

**Europe and North America Consultation to discuss the Draft Resolution on
Child Labour Statistics [to be submitted to the 18th International
Conference of Labour Statisticians],**

Landesvertretung Sachsen Anhalt, Luisenstrasse 18, Berlin, Germany,

28 – 29 Feb 2008

Report of the proceedings

The Europe and North America Consultation in preparation of the discussion on child labour statistics at the 2008 ICLS was held from 28 – 29 February 2008 in Berlin. ILO constituents from selected countries of the region participated, including (i) officials from Ministries of Labour of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, the United Kingdom and United States; (ii) officials from National Statistical Offices of Azerbaijan, Canada, Georgia, Germany, the Russian Federation and United Kingdom; (iii) employers' representatives from Georgia and Germany; and (iv) workers' representatives from Germany, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. The full list of participants is attached as *Annex I* to this report.

The objective of the meeting was to obtain detailed comments and suggestions on the draft Resolution on Child Labour Statistics to be presented to the ICLS in November 2008. The meeting was part of a global series of IPEC/SIMPOC organized consultations in preparation of the ICLS. Previous regional consultations had taken place in Latin America (Lima, December 2007) and Asia (Manila, January 2008).

The meeting was opened by Mr Wolfgang Heller, Director of the ILO Office in Berlin. Mr Heller welcomed participants to Berlin and emphasized the importance of the tripartite consultation process prior to the forthcoming International Conference of Labour Statisticians. No country was immune to child labour and reliable measurement of the phenomenon was critical to informed policy-making. ICLS resolutions were adopted by consensus. It was underlined that the advice and suggestions received at the Berlin Consultation would greatly facilitate the secretariat's task in arriving at a text agreeable to all constituents.

Mr Frank Hagemann, Coordinator of IPEC's statistical and research programme SIMPOC, then provided further details on the ILO's preparation for the ICLS. More than 300 child labour related surveys had been carried out, yet there was no globally agreed measurement standard so far. The ICLS resolution on child labour statistics had to address this gap and provide for flexible application at the national level while ensuring international comparability. In order to prepare for a successful adoption of the resolution

at the ICLS, IPEC had engaged in comprehensive research on aspects crucial to child labour measurement and had undertaken a far-reaching consultation effort with its constituents and other experts on the matter. The draft resolution was thus revised through a stepped-up process of national and regional events, leading to a Meeting of Experts to take place in Geneva in early April 2008.

For conducting the meeting, Mr Simon Steyne, workers' representative of the United Kingdom, was elected as Chairperson. Ms Steyne thanked participants for the confidence placed in him and looked forward to their cooperation and active participation.

The programme of the meeting as adopted is provided at *Annex II* of this report.

The Consultation studied the draft resolution in a comprehensive manner and provided valuable comments and advice on the approach taken, including conceptual issues, and language employed in the text. It was agreed that the role of the consultation was not to redraft the text but to suggest comments and recommendations.

It should be noted that re paragraphs 17 to 24 on Hazardous Work the consultation meeting was also informed about a possible alternative approach, emanating from the conclusions of an international expert meeting on the topic, which was held in Geneva on 22 February 2008.

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

Paragraph	Comments
Preamble	a) 5 th para replace “keeping in view the relevance of the” with “recalling the” and make it consistent with the language employed in the preamble of C182. b) Combine paras 7 and 8 and be coherent in using terminology (throughout the resolution) c) Replace the term “standards” with “guidelines” as long as statistics are concerned (throughout the resolution) d) Make reference to the ILO Declaration of 1998
Objective and Scope	
	General comments: a) Shorten the section. b) Add reference to the coverage of the types of WFCL difficult to measure.
1	a) Add as principal objectives to inform the fight against child labour and help eliminate child labour. b) Add definitional explanation on work done by children and child labour for abolition. (Drawing from para 28)
2	Delete or keep “particularly where children may be observed to be at work”.

3	a) Add occupation and branch of economic activity in 2 nd line. b) 8 th line replace “may... make available” with “should produce and make available”.
4	Delete “in principle” in 2 nd line and add “wherever possible” after “measure these”.
5	Include the objective of informing policy.
7	Delete or keep “ that provide the essential legal basis ...”
9	Reconsider the phrase: “ there can be no uniform definition of child labour”.
11	a) Refine the wording to clarify the intent of this paragraph. The two matters are not exclusive of each other. b) Achieve consistency with para 4
12	Clarify relationship with productive activities.
13	Redraft section on unemployed child with regard to children above the minimum age.
14	Consider if it is necessary to refer to hazardous work under C182 explicitly – or is it redundant?
16	Avoid use of “unconditional WFCL”, replace it with more appropriate wording.
19	Consider that, for measuring hazardous work of children, a special coding may need to be developed because ISCO codes may not be adequate in all cases.
20	Add reference to R190, para 4 as well (i.e. Article 3(3) of C138) regarding the possible authorization of hazardous work as from 16 years of age under strict conditions of protection and prior instruction, even though it may be difficult to measure this statistically.
24	Classification by “industry” may be necessary and should be kept in combination with the “occupation” classification. Delete or revise the wording on the threshold of 43 hours.
26	Delete the reference to 14 hours cut off and to C33 and recommend that the threshold be set nationally.
28	Replace “categorized” with more appropriate term. Consider inclusion of “light work” in explaining the definition of child labour. (then perhaps para 30 would become redundant) Avoid using the term “unconditional WFCL” here and throughout the Resolution. Consider introduction of basic child labour concepts contained in this para at an earlier stage of the Resolution.

29	Check consistency of the use of term “economic activities”.
34	Consider recommendation on specific periodicity / frequency of data collection. Add a recommendation on post-survey data dissemination, together with the publication of findings and underlying methodologies and definitions. Bring in ideas from ICLS Resolution on Informal Employment, e.g. comprehensive geographic coverage, attention to women’s work.
40	Add reference to specific issues, such as forced and bonded labour, and note that there is currently no established statistical methodology to estimate them, despite the urgency. Rephrase the last sentence so that it reads “The ILO and its partners continue to engage in research towards developing appropriate and robust methodologies in this regard and shall publish results as and when they become available.”
41	Add specific reference to issue of gender sensitivity.
42	Expand the paragraph to cover more ideas such as “not to victimize the respondent”.
43	Delete or make reference in the introduction to justify reference to the global estimation processes. In line 4, consider deleting “ILO” before “global estimates”.
44	Consider replacing 14 hours threshold with 12 hours. Consider deleting the specific global estimate formula so as to leave room for future adjustments. Consider revising “child labour” formula in order to take account of the fact that “U” may contain elements of A,B,C and E.
46	As in para 44.
48	Consider including the use of retrospective questions to young adults dealing with their past work history. Rephrase the last part “in situations where ...” so as to avoid providing for an excuse for not allocating enough resources to statistical surveys.
51	Consider redrafting to clearly distinguish the main characteristics, on the one hand, and outcome or consequences, on the other. (e.g. add “economic activity” and move (ii) and (iii) to para 52; delete “including impact on ...” from (viii))
52	Ensure consistency between para 28 and para 52, regarding the definition of child labour. Consider deleting last sentence of para.
57	Point also to need of cooperation between member States.
Appendix	Make sure that all indicators in the Appendix (e.g. location of workplace) be

	mentioned in the text of the Resolution. Be consistent regarding “Working children/ child labourers” throughout the Appendix.
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The meeting was closed by the Chair, Mr Simon Steyne, and the representative of the ILO, Mr Frank Hagemann. Both expressed their gratitude to the participants for a frank and fruitful exchange of views and suggestions on the draft text provided by the secretariat and reiterated their expectation for a successful adoption of the Resolution on Child Labour Statistics at the ICLS in November / December 2008.

Annex I

**Europe and North America Regional Consultation to discuss the Draft Resolution on Child Labour Statistics [to be submitted to the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (18th ICLS)],
Landesvertretung Sachsen Anhalt, Luisenstrasse 18, Berlin, Germany
28 – 29 Feb 2008**

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ANNEX II

Europe and North America Regional Consultation to discuss the Draft Resolution on Child Labour Statistics [to be submitted to the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (18th ICLS)]

28 – 29 Feb 2008, Berlin

(*Venue:* Landesvertretung Sachsen Anhalt, Luisenstrasse 18, Berlin, Germany)

Programme

Thursday 28 February 2008 (Day One)

09.00 – 09.30 hrs	Registration of Participants
09.30 – 10.15 hrs	Welcome Statement Introduction of Participants ICLS and Expected Workshop Outcome Format of each Session (presentation/ discussion) Adoption of Tentative Programme
10.15 – 11.00 hrs	Session I [Objectives and Scope of a National System of Child Labour Statistics (paragraphs 1 – 9)]
11.00 – 11.20 hrs	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.20 – 12.30 hrs	Session II [Definitions and Measurement Approaches (paragraphs 10 – 14)]
12.30 – 14.00 hrs	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00 – 15.40 hrs	Session III [Definitions and Measurement Approaches .. <i>contd.</i> (paragraphs 15 – 27)]
15.40 – 16.00 hrs	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16.00 – 17.15 hrs	Session IV [Definitions and Measurement Approaches .. <i>contd.</i> (paragraphs 28 – 33)]

Friday 29 February 2008 (Day Two)

09.00 – 09.30 hrs	Draft Summary Record of Day One Discussions (Distributed and time given for reading)
09.30 – 10.00 hrs	Comments/ Suggestions on Draft Summary Record
10.00 – 10.30 hrs	Session V [Data Collection Methods and Programmes (paragraphs 34 – 42)]
10.30 – 10.50 hrs	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10.50 – 12.30 hrs	Session VI [Global Estimation Processes (paragraphs 43 – 47)]; Other Sources of Child Labour Information (paragraphs 48 – 50); and Items of Data Collection (paragraphs 51 – 55 and <i>Appendix</i>)]
12.30 – 14.00 hrs	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00 – 16.00 hrs	Session VII [Items of Data Collection .. <i>contd.</i> ; and Further Action (paragraphs 56 – 57)]
16:00 – 16.30 hrs	Closing Remarks
