

ALLIANCE



**JOINING FORCES
GLOBALLY TO END
FORCED LABOUR,
MODERN SLAVERY,
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND CHILD LABOUR**

Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Alliance 8.7 Global Coordinating Group

New York, 17th July 2018

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Meeting report

Objective of the meeting:

Take stock of progress since the inaugural meeting of the Global Coordinating Group (GCG) in Buenos Aires (November 2017) and review the Alliance 8.7 governance structure.

Participants:

See attached list. (Annex I)

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and progress report (Chair)
- II. Update on Action Groups (Secretariat)
- III. Update on Knowledge Platform (UN University)
- IV. Strategy on Pathfinder Countries (Chair / Secretariat)
- V. Governance / Terms of Reference for the Alliance 8.7
- VI. Review of 2018 High-Level Work plan and next steps

Conclusions and action points for follow up

I. Progress report (Chair)

Alliance 8.7 has made reasonable progress since the first meeting of the GCG during the IV Global Conference on Child Labour in Buenos Aires (November 2017). The Chair has focused on turning commitments into action, bedding down an appropriate governance structure, and enhancing partnerships with ICAT and related SDG partnerships.

Examples of this work are:

- A stocktaking exercise with the leads of the Action Groups in New York in March 2018;
- The support for the design of the Alliance 8.7 website for closer partner engagement and the Delta 8.7 Knowledge platform for the Alliance;
- The support of the launch of the Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in Singapore, during the Global Sustainability Conference of the Consumer Goods Forum in June 2018;



The Chair also organized briefings in Geneva, New York and Vienna with member States and UN agencies. These meetings contributed to a better understanding of the complementarity of different SDG partnerships and the need for collaboration, e.g. with the 5.2 Global Partnership on Trafficking in Women, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). Consultations and joint meetings also took place in the framework of the Bali Process and the UK Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Since the beginning of 2018, some 30 countries have expressed their interest to become a potential pathfinder country of the Alliance 8.7. Six countries (Albania, Chile, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan) have already requested guidance and/or support to organize respective national consultation workshops.

The Chair and the Secretariat received comments from member States and other GCG members on the complexity of the Operational Guidelines and the need for better guidance on country-level implementation. Since Buenos Aires, the Chair and Secretariat have developed a new Terms of Reference and a Pathfinder Guidance Note to facilitate national and regional implementation.

II. Update on Action Groups (Chair/Secretariat)

The **Supply Chains Group** (chaired by ILO) has developed or is working on the following products and services:

1. An inter-agency mapping tool on forced labour in supply chains, with inputs from private sector institutions. Delivered.
2. G-20 supply chain report, in collaboration between ILO, OECD and World Bank. To be presented during UN General Assembly 2019.
3. Consolidation of child labour platform (business driven initiative with participation of IOE and ITUC). Several meetings planned for second semester 2018 (Geneva, Turkey, Mexico)
4. Launch of Business Network on Forced labour during the Global Forum of the Consumer Goods Forum in Singapore (June 2018).

The **Migration Group** (chaired by IOM) is preparing its launch in November, with a preparatory meeting in London on the 20th September, and is working on the following:

1. Mapping exercise on key issues on migration and SDG target 8.7
2. Study on forced labour in displacement and in conflict and humanitarian situations.



3. Research paper on effectiveness gaps of policy interventions
4. Policy paper on child labour in conflict situations, with ILO, UNICEF and DFID

Following the presentations, participants discussed the following issues:

- Who are the members of each action group and who decides on their participation? – The new website / engagement platform will support direct interaction between partners;
- Organizations can participate in the Alliance 8.7 without necessarily committing to participation in one of the Action Groups;
- Rural Development Group: FAO keeps committed to support the work and also provide inputs to the Alliance 8.7 website and the knowledge platform, but cannot take the lead for the moment;
- Networks and alliances with other global SDG partnerships are crucial to ensure synergies and avoid duplications;
- Action Groups should provide a global work plan and identify required knowledge and resources, but also support regional and country-level implementation.

III. Update on Knowledge platform (UNU)

The platform is currently in its beta testing phase. UNU decided to call it “Delta 8.7: The Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform”, in reference to the greek mathematical symbol for change, as one key objective is to support the measurement of progress and change. The platform will feature a forum, data dashboards, thematic areas and a learning space to foster “scientific literacy” on research and data supporting policy development. The alpha version will be launched during UN General Assembly in September.

Discussion:

What is the role of business in consultations, contributions and as beneficiaries? – The platform is primarily designed to serve policy makers (governments) and the research community, but will provide useful information also for business, without necessarily focusing on services that other institutions can provide. The engagement platform will also keep all the stakeholders informed on the developments around the knowledge platform.

IV. Strategy on pathfinder countries (Chair/Secretariat)

The strategy was presented on the basis of the pathfinder guidance note. There is a need to “translate” the global and regional commitments on SDG 8.7 into tangible national results. This means incentivizing countries to go beyond a business-as-usual approach and recognise innovative approaches and extraordinary efforts. The strategy is designed to be inclusive and provide an opportunity for any country leading by example.

Discussion:



How can the Alliance ensure to set and apply criteria for governments that face compliance challenges or are consciously violating international labour standards?

- *A threshold or safeguard strategy for defining pathfinder countries should be developed by the Secretariat to ensure authentic commitment and leadership. Some countries might have real intentions to make progress, but lack required resources, so funding needs should be taken into consideration.*
- *While no new supervisory mechanisms should be introduced by the Alliance, a more explicit insistence on respect and promotion of human rights and international labour standards should be the bottom line for accepting applications to become a pathfinder country. Potential pathfinder countries also must commit to initiate a national consultation process with stakeholders, leading to measurable Action Plans and include reporting schedules;*
- *All GCG participants are invited to provide further comments on the draft pathfinder guidance note, so a new version can be circulated for discussion and adoption asap;*

V. Governance / Terms of Reference for the Alliance 8.7

Participants discussed the Terms of Reference for the Alliance and the GCG, distributed as part of the briefing pack:

- Rotation of membership is suggested to allow for broad participation and renewed engagement. Each member group (e.g. governments, social partners, international organizations, etc.) needs to define the rotation scheme that best fits its respective interests;
- Civil society wants to be better represented in the GCG. CSOs can establish their own rotation scheme of available seats;
- Several speakers questioned if the Secretariat was sufficiently equipped or if it needed additional resources;
- The distinction between members and partners was eliminated, but criteria for becoming a pathfinder country should be further discussed;
- It is necessary to clearly describe the role of GCG and the scope of its decision-making;
- The ToRs for the pathfinder countries should be finalized soon;
- The GCG should meet twice a year, at least for now. The next meeting will take place early in late 2018 or early 2019 to finalize the ToR for the governance structure and pathfinder countries. A Save-the-date will be sent out soon. The next regular meeting will take place during the High-Level Political Forum in New York, in July 2019;
- The next meetings should provide more time for substantive discussions. The Chair and the Secretariat will propose a date, eventually close to some other related international event.



VI. Work plan / Next steps

- GCG participants are invited to submit their comments and proposals on the ToR for the Alliance and on the pathfinder guidance note until Wednesday, 15th August 2018, CoB, by email to the Secretariat of Alliance 8.7, info@alliance87.org;
- On the basis of the comments, the Secretariat will draft new versions for both documents;
- The final ToR will be adopted during the next GCG meeting.