Briefing Pack for the 4th Meeting of the Global Coordinating Group

3 April 2019, Geneva
Alliance 8.7 - Pathfinder Countries

Countries that have sent a written expression of interest to become Pathfinder Countries

1. Albania
2. Chile
3. Fiji
4. Madagascar
5. Malawi
6. Mauritania
7. Mexico
8. Morocco
9. Nepal
10. Nigeria
11. Peru
12. Sri Lanka
13. Tunisia
14. Uganda
15. Vietnam

Countries where national strategic planning workshops took place or are planned for 2018/2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>17 April 2019</td>
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Draft Concept Note
High Level Political Forum Side Event
Pathways to accelerate action on target 8.7
New York, 17 July 2019 (1.15 PM – 2.30 PM)

Background

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will be convened in New York from 9 to 18 July 2019 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council with overall theme *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.* As adopted by Member States in the 2030 Agenda, HLPF is mandated to carry out regular voluntary reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, 51 countries will be conducting voluntary national reviews. A set of goals will be reviewed in depth including SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which is considered each year. The review will address progress, challenges and inter-linkages with other aspects of the Agenda 2030.

SDG goal 8 calls on the international community to “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. In particular, Target 8.7 calls for Member States to “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms. Alliance 8.7 – a multi-stakeholder and inclusive global partnership – was created with the mission to assist all UN member States to fulfil their commitment to achieve Target 8.7. While many countries and organizations are taking active steps to achieve Target 8.7, there is an urgent need for coordinated global action. The Alliance brings together actors at all levels to collaborate, strategize, share knowledge and ultimately accelerate progress so we can deliver on this commitment by 2030. The strength of the Alliance lies in the diversity of its partners and their commitment to reaching across borders and meeting the challenges together.

At the global level, four Action Groups of Alliance 8.7 have been established, namely: Supply Chains, Migration, Rule of Law and Governance and Conflicts and Humanitarian Settings. These Action Groups reflect the thematic priorities of Alliance 8.7 and bring together organizations and initiatives working on these areas to maximize impact. Through these Action Groups, partners coordinate research and advocacy and drive implementation efforts on these complex issues. The Alliance is governed by a Global Coordinating Group representing governments, businesses and employers’ organizations, workers’ organizations, NGOs as well as international and regional organizations.

At the country level, the roll out of Alliance 8.7 started in 2018 with the Pathfinder Country Strategy, which is an integral part of the Alliance. Pathfinder Countries are those 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. So far, fifteen countries have formally expressed an interest to become Pathfinder Countries. These countries are in the process of organizing strategic planning workshops to establish priorities, identify immediate actions to be undertaken and test innovative approaches.

Rationale of the side event

Thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs are an essential part of the annual session of the HLPF. Therefore, the dedicated review of SDG 8 during this year’s HLPF, provides an ideal opportunity to
showcase countries’ commitment and action to achieve Target 8.7 and the launch the Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country Progress Reports.

Objectives of the side event

The objective of the side event is to launch the Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country Progress Reports and to provide a platform for selected Pathfinder Countries to share their experiences and challenges in the process and identify ways forward in terms of policies, partnerships and coordinated actions at all levels.

Overall approach

Sponsoring countries and partners of the Alliance 8.7 will jointly organize a side event in the margins of the HLPF. Representatives of sponsoring countries will deliver an opening speech, followed by high-level representatives of pathfinder countries to present their experiences and challenges. Other members of the Alliance 8.7 Global Coordination Group of the Alliance 8.7 will be invited to make brief comments. The Alliance Secretariat will launch a new digital repository on progress in Pathfinder Countries

Proposed format of the side event

The proposed duration of the event is 1.5 – 2 hours, preferably at the UN Building.

- Welcome and opening
- Interventions from 2-3 Ministers of Pathfinder Countries
- Discussants: partners of the Alliance
- Launch of the Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country Progress Reports
Alliance 8.7 Partnership
217 Partners
4 Action Groups

CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS
106

RULE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE
128

MIGRATION
122

SUPPLY CHAINS
135
The mission of Alliance 8.7 is to assist all UN member States to fulfil their commitment to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 8, Target 8.7:

*Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.*

Because achieving Target 8.7 also means ensuring that supply chains are free from forced labour and child labour, in February 2017, during a strategy workshop at Wilton Park, Alliance 8.7 members decided to establish a Supply Chain Action Group. The Supply Chain Action Group mission is to work toward four broad goals:

1. Accelerating action
2. Conducting research and sharing knowledge
3. Driving innovation and increasing resources

The work of the Supply Chain Action Group is guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the principles enshrined in the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Principles of the ILO’s Tripartite Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, particularly as they concern child labour and forced labour.

The first meeting of the Supply Chain Action Group was held in June 2017 with the support of the Government of Germany. To facilitate consultations with its members, four working groups were established on key areas of work, namely, a) Research, b) Advocacy and partnerships, c) Capacity building and tools, d)
Key supply chains and countries. The meeting concluded with the identification of a set of priorities for each working group and the agreement to periodically review progress made under each priority. At the end of the year, the Action Group adopted a two-year action plan to deliver concrete results in 2018-19. By March 2019, 203 individuals have joined the Action Group from 135 organisations.

To prepare the Action Group’ strategic workshop in Abidjan, the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat drafted the 2018-2019 implementation report (Annex I). It also started consultations on the scope of the meeting with Alliance 8.7 partners. A save the date for the meeting was sent through the Alliance 8.7 online distribution list on 19 March, 2019.

**Meeting purposes**

The two days meeting will reconvene members of the Supply Chain Action Group with the purposes of:

1. Reviewing progress on the implementation of the 2018-19 work plan and identifying common priorities for 2020-21. This will include a round table with Alliance 8.7 pathfinder countries on their contributions to accelerate progress as well as the launch of new partnerships in supply chains in Africa.

2. Sharing knowledge and developing proposals on how to accelerate progress to eradicate child labour and forced labour in supply chains with a particular focus on cotton, fishing and mining.

The meeting will include high level panels, thematic panels, working groups and spotlight presentations by members of the group.

**Participants**

All members of the Alliance 8.7 Action Group have been invited to the meeting through the Alliance 8.7 online distribution list. In addition several pathfinder countries have been invited as well as other Governments and organizations interested in the Action Group.

**Dates and Venue**

The meeting will take place on 14-15 May, 2019 in Abidjan. Venue to be confirmed.

**Agenda**

Please see attached (Annex II).
Annex I

**Alliance 8.7 Action Group on Supply Chains**

Implementation Report for 2018-19 Work plan
(March, 2019)

How did we start?

The Action Group on Supply Chains, chaired by the ILO, was launched in June 2017 at a workshop hosted by the Government of Germany. It brought together a broad cross-section of stakeholders who agreed a series of objectives for the Action Group on Supply Chains (see Outcomes Report on the Alliance 8.7 website [https://www.alliance87.org/action/action-groups/#supply](https://www.alliance87.org/action/action-groups/#supply)). To maintain the momentum and support concrete results, the Supply Chain Action Group adopted a two-year work plan in early 2018 (see Workplan on the Alliance 8.7 website).

The workplan focuses on the delivery of a short list of results where the action group can add most value to the realization of the four broad goals of Alliance 8.7, namely:

1. **Accelerating action** by providing technical expertise to strengthen national strategies for achieving Target 8.7 and supporting advocacy efforts for stronger national policies and their effective implementation.

2. **Conducting research and sharing knowledge** through filling data gaps and supporting governments that require technical assistance on data collection.

3. **Driving innovation** by addressing gaps in the current response that will accelerate existing efforts and by identifying priority areas for testing innovative interventions, including harnessing promising new technologies and supporting public-private partnerships.

4. **Increasing and leveraging resources** by working to ensure existing resources are earmarked to directly contribute to Target 8.7, pooled between different institutions working towards common goals and new resources are mobilized.

Where do we stand?

By March 2019, 203 individual from 135 organisation have joined the Supply Chains Action. By December 2018, the Action Group’s work plan delivered most of the results expected for its first year of implementation:

Mapping of relevant supply chain initiatives

A mapping of forced labour and human trafficking initiatives in global supply chains was presented in May 2018. This was the result of a collaboration between several Alliance 8.7 partners, namely the Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the UN Global Compact Decent Work in Global Supply Chains Action Platform, and the RESPECT Initiative founding organisations, the International Organization
for Migration, The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Babson College and the ILO. The research also includes a mapping of child labour initiatives, which will be further developed in 2019. The mapping of all initiatives is available at http://www.modernslaverymap.org/

Report on child labour and forced labour in global supply chains

The G20 2017 Labour Ministerial Declaration asked the Alliance 8.7 "for a joint report containing proposals on how to accelerate action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, forced labour and modern slavery in global supply chains including identifying high risk sectors, and how to support capacity building in the countries most affected".

A research consortium comprised of the ILO, OECD, UNICEF and IOM has been formed to work on a report seeking to present quantitative evidence on the phenomena of child labour, forced labour and trafficking in persons in global supply chains, identify practices and factors that heighten risks and showcase good responses from public and private actors. For this report, statistical surveys were conducted in select sectors. The surveys helped to pilot measurement methodologies and improve understanding of global supply chains, including their intersection with domestic supply chains. An advisory board has been formed to guide the research process, involving governments, ITUC and IOE.

Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking

The ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour was launched at the Annual Summit of the Consumers Goods Forum, in Singapore in June 2018 and is now open for membership. Its first informal Steering Committee meeting was held in November 2018 and a second meeting, formal this time, will be organized in the first quarter of 2019.

The Steering Committee is currently comprised of representatives from ASEAN CSR Network, Coca-Cola, Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), Disney, International Organisation of Employers (IOE), Employers Federation of Ceylon, and Leather and Footwear Manufacturers Association of Bangladesh, and will be expanded. Currently, the Network members are Coca-Cola, Disney, Gap and Mars Inc. as well as ASEAN CSR Network, BSR GBCAT, CGF, IOE, and Stronger Together. For more information on the network, please visit https://www.ilo.org/actemp/areas-of-work/WCMS_632434/lang--en/index.htm.

New or consolidated initiatives to accelerate action

On November 2018, the CLEAR COTTON project was launched by the EU, FAO and ILO to tackle child labour and forced labour in various tiers of the garment supply chains with a particular focus on cotton production. The partnership has started to set up its operations in collaboration with the governments in Burkina Faso, Mali and Pakistan. Social partners and NGOs will also play an active role in the implementation. For more information on the project: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/clear-cotton-project-against-child-labour-launches-brussels_en. Furthermore, a new partnership between the ILO and the Government of the Netherlands was launched to accelerate action for the elimination of child labour in selected supply chains in Africa. Six countries will participate in the project, namely Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda. The project also has an important knowledge sharing and partnership component to extend good practices and lessons learned to the region.

What is next?

The Action Group will review progress made and discuss its future work plan during the next global meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to take place in mid-May, 2019 in Abidjan (dates TBC very soon).
DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1

TUESDAY 14, MAY 2019

08:00-09:00  Registration

09:00-10:00  Spotlight Presentations by Alliance 8.7 Members

10:00-10:30  Keynote Address

10:30-10:45  NETWORKING AND COFFEE

10:45-12:00  High Level Panel: Accelerating Progress in Africa

12:00-13:00  Spotlight Presentations by Alliance 8.7 Members

13:00-14:30  LUNCH

14:30-16:30  Working Groups (WG)-Track I

Three parallel working groups will have in depth discussions on key areas of work for the Action Group under its 2018-19 work plan and provide inputs on next steps and priorities.

**WG - Research**

This session will provide an update on ongoing research carried out jointly by OECD, IOM, UNICEF and ILO on child labour and forced labour in supply chains. Participants will be invited to share updates on research efforts of their respective organisations, followed by a discussion on how to address research gaps and strengthen collaboration.

**WG - Advocacy, Communication and Partnerships**

This session will present recent efforts to promote and facilitate collaboration and partnerships across Alliance 8.7 members. It will present an update of the mapping of existing supply chain initiatives, followed by a discussion on how to harness synergies and enhance the visibility of the various contributions to reach SDG target 8.7.

**WG - Key Supply Chains and Countries**

* A focus on accelerating action in mining

Drawing from concrete due diligence experiences in supplier countries, this session will discuss efforts to create partnerships between downstream and upstream supply chain actors in order to eliminate child labour and forced labour. This discussion will focus in particular on the role of worker’s and employers’ organisations in select sectors. The first track of this WG will focus on mining. Participants will also elaborate proposals to accelerate progress on country and supply chain specific initiatives.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:30-16:45</td>
<td>NETWORKING AND COFFEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:45-17:45</td>
<td>Panel discussion: Key forces shaping supply chains and Target 8.7</td>
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<td>17:45</td>
<td>CULTURAL EVENT</td>
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**DAY 2**

**WEDNESDAY 15, MAY 2019**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30-11:00</td>
<td>High-Level Panel with Pathfinder Countries</td>
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<td>11:00-12:30</td>
<td>Parallel Thematic Panels</td>
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<td><strong>Thematic Panel 1.</strong> Alliance 8.7 Business Networks-Collaborative approaches on the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the lowest tiers of the supply chain.</td>
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<td><strong>Thematic Panel 2.</strong> Fair Recruitment and Target 8.7: from commitment to implementation.</td>
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<td><strong>Thematic Panel 3.</strong> New approaches to tackle child labour and forced labour in supply chains with the assistance of technology: risks and opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-14:00</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-16:00</td>
<td>Working Groups (WG)-Track II</td>
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<td>Three parallel working groups will have in depth discussions on key areas of work for the Action Group under its 2018-19 work plan and provide inputs on next steps and priorities.</td>
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<td><strong>WG-Advocacy, Communication and Partnerships</strong></td>
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<td><strong>A focus on public – private partnerships to promote responsible procurement</strong></td>
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<td>From legislation to procurement practices or funding mechanisms, this session will look at policy makers’ responses to tackle child labour and forced labour in supply chains. It will also include consultations on priorities for the action group on this topic.</td>
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<td><strong>WG-Key Supply Chains and Countries</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>A focus on accelerating progress in fishing</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>This session will explore various models to eliminate child labour and forced labour in fishing. It will also discuss results and lessons learned from various sourcing countries and proposals to accelerate action.</td>
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WG-Key Supply Chains and Countries

A focus on accelerating progress in the garment supply chain

This session will explore different approaches and partnerships on the elimination of child labour and forced labour in cotton and garment industry. It will also discuss proposals on how to support convergence of efforts and accelerate action.

16:00-16:15 NETWORKING AND COFFEE

16:15-17:30 CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Interactive Interview of Working Group Rapporteurs

This final session will provide the key elements of the 2020-2021 work plan, which will be subject to further online consultation.
Progress note on the Action Group on Migration

1. Outcomes from the 2018 workshop – Work Plan and Workshop Notes
2. Updates on research reports
3. Communication Planning
4. Next Steps

1. Workshop 29-30 November 2018, Geneva

In November 2018, the Migration Action Group hosted over 30 participants representing a diverse group of institutions to discuss priorities and gaps relating to SDG 8.7 and migration. The two-day workshop was jointly facilitated by IOM, UNICEF, ILO, and the Walk Free Foundation.

- Also during the workshop, the Terms of Reference for the Action Group were reviewed and thematic areas and respective interventions were prioritized as a basis for the 2019-2020 work plan. After the workshop, IOM and UNICEF drafted a preliminary workplan.
- Using the research findings as a basis for discussion, Walk Free conducted interactive sessions to identify actions based on priority and feasibility, to build into a work plan for 2019 and beyond. The workshop generated further enthusiasm for the Alliance and action group, with new members requesting access.
- The online engagement tool (slack) has been used to feedback comments from participants and other interested stakeholders into the work plan. The Action Plan consists of four building blocks with a menu of engagement options for partners.

2. Research

The Walk Free literature review entitled *Migrants and their Vulnerability to Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, and Forced Labour* created the foundation for our workshop discussion. We received significant comments and suggestions throughout December. These have been integrated and a final product will be published this spring.

The Child Labour Policy report is also in the pipeline.

3. Communication Plans

The Action Group is piloting the Online Engagement Platform “Slack” to increase interaction and opportunities for multi-directional engagement among members. Members of the Migration Action Group were individually invited to join the Migration channel as well as the “General Announcements” channel for all Alliance 8.7 partners and a User Guide was posted for members to read upon joining. The preliminary work plan developed by IOM and UNICEF was then shared for comments. Comments have been received regarding incorporating survivors’ voices and on how to potentially divide the workplan among members.
4. **Next Steps:**

- Encourage country level contacts and networks to attend the Pathfinder Country consultations organized by the Secretariat.
- Develop list of migration-related considerations to include in the Pathfinder consultations.
- Revisit and finalize action group TORs (to be circulated first week of March)
- Finalize Research Agenda (tucked into Work Plan)
- Finalize set of standard policy recommendations (first list to be circulated first week of March)
The 2018 Freedom from Slavery Forum took place in Bangkok, Thailand from December 3-5, 2018. This iteration of the Forum, the sixth annual, built off the work and goals of years past by bringing leaders from the anti-slavery field together to coalesce, create partnerships, discuss promising practices, and develop a shared agenda for action. Each year, Forum participants build relationships and prioritize actions in areas such as advocacy, measurement, and survivor care, among other themes.

Accordingly, the 2018 Forum was a three day event organized by an Advisory Committee of leaders from the anti-slavery field. Building off feedback from participants of the 2017 Forum, the Committee identified three primary themes to prioritize for the 2018 iteration:

**Day One:** Learning from One Another  
**Day Two:** Advocacy and NGO Collaboration  
**Day Three:** Achieving Scale as a Movement

On the first day, participants learned about Alliance 8.7’s new learning platform, Delta 8.7. Emily Cholette from the United Nations University shared an overview of the new platform and gave participants information on how to effectively navigate and utilize the site.

Later, two sets of simultaneous breakout sessions took place. The first breakout session, *Measuring Slavery*, gave participants the option to attend either *Community Liberation Model: Measuring Community Resistance* to Slavery led by John Whan Yoon of Free the Slaves or *Participatory Learning, Monitoring, and Evaluation on Scale in Contexts of Modern Slavery* led by Bishnu Sharma of ActionAid Nepal and Pauline Oosterhoff of Institute for Development Studies. In the afternoon, during the *Targeting Audiences and Meeting Needs* breakout sessions, participants chose to either attend *Creating Safe Spaces for Survivors of Slavery* with Tina Frundt of Courtney’s House and Sophie Otiende of HAART or *Targeting and Reaching Specific Audiences for Human Trafficking Education* with Katherine Jolluck of Stanford University and Dominique Chauvet-Staco of the Pathy Family Foundation.

The first day also utilized “Marketplace Methodology” for a session titled *Innovations and Good Practices*. During this session, the following stations were set up and participants had the opportunity to visit three of them:

1. *Better Data, Better Technology, Better Response* by Andrew Wallis of Unseen UK  
2. *Strategic Litigation for Trafficking Victims* by Sarah Bessel of the Human Trafficking Legal Center  
3. *Being a Trauma-Informed Organization* by Carol Mortensen of Hagar International  
4. *Using Social Media to Engage with Youth in Your Program* by Tina Frundt of Courtney’s House
Day two of the Forum began with an "Open Space Technology" session during which participants were able to set their own agenda. Various topics were discussed throughout the two hour period. The second session of the day was a “Talk Show” titled Case Study: NGO Collaboration at Its Best. During this session, Dan Vexler of the Freedom Fund moderated a conversation with Parinita Kumari, Vandana Kanth, and Sunil Sainju about their organizations' participation with the Human Liberty Network. In the afternoon, Mara Vanderslice Kelly of United Way Worldwide, Willy Buloso of ECPAT International, and Purva Gupta of the Global March Against Child Labour each delivered a “TEDx style talk” about their organizations’ perspectives on movement building and the importance of collaboration. Finally, day two concluded with a presentation from the US Department of Labor entitled From a Funder: Thoughts, Advice, Questions, and More.

The third and final day of the 2018 Forum began with a session titled Multilateral Organization Perspectives. Facilitator Jost Wagner led a “fish bowl” style conversation with Tara Dermott of the International Organization for Migration and Thomas Wissing of the International Labour Organization. After this session, representatives from Deloitte presented the results of research they conducted in conjunction with Free the Slaves over the past few months. Their study, Operationalizing the Movement Behind SDG 8.7, was presented as a draft, and participants were encouraged to offer feedback during the latter half of the session.

The final focus of day three was building the civil society organization movement as a whole. Maurice Middleberg of Free the Slaves, Marina Sala of the Foundation for International Democracy, and Willy Buloso of ECPAT International facilitated a conversation titled Accelerating the NGO Platform to Address SDG 8.7 and formally introduced the Civil Society Statement of Principles and Goals, also known as The Bangkok Statement. This statement outlines the civil society perspective on how to effectively achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 and was endorsed by over 70 nonprofit organizations ahead of the 2018 Forum. After Middleberg, Sala, and Buloso introduced The Bangkok Statement, participants broke into small groups and discussed how they might use it effectively in their home countries.

Approximately eighty different organizations were represented at the 2018 Forum, and invitations were extended based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee, sponsors, and past participants. Participants’ evaluations of the Forum gave it a 4.5 out of 5 overall, including content and logistics. There was a marked interest in continuing to hold the Forum in 2018 and beyond, with emphasis placed on continuing to build the movement and connect participants between annual convenings.

The 2018 Freedom from Slavery Forum was made possible by the generosity of the Elkes Foundation, the International Labour Organization, United Way Worldwide, and the Freedom Fund, with additional support from Deloitte.
Update on Communications and Engagement

GCG Background Paper

Geneva, 27 March 2019
Launch of the Communications and Engagement Action Group (CEAG)

The Communications and Engagement Action Group (CEAG) was established to bolster Alliance 8.7 efforts to communicate and engage with Partners and external stakeholders.

The inception meeting took place following the 3rd GCG meeting in November 2018. This meeting helped to define the role that communications and engagement could play in the Alliance and provided a general scope for the CEAG. A call for GCG members to nominate a focal point to the CEAG was well received with several members nominating their communications colleagues as the focal point. Other GCG members are still encouraged to nominate a focal point to the CEAG.

In preparation for the first meeting of CEAG held on 14 March 2019, the Secretariat drafted a **Network Communications and Engagement strategy** that was based on previous surveys and research. The aim of the strategy is to build a network of relevant stakeholders who exchange and interact and work together, leading to more, better and faster action to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. The strategy outlines objectives, the engagement journey, stakeholder groups, key messages, calls to actions and channels.

During the meeting, CEAG members commented on the strategy and shared **valuable insights**. Based on these inputs, the strategy will be further refined by the Secretariat and updated periodically as the Alliance evolves. It was also noted that once network communications and engagement is flowing, the Secretariat plans to develop a strategy for external communications and engagement, for review by the CEAG.

Participants agreed to hold the second meeting of the CEAG after the next GCG meeting on April 3 to review the **activities calendar**, which will be an essential tool for sharing and promoting all types of content, including news, events, campaigns, reports etc.

The CEAG will be open to all Partners of Alliance 8.7 in order to maximise the **amplification power** of the Alliance. To maintain representation, GCG members of the CEAG will act as the Steering Committee (CEAG-SC), and take decisions regarding strategies and activities.
Pilot of the Online Engagement Platform

Rationale for launching an Online Engagement Platform

In the last two Global Coordinating Group meetings, there was an expressed need for the Alliance 8.7 partnership to provide a tool to facilitate communication and engagement between different stakeholders around the world.

Taking on board the calls for an online engagement platform and the need to deliver on the communication and engagement objectives, the Secretariat started looking into 8 different software providers that could, in line with the objectives, provide:

- An **online space** for discussions, allowing ongoing collaboration beyond biannual face-to-face meetings
- A **private space** where partners can share files with each other but not on the website open to the general public such as draft work plans, draft reports and ideas.
- A **directory of partners**, allowing partners to search for others working in the same field/country using search filters and reach out to each other directly.

Why Slack?

The different options available were sorted in the following table in order to identify the software solution that best fit our needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOFTWARE PROGRAMMES</th>
<th>Ease of use</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Cost-effective</th>
<th>Discussion board</th>
<th>File uploading &amp; sharing</th>
<th>Project management options</th>
<th>Searchable directory</th>
<th>Cultural fit</th>
<th>Integrate with website</th>
<th>Publish on website</th>
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Based on the above, the Secretariat decided to pilot Slack with the Migration Action Group, the newly established Communications and Engagement Action Group and within the Secretariat. The ILO, as Secretariat of the Alliance, was awarded an upgraded account for free from Slack because of our non-private sector status.
How does the user journey work?

Here is a list of channels. All are private and accessible upon invitation from the Secretariat except for “announcements” which is for everyone.

Here is an example of an announcement. The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime asked for non-English speaking country examples for their compendium of technological tools used to combat Trafficking in Persons.

And here is the thread of replies with suggestions from Alliance 8.7 partners.

Here is a list of other members that you can send a direct private message to.

Clicking on a person’s name or photo will bring up their profile with whatever information they choose to upload i.e. job role, organisation, location, field of expertise.
How did it go?

The Slack trial has so far been successful in terms of communication within the Secretariat and with other partners. Here are four examples of how the user journey works:

1. Comments have been made on the Migration Action Group work plan, which was uploaded on the “Migration” channel.
2. The Communications and Engagement Action Group have their own channel and Slack and the ITUC has shared some key dates for the Alliance 8.7 Content Calendar. The draft communications and engagement strategy was also shared on this channel.
3. The “Tech Against Trafficking Initiative” reached out to the Secretariat of Alliance 8.7 to ask for suggestions for their compendium of technological tools used to combat and prevent human trafficking as they feared they had missed some tools due to language barriers. We shared the request on the platform and they received suggestions that have already been added to the compendium.
4. Delta 8.7 made a request for inputs on Slack for the upcoming report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

All in all, it has been successful. As with all pilots, there are lessons learned:
- Some people require a lot of time to get used to the software and make it regular habit to check for messages or download it as an app on their desktop/phone.
- Activity in each channel is heavily reliant on input and moderation from the channel “moderator”.
- It is crucial that on the day all members of an action group are invited to join, there is constant communication and moderation from the “moderator”. First impressions count and an empty space loses interest fast.
- Partners want to know that this is a genuine means of collaboration for Alliance 8.7 and not just a box ticking exercise. For this we need to roll it out to the whole Alliance and encourage a collaborative spirit.

Next steps

Given that the Alliance 8.7 is:
- A steadily **growing** partnership with an average of 3 requests to join Action Groups sent per week in the last month.
- A **decentralised** partnership with efforts to #Achieve87 channelled through various Action Groups, Pathfinder Countries and Organisational Partners.
- A **diverse** partnership covering a wide range of actors as depicted in the [Network Matrix](#).

We need an online engagement platform that puts partners in contact with each other and not just their action group lead, that allows for ongoing collaboration beyond face-to-face meetings and a private space where each partner can be honest about the help they need.

We therefore hope to **roll out Slack** to all action groups, taking the above lessons learned into account. At the current rate, we will be able to add most Alliance partners to Slack under our free upgrade package.