



# Alliance 8.7 - Pathfinder Country Guidance Note

## Who are pathfinder countries?

Pathfinder countries are those that commit to going further and faster to achieve Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are countries, committed to accelerate efforts with new action and willing to try new approaches from which others can learn to support Target 8.7's urgent deadlines. All UN member states have committed to do more, so pathfinder status is open to any country, regardless of development level. Pathfinder countries will commit to new action to:

- Adopt, implement or enhance national action plans or policies, including strengthened legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, covering the topics enshrined in Target 8.7, as relevant: forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. National action plans or policies should be adopted/implemented in consultations with social partners at country level as per the principles of social dialogue and the standards on forced and child labour.
- Translate public commitments into concrete actions after having signed the *Call to Action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking* and/or made a public pledge to implement the *Buenos Aires Declaration* of the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour (Buenos Aires, 14-16 November 2017), or
- Provide support needed to facilitate accelerated action in another country.
- Promote and work towards the ratification and full implementation of recognised international human rights standards and obligations, including applicable international labour standards.

## Why do we need pathfinder countries?

UN member states set an ambitious agenda in adopting SDG Target 8.7, which calls for ending child labour in all its forms by 2025 and eradicating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030.

Despite the good work being done, Target 8.7 will not be met under the current pace of efforts. It requires urgent efforts to accelerate action and several countries have indicated they are ready to do much more. By highlighting the leadership of these countries and helping them to succeed, Alliance 8.7 can spur others to act.

## What are the opportunities for a pathfinder country?

Participation in Alliance 8.7 as a pathfinder country is an opportunity to:

- Gain development and economic benefits that come from reduced forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.
- Harness new resources through the attractive power of a demonstrated willingness to act.



- Leverage reputational benefits, including with global business actors that come from implementing applicable international standards and being a leader in the field.
- Showcase progress and successful interventions.
- Benefit from access to knowledge and expertise.
- Serve as a catalyst for wider change.
- Benefit from technical support to prepare reports under the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the SDGs

### **What are the implications of becoming a pathfinder country?**

Several countries have already expressed their interest in participating as pathfinder countries. Such an expression of interest<sup>1</sup> is submitted via a responsible government minister, with a senior government official appointed to lead the acceleration effort.

Following the receipt of the expression of interest, pathfinder countries have various options to turn commitments into action on the ground, as suggested below:

1. Convene a Strategic Planning Workshop at country-level with all interested Alliance 8.7 partners to develop a workplan. The workshop will also be the opportunity to assess the progress made by the country on Target 8.7. The workplan<sup>2</sup> sets out measurable actions to achieve accelerated deadlines, based on the results of the Strategic Planning Workshop. The necessary resources to fully implement the workplan and the indicators to review the process will also be identified.
2. Report against agreed indicators will take place each year (through the VNR for example) to showcase progress being made and to provide visibility to those countries achieving success. Pathfinder countries will also collect data to measure results and to make them available to the Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform so that efforts everywhere are continuously improved and lessons learned are shared as widely as possible. This may include gatherings of pathfinder countries to share lessons learned.
3. Support Alliance 8.7 outside its own country context for which a range of options exists, including by:
  - Providing political support to subregional, regional and global level efforts, for example by sponsoring, convening or chairing initiatives and events to accelerate action.
  - Scaling up or testing multi-stakeholder and innovative approaches in countries and sectors through the provision of financial and/or technical support.
  - Contributing to the Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform that others can draw on to improve results.
  - Participating in one or more of the Alliance 8.7 action groups by providing technical and/or financial support.

---

<sup>1</sup> An expression of interest can take different forms and typically implies a letter from a responsible minister to the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat setting out the country's interest in participating as a pathfinder country, willingness to significantly accelerate efforts and nominating a senior government official to lead the acceleration efforts.

<sup>2</sup> The plan should include clear benchmarks of progress that can be evaluated. These will be flexibly adjusted through regular review to avoid rigid programming arrangements. Alliance 8.7 will serve as a source of expertise, know-how and resources, to help pathfinder countries move forward.