tel: E-mail: esepah@yahoo.com
8.	Mrs. Laryea-Djan Alberta	Ghana TUC	Ghana/ Workers' Group		Tel: (233) 208-154-972 E-mail:laryeadjan@yahoo.co.uk
9.	Mr. Amuah Joseph Kingsley	Industrial Relations Manager/GEA	Ghana/ Employers' Group	States Enterprises Commission Building, 122 Kojo Thompson Road P.O. Box 2616 Accra	Tel: (233) 214-545-226 E-mail: josephamuah@yahoo.com

Report_Africa Tripartite Regional Meeting_Draft CL Statistics Resolution

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10.	Mr. Toure Mouhamed Moustapha	Cellule Nationale de lutte contre le Travail des Enfants (CNLTE)	Mali/ Ministry of Labour	CNLTE BP 2969 Bamako	Tel: (223) 681-76-76 E-mail: doudoustaff@yahoo.fr
11.	Mrs. Doumbia Assa Gakou	Division des Statistiques Démographiques (DNS)	Mali/ Statistics	Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique B.P. 12 Bamako	(223) 221-52-85 E-mail : assdoumbia@yahoo.fr
12.	Mr. Diarra Seydou	Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Mali (UNTM)	Mali/ Workers' Group		Tel: (223) 674-78-04 E-mail: diarra-seydou2@yahoo.fr
13.	Mr. Coulibaly Tidiani	Conseil National du Patronat du Mali (CNPM)	Mali/ Employers' Group	B.P. 2445 Bamako	Tel: (223) 221-63-11 E-mail: tcoulibaly@cnp mali.org
14.	Mr. Aaibid Mahjoub	Bureau des Statistiques	Morocco/ Statistics	Rure Mohamed Belhassen El Ouzzani B.P 178 Rabat 10001	Tel : (212) 37-773-609 E-mail : maaibid@statistic.gov.ma
15.	Mr. Rafih Fouad	UMT	Morocco/ Workers' Group	232 av des FAR. Casablanca	Tel : (212) 22-447-346
16.	Mr. Khairidine Ousseymou Aly	Ministère du Travail	Senegal/ Ministry of Labour		Tel: (221) 766-851-658 E-mail:khairidine@yahoo.fr
17.	Mr. Bakary Djiba	chef de la Division du Recensement et des Statistiques Démographiques à l' ANSD	Senegal/ Statistics	Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie Rue de Diourbel x rue de Saint- Louis Point E B.P. 116 Dakar	Tel: (221) 77-552-6681 E-mail:djibakary@hotmail.com
18.	Mr. Cheikh Fall	Membre du bureau confédéral de la CNT et vice président du comité intersyndical de lutte contre les pires formes de travail des enfants au Sénégal	Senegal/ Workers' Group	Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal 7 av Gheye BP 935 Dakar	Tel : (221) 77-507-71-28
19.	Mrs Thiam Aida Sarre	Responsable du centre de référence du secteur privé au Conseil National du Patronat	Senegal/ Employers' Group	CNP, B.P. 3537 Dakar 7 rue jean Mermoz BP 3537 Dakar	Tel: (221) 889-65-65-69 E-mail: aida.sarre@gmail.com

Report_Africa Tripartite Regional Meeting_Draft CL Statistics Resolution

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20.	Mr. Virgil Seafield	Director- Employment standards Department of Labour	South Africa/ Ministry of Labour	Laboria House, 215 Schoeman Street, Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa	Tel: +27-12-309-4036 E-mail: virgil.seafield@labour.gov.za
21.	Mrs. Maistry Anna	Business Unity of South Africa	South Africa/ Employers' Group	Business Unity of South Africa P.O. Box 652807 Benmore Johannesburg 2010	E-mail: anna@impacthr.co.za
22.	Mr. Nestory Mloka	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development	Tanzania/ Ministry of Labour		Tel: (225) 22-213-6739
23.	Mr. James Ezekiel Mbongo	National Bureau of Statistics	Tanzania/ Statistics		Tel : (225)784-524-779
24.	Ms. Vicky Medard Kanyoka	Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA)	Tanzania/ Workers' Group		Tel :(225) 221-105-59
25.	Mr. Mark Kisamecha Mfunguo	Association of Tanzania Employers	Tanzania/ Employers' Group	1st floor, AMI Building Samora/Mkwepu Street P.O. Box 2971 Dar Es Salam	Tel : (255)221-109-40 E-mail : info@ate.org.tz
26.	Mr. Bijoy Raychaudhuri	Senior Statistician International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour	ILO Geneva	International Labour Organization Route des Morillons 4 (Room 5-96) CH 1211, Geneva, Switzerland	Tel : + 41 22 799 6115 E-mail : raychaudhuri@ilo.org
27.	Mr. Yacouba Diallo	Data Analyst International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour	ILO Geneva	International Labour Organization Route des Morillons 4 (Room 5-67) CH 1211, Geneva, Switzerland	Tel: + 41 22 799 6350 E-mail: dialloy@ilo.org
28.	Mr. George Okutho	Officer-in-Charge, a.i., and Senior Specialist on Labour Statistics and Employment, ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Africa	ILO Addis Ababa	ILO Regional Office for Africa, Africa Hall, 6th Floor, Menelik II Avenue Addis Ababa P.O.Box 2788, 2532	E-mail: okutho@ilo.org

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29.	Ms. Tsebaot Mengesha	Personnel Assistant, ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Africa	ILO Addis Ababa	ILO Regional Office for Africa, Africa Hall, 6th Floor, Menelik II Avenue Addis Ababa P.O.Box 2788, 2532	tsebaot@ilo.org
30.	Ms. Elizabeth Demissie	Secretary to the Director, ILO Sub-Regional Office for East Africa	ILO Addis Ababa	ILO Regional Office for Africa, Africa Hall, 6th Floor, Menelik II Avenue Addis Ababa P.O.Box 2788, 2532	demissie@ilo.org

Annex II

**Africa Tripartite Regional Meeting to discuss the Draft Resolution on
Child Labour Statistics [to be submitted to the 18th
International Conference of Labour Statisticians (18th ICLS)]**

26 – 27 March 2008, Addis Ababa

(*Venue:* Hilton Addis Ababa Hotel, Menelik II Avenue, Addis Ababa)

Programme of the Meeting

Wednesday 26 March 2008 (Day One)

09.15 – 09.30 hrs	Registration of Participants
09.30 – 10.00 hrs	Welcome Statement Introduction of Participants ICLS and Expected Meeting Outcome Format of each Session (presentation/ discussion) Adoption of Tentative Programme
10.00 – 10.50 hrs	Session I [Preamble Objectives and Scope of a National System of Child Labour Statistics (paragraphs 1 – 9)]
10.50 – 11.10 hrs	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.10 – 12.30 hrs	Session II [Objectives and Scope of a National System of Child Labour Statistics (paragraphs 1 – 9) .. <i>contd.</i> [Definitions and Measurement Approaches (paragraphs 10 – 14)]
12.30 – 14.00 hrs	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00 – 15.20 hrs	Session III [Definitions and Measurement Approaches .. <i>contd.</i> (paragraphs 15 – 24)]

15.20 – 15.40 hrs *Coffee Break*

15.40 – 17.00 hrs Session IV
[Definitions and Measurement Approaches .. *contd.*
(paragraphs 25 – 30)]

Thursday 27 March 2008 (Day Two)

09.15 – 09.45 hrs Review of Day One Discussions

09.45 – 10.50 hrs Session V
[Definitions and Measurement Approaches .. *contd.*
(paragraphs 31 – 42)]

10.50 – 11.10 hrs *Coffee Break*

11.10 – 12.30 hrs Session VI
[Global Estimation Processes (paragraphs 43 – 47)]; Other
Sources of Child Labour Information
(paragraphs 48 – 50)]

12.30 – 14.00 hrs *Lunch Break*

14.00 – 15.15 hrs Session VII
[Items of Data Collection (paragraphs 51 – 55 and
Appendix); Further Action (paragraphs 56 – 57)]

15.15 – 15.30 hrs Closing session

15.30 – hrs *Coffee*
