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NGO FORUM – ALLIANCE 8.7 12 – 13 SEPTEMBER

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INTRODUCTION

The *NGO Forum – Alliance 8.7*, held 12-13 September 2017 in London, was the first gathering of the Alliance 8.7 global partnership focusing solely on the role and engagement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The Forum brought together over 60 leaders of organisations working to end child labour and modern slavery from 20 countries across the globe, the majority from the South, to share their experiences, and to explore opportunities to engage with Alliance 8.7 and ways they can collaborate more broadly. The forum was made possible through the generous support of the US Department of Labour.¹

The conference was designed to allow maximum participation and discussion from the CSOs. It was structured around Q+A discussions and small, break out groups to enable all participants the opportunity to ask questions, deepen understanding and contribute ideas towards their involvement in Alliance 8.7.

The Forum was a key activity to contribute to Alliance 8.7, and served as an important introduction to CSOs of this new partnership designed to accelerate the achievement of SDG target 8.7. There was a great deal of learning from the diversity of experience that participants brought to the gathering.

Leaders of organisations working to end modern slavery and child labour attended the Forum. Feedback from the conference was very positive – participants enjoyed the chance to meet people from many countries, the opportunity to network and to learn from one another, and the chance to find out more about Alliance 8.7 and explore ideas on how to collaborate more broadly.

On behalf of everyone involved in organising the conference I would like to express my sincere thanks to the workshop facilitators, moderators and panellists who all ensured there was a very rich and inclusive discussion. I would also like to thank the International Labour Organization for their unstinting support for the event.

And finally, I would also like to thank everyone who participated for their contribution and making the Forum a successful convening. All of us came away with a much deeper understanding of the Alliance 8.7 and the role of CSOs, and new friendships.

Nick Grono, CEO of the Freedom Fund

¹ *Funding has been provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement number IL-30147. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.*

SUMMARY NOTES

DAY 1, TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

The aim of the first day of the NGO Forum was to allow participants to gain a solid understanding of Alliance 8.7, its work so far, strategy, structures and platforms as well as upcoming activities.

Session 1: Understanding Alliance 8.7, Q+A with Beate Andrees, International Labour Organisation **Questions by: Andre Campos, Reporter Brazil**

The morning was dedicated to a Q+A session with Beate Andrees from the ILO who provided a background briefing on Alliance 8.7 and highlighted the various facets of this partnership, which was created to bring a wide range of stakeholders together to galvanise action around SDG target 8.7.

The idea behind Alliance 8.7 was the result of an extensive consultation process in September 2015 following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Various actors were working on child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery but the work was done in silos. Alliance 8.7 was launched in 2016 in an effort to bring all these stakeholders together to work around common goals that would accelerate action on SDG 8.7.

Alliance 8.7 has four Pillars:²

1. **Accelerating action:** through high-level advocacy and supporting actors such as CSOs to advocate for stronger national policies.
2. **Conducting research and sharing knowledge:** this includes the Global Estimates but also research on the economics of child labour and forced labour. The goal is to share all relevant research from the ground such as lessons learned, successful interventions, evaluation reports and estimates. The Knowledge Platform being run by UNU will bring together key data holders, including business, trade unions and NGOs. The platform will be a central data directory and publishing platform accessible to a wide audience and will help spreading knowledge about what works, raise awareness, provide guidance and interpretation on recent data and research and contribute to evidence based political decision making on the prevention and elimination of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.
3. **Driving innovation:** which begins with knowledge. In this respect, the Knowledge Platform could spark innovation, but also bring more diverse players together. Technology is certainly important, but not pivotal either. Innovation also refers to new ways of collaboration, project implementation, monitoring, evaluation and building partnerships.
4. **Increasing and leveraging resources.** Resources are required that are commensurate with the scale of the problem. In other words, with present budgets it will be impossible to achieve target 8.7

² More details on Alliance 8.7 can be found in the Vision document and the proposed operational guidelines and on the website: www.alliance87.org

A strategy workshop took place in Wilton Park in February 2017 (where the six working groups were established) and a series of consultation meetings ensued during 2016 and 2017 in various regions bringing together governments, employers, workers, international organisations and CSOs.

Some of the important themes raised during these specific meetings were:

- There is a *growing convergence* on the issues related to Target 8.7. For example some African stakeholders are looking into successful lessons learned on child labour to inform their policies on forced labour. This should lead to longer-term, more strategic policies and interventions.
- There is a *growing urgency* to tackle these issues, which will hopefully be reinforced by the global estimates.
- The governance should be *light touch*; Alliance 8.7 is not a supervisory system or standard making system. It is a global partnership for coming together to be more strategic in influencing policy agendas.

Comments and Feedback from CSO representatives during the Q+A session:

Participants raised a number of points during this session which included challenges but also feedback on how best to optimise the goals of Alliance 8.7.

One of the biggest challenges emphasised was the lack of alignment amongst various stakeholders. For instance there is a divergence of interests between CSOs and governments. Some UN agencies are also not aligned around the issues of forced labour and child labour creating barriers for effective implementation on the ground. The Alliance has the potential to bring everyone together around the goals but only if there is a coordinated attempt to do so.

There is a lot of activity happening in terms of regional consultations and working groups, but none of the information through these initiatives is filtering to the CSOs working on the ground. For example the refugee situation in the Middle East has resulted in poor labour conditions among some groups of people. What is the role of the Conflict and Humanitarian Action Group in enhancing coordination amongst UN Agencies around this particular problem?

While it is important to have high level activity such as the global estimates, sometimes numbers can be very counterproductive: For example, in Kenya the minister points to the estimated number of people in slavery in the country as low compared to other African countries, to claim the efficacy of the Kenyan Government's actions against modern slavery. This makes it hard to conduct advocacy.

There is significant work being done at a country level that works. This information can be used by CSOs to improve their work, but at the moment, it is not shared widely enough. There needs to be technological solutions to connect us all together. The Alliance can also be a platform where the voices of survivors are heard. Their inclusion is key to documenting the programmes and activities that are effective.

CSOs are busy and have very limited time and capacity. Alliance 8.7 could add value but collaboration requires having resources.

Session 2 and 3: Achieving the objectives of Alliance 8.7 – A discussion of the role of Civil Society Organisations.

Session moderated by: Sophie Otiende, HAART Kenya and Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch

Rapporteurs: Beate Andrees, Tom Wissing, Yuka Iwatsuki, Ashif Sheikh and Yared Degefu

Following the Q+A session, the participants broke out into groups where they asked a series of questions outlined in the Agenda (Appendix).

Summarised immediately below are the key points that were raised. There was general agreement that Alliance 8.7 could add value to the work of CSOs in various ways:

1. By supporting CSOs to work with governments that do not make modern slavery/child labour a priority or that make it politically difficult for CSOs to work in this area;
2. By enhancing cross-government action and collaboration around Target 8.7 - these issues tend to be spread across and between government ministries;
3. By playing a convening role to bring parties together in order to exchange information and share best practice examples;
4. By building the capacity of CSOs through technical assistance and additional resources;
5. By developing a common methodology/metrics and agreement about research and using this for advocacy purposes;
6. By building a networking platform to share information on countries that are making progress and programmes and policies that work.

However, while opportunities were identified, many questions around some of the challenges and potential obstacles were also highlighted:

1. How will Alliance 8.7 make it possible for CSOs to engage in a meaningful way?
2. How can information on the good work that is being done on the ground be effectively communicated to this global partnership mechanism?
3. There are over 3,000 organisations working on these issues – how do we identify the right partners and bring them to the table?
4. How do we leverage the networks that already exist on the ground?
5. How do we create alignment and a cohesive strategy when many CSOs do not share the same priorities? How do we find common ground?
6. The shifting funding priorities make it challenging for CSOs to receive funds in a systematic and sustainable way. How can this be overcome?
7. Partners feel that ILO country offices don't always feel empowered to take action. How can they effectively reach out to civil society organisations?

A significant obstacle identified by participants was the Alliance 8.7 governance model. In the Global Coordinating Group there are only two seats for CSOs. This is clearly perceived as not enough to encourage meaningful CSO contribution.

Despite these challenges and obstacles, the participants identified some *recommendations* at the end of the first day, on how to engage with Alliance 8.7:

- Establish a global group of CSOs that meet once a year that would feed into the two CSO representatives of Alliance 8.7;

- Appoint regional CSO focal points and enhance the capability of CSOs to work at a regional level; Alliance 8.7 is quite broad, bringing it down a level will help make it more relevant at a country level;
- Create shadow reports and a separate forum to discuss progress of Alliance 8.7 as a way to hold it accountable.

What was clear from the first day is that there is an appetite among the CSOs present to engage in a multinational coalition that brings together key players around these issues.

Session 4: The Global Estimates:

Panel: Fiona David, Walk Free and Michaëlle deCock-Luzzati, ILO and Brad Myles, Polaris

Moderated by: Pradeep Naranayan, Praxis Institute, India.

The first day ended with a briefing on the *Global Estimates* work done by the ILO, IOM and the Walk Free Foundation.

Michaëlle and Fiona discussed the combined methodology that was used to determine the global estimates. The central element is the use of 54 specially designed, national probabilistic surveys involving interviews with more than 71,000 respondents across 48 countries.

Administrative data from IOM databases of assisted victims of trafficking were also used, in combination with the 54 datasets, to estimate forced sexual exploitation and forced labour of children, as well as the duration of forced labour exploitation. Forced labour imposed by state authorities was derived from validated sources and systematic review of comments from the ILO supervisory bodies with regard to ILO Conventions on forced labour.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Thomas Wissing from the ILO kicked off the second day by explaining more about the Alliance 8.7 structure including:

- The Global, regional and country coordinating groups;
- The action groups on conflict/humanitarian settings, rule of law and governance, migration, rural development, commercial sexual exploitation and supply chains.
- The Knowledge Platform designed to give access to stats and data that can be used by stakeholders.

Session 1: Achieving the goals of Alliance 8.7 through engagement with workers' organisations.

Panel Discussion: Tim Ryan, Solidarity Centre, Gemma Freedman, TUC and Jeroen Beirnaert, ITUC and Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, Visayan Forum

Moderated by: Aidan McQuade, Anti-Slavery International

Thomas's presentation was followed by a very insightful discussion on how CSOs and worker's organisations can work together to achieve the goals of Alliance 8.7.

The purpose of the panel was to try to draw out what collaboration could look like as Aidan made the point: it's hard to enslave people when workers are organised. CSOs should be endeavouring to work closely with trade unions as they can bring political weight to national struggles.

Cecilia from Visayan Forum presented an interesting collaboration example in the Philippines between her organisation and a trade union around the association of domestic workers. Visayan Forum brought in trade union representatives to train members of the association to form a union representing domestic workers.

Jeroen explained that 10 years ago, unions felt human trafficking was solely an NGO issue. But there is currently an understanding that the deterioration of the protection of workers and precarious work is leading to situations of modern slavery and labour law is not being applied. There is therefore a need for trade unions to reinvigorate the rights of workers, as this would have a positive impact in preventing forced labour. Child labour, anti-slavery and anti-trafficking movements are coming together. There's a new interest in anti-slavery efforts among migrant workers, indigenous workers and refugees. It's a massive opportunity for good cooperation but it depends on common objectives and common vision and obviously respecting the mandates of different organisations.

Gemma described the ingredients of success for NGO and trade union collaboration. She spoke about the need to recognise that there are some things unions can do and some things NGOs are better at. The right to Freedom of Association and the right to collective bargaining are important to end slavery. Workers also need to be able to network with each other and not be isolated.

Tim recommended the *Responsibility Outsourced* report from AFL-CIO and stated that organising workers is the best way to monitor workplace conditions as audits for example, have many weaknesses. There are some good examples of cooperation between trade unions and NGOs; and the Global March is one of them, including union representatives on their Board. What we need is closer communication between NGOs and trade unions – this connection can be transformative for workers' rights.

While there was an agreement that trade union and NGO collaboration is ideal, many participants also noted how difficult it is for them to work together. The fact remains that in high-risk industries where workers are vulnerable, there is not strong membership. Undocumented workers are hard to organise and many sectors don't have trade unions. Some countries also don't allow new trade unions such as Jordan and others don't allow migrant workers in destination countries to be organised. Unions are often linked with government and many countries have banned trade unions.

Can Alliance 8.7 help to organise migrant workers to link them with trade unions in destination countries? Thousands of women domestic workers for instance are being deported back from Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh and have experienced truly horrific conditions.

There has been some progress in organising domestic workers and some migrant worker associations are moving from service delivery to ensuring that the workers go into a more stable structure of unionism in order to be represented. In the Middle East for instance, the ITUC only works with independent trade unions and so they don't have affiliates in countries where that independence does not exist. Workers have been divided between local workers and undocumented workers. Malaysian unions are now helping organise Nepali workers so there has been a shift.

New unions are also important. Some of the larger unions can help to integrate new ones. Often unions can't openly organise and the NGOs can be critical in doing some of the preliminary work quietly and slowly inviting unions in.

Session 2: Examining the issues in depth: How can we overcome obstacles, take advantage of opportunities and find solutions towards engaging with Alliance 8.7 and collaborating more broadly?

Five themes were identified from the previous day as important when discussing engagement with Alliance 8.7, which made up the following groups:

1. Research and data
2. Capacity building – technical support and funding
3. On-going structure and architecture
4. National action plans
5. Information and communication

The participants chose their respective groups and framed their discussions around the following questions:

1. Is there need for a broad consultative mechanism for the space?
2. If so, should it be solely focussed on Alliance 8.7 and how?
3. If not solely focussed on Alliance 8.7, what should it be focused on, and how should it operate?

The purpose of the breakout group sessions was for participants to come up with at least five concrete recommendations on ways forward. The following section outlines the main discussion points and recommendations.

Group 1: Research and data

One of the goals of Alliance 8.7 is to support governments to conduct research and share knowledge in order to monitor progress towards the achievement of SDG target 8.7.

It's important in this respect that any research conducted considers the voices from the country level to the global level and ensures that there are ground level voices producing evidence. There are many data gaps on forced labour, child labour and modern slavery and to fill these the involvement of CSOs is critical, as they have a clear understanding of the type of research that is needed.

Recommendations:

- Alliance members discuss and agree on a common set of definitions to measure progress of Alliance 8.7;
- Enhance capacity building for CSOs to disseminate the findings of research. The challenge with research for CSOs is that grassroots organisations don't have the mechanisms to analyse and disseminate and to use the research for the benefit of the communities;
- Create a working group with a mixed membership from universities, policy institutes, research centres along with CSOs with the aim of monitoring progress of SDG 8.7;
- Produce a shadow report that monitors government progress on SDG 8.7. This means that there is a space for civil society to have a role in producing evidence on government actions around SDG 8.7;
- Create regional based groups that could inform the emergence of regional level implementation activities; Regional groups can be linked to inter-governmental bodies such as ASEAN, SAARC, and the African Union etc.
- Increase funds for this area that will support CSOs to create a method for community-based monitoring of implementation of Target 8.7.

Group 2: Capacity building

The issue of capacity building came up repeatedly during the two day Forum. There is no doubt that capacity building is necessary if CSOs are to engage in a meaningful way with Alliance 8.7 and to support the partnership in achieving progress towards Alliance 8.7.

Recommendations:

- Conduct national *scoping exercises* to see which spaces, agencies and networks already exist and which are the best to come together as platforms for Alliance 8.7; For instance, Nepal has an SDG forum as part of an NGO forum and they disseminate progress on SDGs. This is a good model as it can elicit a response from government. National level sharing needs to occur to inform international voices;
- Conduct capacity building on ways to adapt best practices that are shared – including use of language and crossing cultures. Enable more exposure visits. Best practices – there is good knowledge, we know what works – how do we share this so people can use this within their local contexts? How do we draw on each other’s specialist technical knowledge to improve programme and policy work on the ground?
- Share information and undertake capacity building specifically on SDGs and Alliance 8.7. CSOs are not always aware of international platforms and conventions so it’s harder for them to participate (for example many aren’t aware of international standards and global partnerships such as Alliance 8.7) and how this global work is relevant to their activities. It is important for CSOs to be sufficiently aware of Alliance 8.7 and how to communicate to the influencers and decision makers;
- Educate funders to understand SDG 8.7 and enhance the CSOs in basic skills such as drafting funding applications, and enhancing language and financial skills.

The central question is what does increased capacity building look like (technical or funding) that will enable people to come together and provide input and engagement on Alliance 8.7? Capacity building shouldn’t create dependence and it needs to be consultative based on expressed needs.

Also, how do CSOs connect with Alliance 8.7’s six different action groups? Each committee has different capacity building needs. This question requires more dialogue.

Group 3: Structure and Architecture

Change will come only when there is a vibrant and active civil society coalition working together. This can be solely about establishing a mechanism on engaging with Alliance 8.7 or it can be a broader collaborative mechanism. There is a space already for child labour work but at the moment, a mechanism for the modern slavery, forced labour and human trafficking sector is lacking.

The participants generally agreed that there is a need for a civil society-led space for participation and action on SDG 8.7 that is *independent* of Alliance 8.7.

Recommendations:

- Review existing coalition models that work well; For instance, the global partnership against child marriage is a very loose structure that devotes resources to support national partnerships where there’s a strongly identified need for those partnerships. GAATW, is another example, la Strada and

Global March are other models. Getting funding is hard, so it is important to determine if there is an existing structure that can be built on instead of creating something completely new;

- Explore if CSOs can have their own campaign for achieving SDG 8.7 at an international level – coordinated by a secretariat based in the Global South – building on strengths of existing networks and efforts on the ground;
- Assess how this mechanism would connect people more broadly in terms of information sharing and advocacy;
- Assess how this independent mechanism could feed into civil society representatives in the Global Coordination Group of Alliance 8.7;
- Initially focus on actions for Target 8.7 - but if more funding were to be available, then the collaboration could take on other campaigns.

Group 4: National Action Plans

Alliance 8.7 will provide technical expertise to governments and social partners to strengthen national strategies for achieving Target 8.7 under the new accelerated timeframes established by the SDGs.

Recommendations:

- Alliance 8.7 should conduct national consultations with all stakeholders to move the work of Alliance 8.7 forward at a country level;
- Mapping exercise needed to see the different networks that already exist in the country. How would Alliance 8.7 fit in to existing networks? Review mandate of those networks;
- Link work with other global initiatives that focus on other SDGs (e.g. violence against children etc.) Could a comprehensive plan for the SDGs be created?
- Generate consensus on SDG goals among UN actors at a country level to avoid confusion and duplication;
- Think about how Alliance 8.7 could help build relations with governments that refuse to work with CSOs or where the relationship is complex. UN agencies can play a critical role in managing conflict between civil society and government;
- Discuss and decide who should lead the national plan and how it would be sustainable. In Ethiopia, for example, Alliance 8.7 could align with an existing network that might focus on migration and could drive the agenda forward. In other places, new networks would be created.

Group 5: Information and Communication

Communication and information cuts across all themes and areas of work. There is significant room for improvement in how we communicate and share information. At the moment a communication plan for Alliance 8.7 is still being developed.

Recommendations:

- Develop a communication plan with the aim of sharing information and communicating the progress towards target 8.7 with governments with clear and consistent external messaging;
- Assess various platforms to communicate such as Freedom Collaborative, UNU Knowledge Platform and other models of communication;
- Explore various technological approaches that would enhance communication between the 3,000 organisations working against modern slavery, forced labour and child labour;
- Explore a possible Google mechanism for our issue. We could improve sharing among organisations that would help with our external messaging.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We hope this NGO Forum has helped CSOs gain a better understanding of Alliance 8.7 during the formative stage of this global partnership. We also hope this convening has allowed the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat (currently the ILO) to have a better understanding of views and issues of CSOs around Alliance 8.7.

This two-day event has demonstrated a clear willingness and strong interest among CSOs to work towards SDG 8.7 in a more collaborative way.

Over the two-day event, participants identified key issues around their engagement with Alliance 8.7 and more broadly. There has been general agreement that engagement with Alliance 8.7 does have the potential to add value to CSO efforts on the ground in various ways. Identifying a very clear path on how to actually take this forward is more difficult. The aim of the NGO Forum was never to aspire to provide all the answers but rather to start thinking about them.

For constructive engagement to happen there is a need for strengthened capacities, for national platforms of engagement, for enhanced communication and sharing of best practices and for better coordination among all stakeholders. There also needs to be greater clarity and guidance about Alliance 8.7's vision and plans for a CSO role.

From the two-day discussions, there is a definite appetite for a broader NGO consultative mechanism, focused on the SDG 8.7 space, but not necessarily exclusively on Alliance 8.7 itself. Many views were expressed; ranging from working within the existing national, regional or local mechanisms – to establishing an international secretariat with national chapters.

There is a lot happening in the modern slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and child labour spaces. Governments are legislating on this issue and the business sector is increasingly taking action on transparency issues. International organisations are also focusing on this issue; not only the ILO and UNODC but also the UN Security Council had its first trafficking debate in late 2015, and passed two resolutions.

It is critical that CSOs help drive this process forward.

Proposed next steps:

This report is not exhaustive of all the issues that were discussed over the last two days. But we hope that it will provide the basis for on going discussions.

Where do we go from here?

The participants of the NGO Forum have provided very insightful recommendations outlined in this report. We suggest that a very small group comprised of ILO focal points and CSO representatives come together to assess these, and develop a strategic plan of action with concrete timelines and responsibilities.

END

APPENDIX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	TITLE AND ORGANISATION
Mr. Ahmed Wassie	Programme Director Ethiopia Mahibere Hiwot for Social Development (MSD)
Mr. Aidan McQuade	CEO Anti-Slavery International
Mr. Andre Campos	Journalist and Researcher, Reporter Brazil
Mr. Arockiasamy Britto	Director Vaan Muhil, India
Mr. Ashif Sheikh	Founder, Jan Sahas, India
Mr. Ben Cooley	CEO, Hope and Justice
Mr. Borislav Gerasimov	GAATW – Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women
Mr. Brad Myles	Executive Director, Polaris
Mr. Bill Bell	Chief of the Child Protection Division of Save the Children UK
Mr. Christian Guy	Director - UK, Europe and global development, Justice and Care
Mr. Dan Vexler	Director of Programmes, the Freedom Fund
Mr. Didier Bergeret	Director, The Consumer Goods Forum
Mr. Duncan Jepson	Founder, Liberty Asia
Mr. Fergus Hanson	ILO
Mr. Francisco Hoyos Aguilera	Director General de Mercadotecnia y Comunicación en Consejo Ciudadano, México
Mr. George Chimanga	Coordinator, Tanzania Child Domestic Work Coalition
Mr. Habte Hagos	Chair, Eritrea Focus
Mr. Htoo Chit	FED Executive Director and Founder, FED Thailand
Mr. Iftikhar Mubarik	Executive Chairperson, Children Advocacy Network, Pakistan
Mr. James Kofi Annan	President, Challenging Heights, Ghana
Mr. Jeroen Beirnaert	Human and Trade Union Rights Coordinator. ITUC International Trade Union Confederation
Mr. Joseph Schmidt	Founder Audacity Factory/Freedom United
Mr. Karamat Ali	Executive Director, The Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research (PILER)
Mr. Maurice Middleberg	CEO, Free the Slaves
Mr. Nick Grono	CEO, the Freedom Fund
Mr. Owain James	Director, Kailash Satyarthi Foundation, UK
Mr. Papop Siamhan	HRDF, Thailand
Mr. Phil Bloomer	Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
Mr. Pradeep Narayanan	Head of Research Praxis Institute for Participator Practices, India
Mr. Shakirul Islam	Chairman, Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP)
Mr. Simon Steyne	Senior Adviser, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work at International Labour Organization
Mr. Thomas Wissing	Head, Advocacy and Partnerships Unit, FUNDAMENTALS Branch, ILO



Mr. Tim Ryan	Regional Program Director --- Asia Solidarity Center, USA
Mr. Wahyu Susilo	Executive Director Migrant Care, Indonesia
Mr. Yared Degefu	Executive Director FSCE, Ethiopia
Ms. Beate Andrees	Chief, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, ILO
Ms. Benu Maya	Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children, Nepal
Ms. Bharti Patel	CEO, ECPAT
Ms. Caroline Robinson	Policy Director, Focus on Labour Exploitation
Ms. Cecilia Flores---Oebanda	President Visayan Forum Foundation, Philippines
Ms. Chaitali Sheth	Director Aangan Trust, India
Ms. Cindy Berman	Head of Modern Slavery, Ethical Trading Initiative
Ms. Felicity Gooding	CFO, Minderoo Foundation
Ms. Gemma Freedman	Policy Officer, European Union and International Relations Department, Trade Union Congress
Ms. Hira Dahal	Chairperson Chhori, Nepal
Ms. Jenn Morris	CEO, Walk Free
Ms. Jo Becker	Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch
Ms. Joanna Ewart James	Executive Director, Freedom United
Ms. Linda Al-Kalash	Director, Tamkeen, Jordan
Ms. Lysiane Granse	Chair, Terre des Hommes
Ms. Maria Khayat	CEO, Beyond, Lebanon
Ms. Melysa Sperber	Director, Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking (ATEST) at Humanity United
Ms. Micaela Cromin	Chief Executive, Hagar International
Ms. Nina Smith	CEO, GoodWeave International
Ms. Sophie Otiende	Program Manager Haart, Kenya
Ms. Suzanne Hoff	International Coordinator, La Strada International
Ms. Virginia Murillo Herrera	Executive President, DNI Costa Rica (Defence for Children
Ms. Writu Bhatta	Swatantrata Abhiyan, Nepal
Ms. Yuka Awatsuki	President and founder of Action against Child Exploitation (ACE)

CONCEPT NOTE ON NGO FORUM ALLIANCE 8.7

BACKGROUND

Alliance 8.7 is a global partnership that aims to provide strategic coordination to ensure the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 against forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.

In February 2017, fifty representatives from governments, UN Agencies, UN Special Rapporteurs, workers' and employers' organisations and NGOs participated in a strategic workshop at Wilton Park to consult on how to operationalise Alliance 8.7. This included discussions of focus areas, possible work plans and the potential role and structure of the Alliance.

*Before the end of that meeting, the participants all agreed that subsequent meetings would seek to include a **broader range of stakeholders** to develop longer term and more detailed work plans in the Alliance 8.7 process.*

To this end, the Freedom Fund convened a two day Forum in London on the 12th and 13th of September. This event brought together approximately 60 NGOs and workers' groups (civil society organisations or CSOs) working on the frontlines against forced labour, child labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, to initiate discussions around their role and involvement in the Alliance 8.7 framework, and to explore ways to collaborate more broadly.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Forum were to:

- Introduce, inform and engage CSOs with the work of the Alliance 8.7;
- Provide a forum for CSOs to discuss engagement with Alliance 8.7 globally and
- Provide concrete recommendations on the way forward.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The key expected outcomes of the Forum include the following:

- Clear identification of obstacles, the challenges and opportunities for CSOs in engaging with Alliance 8.7;
- Concrete recommendations for CSOs in advancing Alliance 8.7 objectives at a county level;
- Discussing potential mechanism for broader collaboration CSOs in combatting slavery, forced labour and child labour.

NGO Forum Alliance 8.7: Working together to end modern slavery and child labour

12-13 September 2017, Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3LN

About

The event is bringing together leaders of civil society organisations working to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. The purpose of this Forum is to engage these leaders in a discussion about their role and involvement in the new Alliance 8.7 and to explore ways for these organisations to collaborate more broadly.

Agenda

MONDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

LEGATUM INSTITUTE, 11 CHARLES STREET, LONDON, W1J 5DW

6.00pm – Welcome reception and address by the Secretary of State for International Development, the Rt. Hon. Priti Patel.
8pm

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CONGRESS CENTRE, 28 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, WC1B 3LN

9.00 am – Arrivals coffee and tea
9.15 am

9.15 am – **Welcome and Opening remarks by Nick Grono, Freedom Fund**
9.30 am

9.30 am – **Session 1: Understanding Alliance 8.7**
11.00 am **Q+A with Beate Andrees, International Labour Organisation**

Questions by: Andre Campos, Reporter Brazil
Moderator:

This session will outline the strategy of Alliance 8.7, its structures and platforms, upcoming activities and proposed timeframes, membership, partnerships and modalities of engagement.

11.00 am – **Break**
11.30 am

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CONGRESS CENTRE, 28 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, WC1B 3LN

11.30 am – **Session 2: Achieving the objectives of Alliance 8.7 – A discussion of the role of Civil Society Organisations.**
12.45 pm

Session moderated by: Sophie Otiende, HAART Kenya and Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch

Rapporteurs: Beate Andrees, ILO, Tom Wissing, ILO, Fergus Hansen, ILO, Yuka Iwatsuki, ACE, and TBD.

This session will focus on where and how NGOs could generate substantial engagement with Alliance 8.7 and discuss what forms of engagement would be most feasible and meaningful in country.

Participants will be asked to break into *five groups* to discuss the following questions:

- What role is there for Alliance 8.7 within your own countries (what difference could Alliance 8.7 make across its four focus areas:
 - Accelerating implementation
 - Conducting research and sharing knowledge
 - Driving innovation
 - Leveraging and increasing resources.
- What are the obstacles, the challenges and opportunities of engaging with Alliance 8.7?
- How does Alliance 8.7 add value to civil society work and vice versa?
- Can you identify the spaces, ministries, legislative offices/legislator entry points; government-linked policy forums where 8.7 could help accelerate implementation of programs to eradicate modern slavery and child labour?
- Which structural part of Alliance 8.7 would generate substantial engagement from NGOs in country? The Action Groups, Country Coordinating Groups and/or the Knowledge Platform?
- Can you consider what might be possible in your country vis a vis working with Alliance 8.7 and share ideas about possible strategies for next steps?

12.45 pm – **Lunch at the Congress Centre**
2.00 pm

2.00 pm – **Session 3: Obstacles, Challenges and Opportunities in engaging with Alliance 8.7.**
3.30 pm

Presentations

Moderated by: Sophie Otiende, HAART Kenya and Jo Becker, Human Rights Watch

This session will consider the ways in which NGOs can engage with the Alliance 8.7 process and identify potential barriers of engagement.

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CONGRESS CENTRE, 28 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, WC1B 3LN

Rapporteurs with one person from each group will identify the overlapping ideas from each session, so a consensus emerges from those recommendations that are common to 2 or 3 of the groups

3.30 pm – **Break**
4.00 pm

4.00 pm – **Session 4: The Global Estimate.**
5.00 pm

Panel: Fiona David, Walk Free and Michaëlle deCock-Luzzati, ILO and Brad Myles, Polaris

Moderated by: Pradeep Naranayan, Praxis Institute, India.

September 2017 at the United Nations General Assembly, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Walk Free Foundation will release new global estimates on modern slavery, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The estimate, alongside a companion Global Estimate on Child Labour, will provide global and regional figures against which progress toward achieving SDG Target 8.7 can be measured. This session will explore the methodology of the Global Estimate but also discuss how we measure the progress of Alliance 8.7.

5.00 pm – **Concluding Remarks**
5.15 pm

6.30 pm – **Dinner at the Council Chamber: 28 Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London**
8.30 pm **WC1B 3LN**

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

THE INVISION SUITE, CONGRESS CENTRE, 28 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, WC1B 3LN

8.30 am – Arrivals and coffee and tea
9.00 am

9.00 am – **Session 1: Achieving the goals of Alliance 8.7 through engagement with workers' organisations.**
10.30 am

Panel Discussion: Tim Ryan, Solidarity Centre, Gemma Freedman, TUC and Jeroen Beirnaert, ITUC and Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, Visayan Forum

Moderated by: Aidan McQuade, Anti-Slavery International

Discussion on how best NGOs and workers' organizations could widen and strengthen their work together towards the shared goals of ending all forms of child labour, forced

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

THE INVISION SUITE, CONGRESS CENTRE, 28 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, WC1B 3LN

labour modern slavery and human trafficking

10.30 am – **Break**
11.00 pm

11.00 pm – **Session 2: Examining the issues in depth: How can we overcome obstacles, take advantage of opportunities and find solutions towards engaging with Alliance 8.7 and collaborating more broadly?**
12.30 pm

Introduced by: Virginia Murillo Herrera, DNI Costa Rica

The participants will break into 5 groups along the lines of the recurring themes that have been identified as important issues during the previous sessions.

Rapporteurs:

Group 1: Joanna Ewart James, Freedom United

Group 2: George Chimaga, Tanzania Child Domestic Work Coalition

Group 3: TBD

Group 4: Linda Al Kalash, Tamkeen, Jordan

Group 5: James Kofi Annan, Challenging Heights

12.30 pm – **Lunch**
1.30 pm

1.30 pm – **Session 3: Examining the Issues in Depth: Presentations from Break Out Groups**
3.00 pm

Moderated by: Virginia Murillo Herrera, DNI Costa Rica

3.00 pm – **Break**
3.30 pm

3.30 pm – **Session 4: Discussion on next steps with Alliance 8.7 and the best mechanism for NGO collaboration against child labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour.**
4.30 pm

Panel: Melysa Sperber, ATEST (TBD) and Humanity United and Nick Grono, Freedom Fund

Moderated by: Arockiasamy Britto, Vaan Muhil India

This final session will assess all the information and ideas that have been presented in

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

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the last two days and discusses a way to move forward by:

- *Assessing each participant's interest in continued involvement in Alliance 8.7,*
- *Proposing concrete ways to move forward,*
- *Considering if it is useful for NGOs to form their own group within Alliance 8.7, as well as participating in the wider groupings or is another arrangement preferable?*

4.30 pm – **Closing Remarks Nick Grono, Freedom Fund**
4.45 pm
