



Report of the Consultation for West and North Africa

Abidjan, 8 & 9 September 2016

On 8 and 9 September 2016, a Consultation on Alliance 8.7 for West and North Africa was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, with the aim of identifying ways of “**combining efforts to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour**”. The objective of this consultation, which brought together 11 countries from the two subregions, represented by tripartite delegations, regional and international organizations and civil society, was firstly to brief participants on the sustainable development goals (SDGs), target 8.7 and related targets, and the potential role of Alliance 8.7. The consultation was also intended to provide a forum for governments, employers' and workers' organizations and other stakeholders to discuss their respective roles in achieving target 8.7 and contributing to Alliance 8.7. A further objective was to identify challenges and opportunities in achieving target 8.7 in West and North Africa, and how Alliance 8.7 might be a factor in speeding up the results. Finally, the consultation was intended to initiate a dialogue between tripartite constituents and other stakeholders regarding the objectives and shape of Alliance 8.7, and to gather suggestions on how it might function in West and North Africa.

The Opening Ceremony, chaired by **Ms Dominique Ouattara**, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, President of the National Supervisory Committee for activities to combat trafficking, exploitation and child labour (Comité National de Surveillance des actions de lutte contre la traite, l'exploitation et le travail des enfants) provided an opportunity to gauge the position and commitment of the various actors with regard to Alliance 8.7 and to agree on one important point: to make progress in combating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, 'business as usual' will not do! We need to work and make progress together to achieve target 8.7. This point was emphasized by **Mr Aeneas C. Chuma**, the ILO's Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa, in his opening remarks. After thanking Côte d'Ivoire for its welcome, symbolizing the country's return to its historical role of promoting peace and development on the continent, he highlighted the figures for child labour and trafficking in Africa, expressing the hope that immediate, innovative solutions would be forthcoming. He referred to the SDGs adopted by the international community, in particular Goal 8 concerning growth, employment and decent work, and the associated target 8.7. **Mr Chuma** welcomed the emergence of Alliance 8.7 as a new global coalition aiming to achieve target 8.7 and supporting the partners in developing a new way of engaging and working together. In this respect, the Abidjan consultation was an excellent opportunity to participate in a global effort and to adopt a common position before the official launch of Alliance 8.7, planned for 21 September 2016 in New York.

Mr Ayuba Wabba, President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, spokesman for the worker representatives from West and North Africa, pointed out that workers' organizations had made an

active contribution to the formulation and adoption of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, one year before in New York, and in particular to target 8.7. He affirmed that the ILO must be directly involved in the process of monitoring and assessing the SDGs. The workers' organizations, who had met prior to the Abidjan consultation, had come to the conclusion that, even though efforts had been made and some progress achieved, there were still many challenges to be faced, particularly in the concrete implementation of the national action plans developed and adopted by the various countries. Mr Ayuba Wabba noted that, where freedom of association and collective bargaining are recognized, progress is more rapid, as social dialogue is the key to success in eliminating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour. Where the establishment of Alliance 8.7 was concerned, the workers' representative pointed out that the social partners have an important role to play in both the development and implementation of Alliance 8.7. Workers' organizations have always been involved in combating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, in particular through collective bargaining, awareness-raising and advocacy. They are trusted by workers, their families and communities generally, and this is what they can bring to the table of Alliance 8.7. Slavery and child labour are flagrant violations of workers' rights, which also include non-discrimination, freedom of association and collective bargaining. These are the fundamental principles and rights that the ILO must insist on in Alliance 8.7. The workers' representative called on the respective governments to ratify the ILO conventions and to develop tripartite national action plans to put an end to child labour and trafficking. Mr Ayuba Wabba requested that the roles of the actors in Alliance 8.7 be defined on the basis of the capacities of each; the capacity of the social partners must be strengthened so that they can play their role of strengthening the capacities of trade unions. In conclusion, Mr Ayuba Wabba stressed that the workers' organizations of the countries represented were committed to supporting and contributing to an Alliance 8.7 that was transparent, coherent and inclusive, taking all the actors into account.

Mr Kacou Diagou, President of the Federation of West Africa Employers' Associations (FWAEA) and President of the Confédération Générale des Entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire (CGECI), spoke on behalf of the employers, stressing that the development of enterprises and the private sector was the most effective weapon for combating forced labour, human trafficking and child labour. He said that none of the modern enterprises belonging to the FWAEA employs children and that the Federation was committed to working with regional development organizations to accelerate the country's economic development, essential for putting an end to this scourge. **Mr Kacou Diagou** affirmed that the employers would participate whole-heartedly in the consultation and, speaking for the FWAEA and the CGECI, he hoped to see a mechanism put in place to monitor the work envisaged and to measure progress.

Mr Moussa Dosso, Minister of Employment and Social Protection of Côte d'Ivoire, congratulated the ILO on the initiative it had taken in developing Alliance 8.7 with a view to coordinating the activities of all stakeholders in a targeted way and so strengthen the impact of the measures undertaken by them all. He welcomed the dynamic that had been created and had high hopes of the consultation and the work it would give rise to in the subregion. He was glad to see tripartite delegations representing 11 countries in attendance and stressed that their presence was a sure sign of the interest being taken in the realization of the SDGs in general and target 8.7 in particular, in anticipation of decent work for all. Mr Dosso indicated that the battle against the worst forms of child labour and forced labour cannot be won through public policy and regulatory protection measures alone: it also requires public policies to ensure children's right to a free and mandatory education of high quality, health, protection and leisure time, as well as viable alternatives for their parents. Interventions to combat these scourges need to be an aspect of global programmes of sustainable human development geared to achieving a more complete system of social security

which reduces vulnerability – programmes which promote growth and decent jobs as a way of reducing precarious living conditions. The Government of Côte d’Ivoire is working towards this goal and confirmed through its Minister of Employment that it would cooperate fully in any initiative to combat child labour and forced labour; it was vital to join forces to achieve success.

After a performance by the **Côte d’Ivoire Choir for the Abolition of Child Labour**, bearing witness to the real-life situations faced by children, **Ms Dominique Ouattara**, First Lady of Côte d’Ivoire, President of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour, addressed the assembled participants. She thanked the ILO warmly for choosing to organize the subregional consultation on Alliance 8.7 in Côte d’Ivoire. She recalled that she had visited the ILO headquarters in the previous April as President of her National Committee and that, on this occasion, **Mr Guy Ryder**, the ILO’s Director General, had shared his desire to organize this subregional consultation in Côte d’Ivoire. The First Lady said she had immediately agreed to this proposal, as this event would be an opportunity to reaffirm the close cooperation that exists between Côte d’Ivoire and the ILO, and also to affirm Côte d’Ivoire’s intention to take all possible measures to combat child labour and human trafficking effectively. Ms Ouattara was convinced that the organization of this subregional consultation would lay the basis for a global alliance against child labour and human trafficking and that it was important to join forces. She called on other countries to join Alliance 8.7. The First Lady emphasized the determination of the President of the Republic, **Mr Alassane OUATTARA**, to eradicate the phenomenon of trafficking and child labour within the country’s borders and to make the fight against this scourge a national priority. The national initiatives led by her National Committee and the Inter-Ministerial Committee are largely directed towards developing subregional activities and bilateral agreements have already been concluded with the First Ladies of Mali and Burkina Faso to combat cross-border trafficking. Ms Ouattara highlighted the important role being played by Africa’s First Ladies. She mentioned that a meeting was planned for 13 September 2016 to discuss and share experience with the First Lady of Ghana, with a view to signing a joint declaration of intent and a cooperation agreement between the two countries. This would be supplemented in the near future by a summit of the First Ladies of the West African subregion to tackle the issue of the worst forms of child labour and human trafficking. She also hoped to see the development of an effective network of subregional partners, to encourage cooperation and the exchange of information between countries, but above all to foster the involvement of the First Ladies in this struggle. In conclusion, the First Lady of Côte d’Ivoire shared her conviction that the founding of Alliance 8.7 would be beneficial at various levels: it would combine the efforts of the member countries in combating child labour and human trafficking, while the sharing of experience would lead to remarkable progress and achieve positive results in turning the tide against this scourge. Before declaring the “Subregional Consultation on SDG Alliance 8.7 for West and North Africa” open, Ms Ouattara reiterated her total commitment to and support for this initiative.

SESSION 1: The issues of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The objective of the first session of the Consultation was to present the Sustainable Development Goals, paying special attention to the goals associated with the achievement of target 8.7; to present Alliance 8.7; and to gain some insight into the international treaties and definitions relating

to these two subjects. A further aim was to gauge the extent of the problem and the challenges involved in achieving target 8.7 in Africa, in particular in West and North Africa.

The session was moderated by **Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon**, ILO Deputy Regional Director for Africa, with interventions from **Ms Mary Read** (ILO), **Ms Laurence Dubois** (ILO), **Mr Jean-Marie Kagabo** (ILO), **Mr Oumar Diop** (African Union) and **Mr Olatunde Olayemi** (ECOWAS).

After a reminder of the process whereby the **SDGs** were developed and adopted (in September 2015), and the results they were intended to achieve, Goal 8 and, more particularly, target 8.7 were presented. Target 8.7 is a call 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. It is important to realize that child labour, forced labour and human trafficking are directly connected with several of the SDGs and their various targets. The fact is that these frightful abuses of human rights are both the cause and the consequence of a lack of development in the countries concerned. Thus, target 8.7 is directly linked to goal 4 (education), goal 1 (the eradication of poverty), goal 5 (gender equality) and goal 16 (justice and peace). Goal 8 covers the social, economic and environmental aspects of decent work and cannot be achieved without eliminating forced labour and child labour. The issue of migration is also central to these problems: the greater the movements of population, the greater the dangers of people being exploited. Achieving the SDGs requires partnership among all the actors, cooperation and joint effort: this is the spirit of Alliance 8.7.

This was followed by a presentation on **child labour**: how it is defined in ILO Conventions 138 and 182, its causes and the international instruments relevant to it, including the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Statistical trends over a period of 15 years were presented, showing a welcome reduction of 30% between 2000 and 2015, mainly in the category of hazardous work. The situation in Africa is nevertheless worrying, as it is still the most badly affected continent and the one where the least progress has been achieved. The ILO will next publish global statistics for child labour in 2017, on the occasion of the World Conference, to be held in Argentina.

The other aspect of target 8.7 is concerned with **forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery**. These three concepts were explained using a sociological and historical approach related to the development of the various international legal instruments. The three terms overlap and complement one another. These phenomena have emerged in different situations over the centuries. The current figures were presented, with special reference to Africa: four Africans in 1000 are subject to forced labour. There are various forms of forced labour in Africa, including the exploitation of people's labour on the part of the State, obligatory labour in conflict situations, sexual exploitation and abusive domestic work. Meanwhile, traditional forms of slavery are still found in some of the Sahel countries, although the number of victims is on the decrease. It is vital to carry out qualitative and quantitative research into this phenomenon, and the countries concerned need to invest in such research.

Faced with these scourges, the **African Union** is directly concerned and involved. While there is evidence of a downward trend, the phenomenon is still widespread in Africa as a result of poverty, climate change and economic circumstances: the predominance of the informal sector and agriculture means there is a lack of protection for the rights of workers and their families. Among the reasons for exploitation, one might mention limited access to the labour market for women,

poor educational opportunities and the armed conflicts that bedevil the continent. All of these factors lead to a lack of decent work and situations of forced labour and child labour. Faced with this worrying situation, African States, through the African Union, are putting in place measures inspired by Agenda 2063, which aims to promote people's well-being and inclusive development. The priority areas are decent work, social security, social protection and the alleviation of poverty. Agenda 2063 calls for the elimination of child labour, forced labour and all forms of abuse of women and children. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is very important in this respect and is implemented via a dedicated Committee. Article 15 of the Charter is concerned with combating child labour by implementing appropriate measures and penalties. The Committee receives reports from each country and may also receive communications from non-State actors; its members may conduct investigations. It could therefore contribute to the work of Alliance 8.7. At the institutional level, the Summit of Heads of State receives reports and take decisions in respect of violations brought to its attention. The Executive Council and the Tripartite Meeting on Labour are further African Union decision-making bodies which could support Alliance 8.7. Judicially, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights could contribute to the Alliance by providing effective protection for the rights of children and all categories of vulnerable persons. Finally, the Pan-African Parliament legislates and applies the laws it makes, so it could play an important part in the Alliance.

The **ECOWAS** representative summarized the causes of child labour, referring in addition to the demographic issues and the problem of implementing and monitoring existing laws, as well as issues of international economic relations which lead to the exploitation of children and people generally. ECOWAS is not running any projects which directly target the issue of forced labour. The figures for trafficking in the subregion are difficult to estimate. Some data can, however, be obtained from the annual US State Department report on human trafficking and also from an annual report summarizing the situation in the 15 member countries, which provides useful information on the position regarding forced labour in West Africa. While the situation seems to be improving in some countries, it is getting worse in others, particularly as a result of conflicts and movements of population. The fact that approximately 80% of the continent's economic activity is generated by informal work also needs to be taken into account, because child labour is widespread in this sector. The ECOWAS member States have gradually taken concerted measures to combat human trafficking. In each of the 15 countries, there are institutions specialized in the issue of human trafficking and national task forces which operate at different levels to scale up the fight against trafficking in conjunction with such partners as the ILO, UNICEF and the UNODC, as well as the ECOWAS Commission. ECOWAS itself runs a number of specific programmes, such as the ECOWAS Commission's Programme to Combat Trafficking and, since 2001, a number of action plans. ECOWAS is currently developing action plans for the period 2016 to 2020. A regional action plan to combat child labour has been adopted and, in 2013, ECOWAS conducted its first peer review of the implementation of national action plans to combat child labour. Following Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso have offered themselves for review. Where trafficking in persons is concerned, ECOWAS has been running projects in the 15 member countries since 2005. Strategically speaking, targeted programmes are required to protect each of the categories and groups of vulnerable persons concerned. It is vital to coordinate the work of these programmes and Alliance 8.7 has a role to play in this area. Efforts need to be coordinated both at regional level, by involving the various ECOWAS departments concerned, and at the level of the Member States, to avoid working in isolation. Moreover, when several action plans are running alongside one another in a particular country, it is vital to ensure there is effective coordination between these plans and in their implementation. ECOWAS is able to get different Member States together round

a single table, organize peer reviews and establish a monitoring and assessment system. And it can make these tools available to Alliance 8.7.

Following these interventions, participants were invited to ask questions or make observations or comments. It emerged from the ensuing discussion that a slight distinction might be made between slavery and the after-effects of slavery; that it is important to move on to action without waiting for the results of studies; and that it would be desirable to include the African Movement of Working Children and Youth in Alliance 8.7, because of their experience and the solutions they propose.

At the end of the session, the subject of **Alliance 8.7** was introduced. Because it is not possible for a single actor or organization to achieve target 8.7, it is important to form an alliance of all actors to tackle the challenges, avoid fragmentation and find effective and relevant solutions when it comes to communicating and mobilizing resources. With other partners, the ILO is initiating this Alliance 8.7 to support the States concerned in achieving target 8.7 and other SDGs. The aim of Alliance 8.7 is to ensure better coordination and so bring about real change, grow the knowledge base, find efficient approaches and solutions, and ensure better mobilization and use of human and financial resources.

SESSION 2: The leading role of governments, workers' and employers' organizations in achieving target 8.7

The second session of the Consultation featured two panels, one concerned with policy development, the other with grass-roots action.

The panel on **policy development** was moderated by **Mr Ken Shawa** (OIL), with interventions from **Mr Binia Liman** (Minister for Employment, Labour and Social Security, Niger), **Ms Amal Belaid** (Minister for Employment and Social Affairs, Morocco), **Mr Edouard Ladouyou** (Confédération Générale des Entreprises, Côte d'Ivoire), **Mr Mamadou Niang** (Confédération Générale des Travailleurs, Mauritania) and **Ms Elisabeth Akanbombire** (Minister for Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana).

The moderator began with a reminder of the importance of having policies and institutions to combat child labour and forced labour.

Mr Binia Liman, government delegate from **Niger**, spoke of his country's strong political determination and explained the institutions that had been put in place. The main challenge is always financial resources. Niger supports the idea of establishing Alliance 8.7, one of whose tasks is to share resources, as well as knowledge. Niger has set up a national coordinating commission to combat human trafficking (Commission Nationale de Coordination de la Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes) and an operational body (Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes / ANLTP). These institutions are under the control of the Ministry of Justice, but also include representatives of the government, workers, employers and civil society.

Ms Amal Belaid, government delegate from **Morocco**, said that her country had made the promotion of child protection a priority for the public authorities. Morocco has ratified most of the international legal instruments concerned with combating child labour and human trafficking, including the UN and ILO conventions. Where national institutions are concerned, the country has

established a consultative council for family and children's affairs (Conseil Consultatif de la Famille et de l'Enfance), an inter-ministerial commission for children (Commission Interministérielle pour l'Enfance) and a national observatory for children's rights (Observatoire nationale des droits de l'Enfant). Two national action plans have been drawn up to combat child labour, and these will also be rolled out at regional and municipal level. The minimum working age has been set at 15. A list of thirty forms of hazardous work for children between 15 and 18 has been drawn up, and a list of jobs which domestic workers are not allowed to perform. The Ministry of Employment has a budget devoted to combating child labour and each year allocates subsidies to civil society organizations engaged in this field. The delegate from Morocco stressed the importance of making the struggle against child labour a matter of social culture and said that subregional exchanges in this field would be an asset in fostering South-South cooperation.

Mr Edouard Ladouyou, employer delegate from **Côte d'Ivoire**, pointed out that his country's employers (represented by the "Patronat Ivorien") are participating actively in social dialogue and support the policy adopted by the Ivorian government. They take part in the various discussions organized by the institutions responsible for combating child labour and forced labour. They are, for example, involved in discussions to establish a framework of cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana. The Ivorian employers' organization promotes citizen enterprises and therefore supports everything which contributes to the establishment of a clear regulatory framework and the effective application of the law. They welcome the creation of Alliance 8.7 and will put their whole network at its disposal. He called for the inclusion of monitoring and assessment mechanisms in the work of the Alliance.

Mr Mamadou Niang, worker delegate from **Mauritania**, made the point that African trade-union organizations are naturally interested in Alliance 8.7, given that it is workers who are primarily affected by the concerns that have given rise to the SDGs and target 8.7 in particular. The trade unions will be committed to establishing Alliance 8.7. They would like the ILO to play a central role in piloting and implementing the Alliance objectives. In Mauritania, the trade unions have played an active part in drawing up the national action plan for eliminating child labour (PANETE-RIM). They have also been involved in drawing up and adopting the ILO's 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention. Mr Niang was himself a member of the ILO tripartite Committee of Experts which worked on the new Protocol, and Mauritania was one of the first countries to ratify it. The country has drawn up a road map for eradicating the after-effects of slavery, established an inter-ministerial committee responsible for implementing and monitoring this policy document, and created an agency for combating poverty and targeting the most disadvantaged social groups, including the descendants of slaves. In 2015, Mauritania adopted a law abolishing slavery and making it a crime against humanity, as well as establishing special courts for dealing with slave-owners.

Ms Elisabeth Akanbombire, government delegate from **Ghana**, spoke of the two phases of her country's Action Plan for Eliminating Child Labour, covering the periods 2009-2015 and 2015-2020 respectively. Implementation of the first phase required the cooperation of 39 institutions, which signed a memorandum with the Ministry of Labour. There had been particularly effective cooperation with the trade unions, which had made the struggle against child labour a matter of official policy, and with the employers, who had adopted a code of good conduct. The Torkor model, introduced more recently, is one of the results of cooperation with the social partners. The second phase has been rolled out taking into account the results of the assessment of the first phase, as well as the West Africa Action Plan and SDG target 8.7. One of the key points during this

second stage is raising awareness with a view to changing social attitudes towards the issue of child labour. The second phase is also an opportunity for drawing up a list of hazardous forms of work. To deal with the challenge of feeding back information, a person will be recruited to gather data and draft reports on everything being done in Ghana to combat child labour. Where human trafficking is concerned, it is worth noting that the 2016 report from the US State Department classifies Ghana in its Tier 2 Watch List. This is a worrying situation and has led the President of the Republic to ask a number of ministerial departments to work together to tackle the problem, in conjunction with the office of the national anti-trafficking coordinator.

The panel concerned with **grass-roots action** was moderated by **Mr Jean-Marie Kagabo** (ILO), with interventions from **Mr Innocent Assogba** (Observatoire Intersyndical de Suivi de l'Application des Conventions de l'OIT sur le Travail des Enfants), **Mr Boubacar Toutou Kante** (Conseil national du Patronat du Mali), **Mr Amadou Massar Sarr** (Conseil National du Patronat Sénégalais), **Mr Andrews A Tagoe** (Agricultural Workers Union of Ghana).

Mr Innocent Assogba, worker delegate from **Benin**, spoke about a structure set up by the trade unions in Benin to monitor the application of the ILO conventions on child labour, the Observatoire Intersyndical de Suivi de l'Application des Conventions de l'OIT sur le Travail des Enfants (OBISACOTE), and described the activities being undertaken by this organization. With support from the ILO through a project funded by Ireland, the trade unions in Benin have been supporting four groups of women in two regions of the country where there is a problem of children working in quarries. As a result of this project, the women have been able to establish cooperatives and engage in income generating activities. The trade unions have also run a literacy course and provided them with management training. The workers' and employers' organizations in Benin have together signed a declaration against child labour, in particular calling on the government not to import products made by children. Where Alliance 8.7 is concerned, the worker delegate from Benin expressed the hope that its work would penetrate to the local level.

Mr Boubacar Toutou Kante, employer delegate from **Mali**, spoke of two studies commissioned by the Malian employers' association (Conseil national du Patronat du Mali). The aim of the first study was to better understand the manifestations of child labour in the cotton sector, so as to put a halt to these practices and protect the industry from an international embargo. The study showed that only a very small proportion of children's involvement in cotton production could be classified as child labour; the remainder was so-called "socializing work" on the part of children. The aim of the second study was to understand the phenomenon of child trafficking as associated with the migration of populations in West Africa. This study had made it possible to engage in a dialogue and sign agreements with the countries of the subregion. In the mining sector, the Malian employers' organization is promoting corporate social responsibility and encouraging enterprises to invest in education by supporting the building of schools in the regions where they operate. Any international business which sets itself up in the mining sector in Mali must allocate financial resources on an annual basis to development priorities defined by the local authorities. The Malian employers' association is ensuring that a proportion of these resources is allocated to the building of schools and to paying the teachers' wages. The employers in Mali have been involved in drawing up the national action plan to combat child labour (PANETEM) and will be making a financial contribution to its implementation, amounting to 7% of the total budget.

Mr Amadou Massar Sarr, employer delegate from **Senegal**, spoke of a training centre for port-related occupations set up by the country's employers' organization. No one can now work in the port of Dakar unless they have attended this training centre, which obviously does not train children.

Mr Andrews A Tagoe, worker delegate from **Ghana**, presented the so-called TORKOR model, named for a village on the shores of Lake Volta in Ghana, where the GAWU union has introduced an integrated solution to the problem of child labour in the fishing industry. The solution consists in conducting dialogue and 'tripartite-plus' cooperation – i.e. cooperation between the village chief, the administrative authorities, the fishermen, the workers' representatives, the employers' representatives, civil society organizations, teachers and the children themselves – at the village level. The result: "communities free of child labour". The TORKOR model is now being replicated in other villages in Ghana.

SESSION 3: The role of other stakeholders in Alliance 8.7

The purpose of this session was to listen to what the representatives of (sub)regional institutions, parliaments, civil society, financial institutions, the United Nations and the private sector had to say about how they might contribute to achieving target 8.7.

The session was moderated by **Ms Sofia Amaral de Oliveira**, a specialist in International Labour Standards and Labour Law at the ILO. Contributions were made by the African Union Commission, the ECOWAS Parliament, Global March against Child labour, the International Cocoa Initiative and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In his contribution, **Mr Oumar Diop**, an **African Union** Commission expert, indicated the role that this institution might play in Alliance 8.7. He emphasized its role in protecting the rights of vulnerable persons and presented the structures dedicated to this purpose: the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Wellbeing of the Child. Mr Diop also explained the three intervention mechanisms used to implement the actions of these structures: reports submitted by the various countries concerning the rights of the child, based on the provisions of the African Charter of Children's Rights, article 15 of which is specifically devoted to child labour; communications concerning children's rights from non-State organizations, such as NGOs and civil society; and finally, investigations into the situation of particular children (e.g. albino children in Tanzania). The African Union expert also defined the levels of intervention at which the Union might contribute to the work of Alliance 8.7. He particularly mentioned advocacy to mobilize African leaders on the issues of human trafficking, modern slavery and child labour, with a view to policy development and monitoring/assessment. This also concerns the tripartite Conference of Labour Ministers, which, each time it meets, includes in its agenda an item on the child labour situation in Africa. Awareness-raising is also important, particularly through the association of First Ladies, who always hold a fringe meeting at summits of African Union Heads of State. This is a powerful means of bringing the issue of child labour to public attention. Mr Diop also mentioned the Reports Committee, which publishes a report each year to coincide with the meetings of Heads of State. He ended by mentioning the role of the Pan-African Parliament and ongoing initiatives to strengthen existing legal provisions.

The Honorable **Jeremie A. G. Sankara**, Burkina Faso deputy and 1st Rapporteur of the **ECOWAS Parliament**'s Committee on Human Rights, Child Protection and Other Vulnerable Groups, explained the many tasks of the subregional organization in combating child labour. These consist in ensuring that individual countries adopt adequate legal provisions by amending their laws or taking initiatives relating to the phenomenon of child labour; monitoring legislation and government action to ensure that the texts adopted are effectively applied, particularly through parliamentary enquiries; ensuring that budget allocations are directed towards sectors which alleviate poverty and improve the circumstances of children, and improve household incomes and access to education. To protect the rights of children and other vulnerable sections of the population, the ECOWAS Parliament has a dedicated Human Rights Committee. This Committee ensures that members of the ECOWAS Parliament work together to support subregional and international initiatives with a view to combating trafficking and child labour effectively; strengthens provisions to combat trafficking and child labour; formulates appropriate measures to protect vulnerable social groups; and supports the initiatives taken by parliamentarians to reinforce children's rights. The Committee issues joint declarations to create a common legal environment, the aims being to eliminate child trafficking, take care of and reintegrate the victims, and submit the issue for examination by the ECOWAS Parliament. The existence of a network of West-African parliamentarians committed to combating child labour and child trafficking ensures advocacy to counter these phenomena at national parliamentary level.

The representative of **civil society** was **Mr Cleophas Mally**, coordinator for francophone Africa of the NGO Global March against Child Labour. His contribution consisted essentially in advice on how to impart fresh impetus to the struggle against trafficking and child labour. He advised the actors in this struggle to recognize the limitations of what has been achieved so far and encouraged them to be innovative. What is needed is a fresh vision of how to share experience and best practice; advocacy for priority matters such as education and training over the next 15 years; efforts on the part of governments to be more practical in their commitments, in particular by creating new infrastructure; and greater popular and community involvement in the management of programmes.

Speaking on behalf of the **private sector**, **Ms Aka Euphrasie**, regional representative for West Africa of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), was very clear that the private sector has an important role to play in combating child labour. She recalled the historical background to the cocoa industry's engagement in efforts to combat child labour. In her view, this engagement is a direct consequence of the introduction of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, adopted under the leadership of two American senators, to eliminate child labour in cocoa production. Ms Aka described current initiatives in various sectors, including cocoa production. Concrete expressions of these efforts are evident in advocacy work; the establishment of discussion and partnership platforms, both internationally (the Child Labour Cocoa Coordinating Group, CocoAction) and nationally (public-private partnership platform); the setting up of thematic groups, focusing particularly on child labour in other sectors which present risks for children; the mobilization of resources and optimization of the way in which they are used; the development of tools for gathering data and raising awareness; and the implementation of concrete strategies among people groups and communities. Ms Aka drew attention to the areas of intervention targeted by the private sector. The aim of these efforts is to modernize the production process; build actors' capacities; promote sustainable production; improve producers' incomes by introducing income generating activities; and implement community development initiatives. The general approach is to develop responses geared to eliminating child labour, in particular by raising awareness, developing home-grown alternatives to child labour, and putting in place monitoring and rehabilitation schemes.

Speaking on behalf of the **UNODC**, Ms **Sandrine Gbially-Biggora**, national project coordinator, emphasized her organization's belief that all the Sustainable Development Goals should be taken into account. She then explained that the UNODC could play many different roles in Alliance 8.7: ensuring that States have the means to tackle crime; assisting States in fighting criminal gangs by adopting national action plans; undertaking regulatory work to ensure that States adhere to the conventions on organized transnational crime and apply the standards they have ratified; assisting States in drafting laws to combat transnational crime and corruption; working in synergy with other UN System organizations to prevent organized transnational crime; and establishing an effective criminal justice system by assisting governments to adopt appropriate tools and instruments. Ms Gbially-Biggora recommended that the issue of child labour be tackled in the round, taking into account all the dangerous practices that affect children and all the associated criminal activities, such as human trafficking.

During the ensuing **discussions** various recommendations emerged:

- Within Alliance 8.7, encourage the sharing of information, lessons learned, experience and good practices for scaling up;
- Under the leadership of Alliance 8.7, continue to organize and increase the number of meetings between ILO member countries in order to promote the sharing of experience and mutual enrichment in the fight against child labour;
- Promote the setting up of public-private partnership platforms in other sectors of activity where child labour is a problem, not only in the cocoa industry;
- Take strong measures to ensure the effective application of national legislation;
- Encourage children's participation in initiatives to combat child labour;
- Involve communities, and exploit community mechanisms, in combating child labour;
- Combine the efforts of State structures and civil society organizations;
- Ensure first-class communication and coordination between local community mechanisms and the central authority;
- Support the creation of an inter-parliamentary movement to strengthen the work of the Alliance.

SESSION 4: How can Alliance 8.7 best assist African Member States in realizing SDG target 8.7?

The purpose of this session was to conduct in-depth discussions in parallel sessions with a view to identifying the challenges and opportunities in realizing target 8.7 in West and North Africa, seeing how the Alliance can help to speed up progress, initiating a dialogue between tripartite constituents and other stakeholders regarding the objectives and shape of Alliance 8.7, and making suggestions on how it can best function in West and North Africa.

A world without forced labour, without modern slavery, without human trafficking and without child labour is possible. But it cannot come about if we just continue working as we have done in the past. Efforts to combat these scourges are nothing new and many good things have been done. What is needed today is to speed up and intensify these activities. **As a first stage**, the participants were asked to reflect on three major categories of obstacles that need to be overcome. **The first** concerns the acceleration of eradication efforts. A universal agreement between States on the need to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour already exists. Most States have put

in place national action plans. However, there is an urgent need to harmonize these plans and related strategies with the tight deadlines States have set in the SDGs and concentrate efforts on their implementation at the national, regional and global levels. **The second** has to do with knowledge sharing. The lack of effective means for sharing knowledge is a major obstacle to the realization of target 8.7. Hundreds of databases and other studies already exist, but they are not available to the general public. The lessons learned at country level through the preparation and implementation of projects and programmes are contained in hundreds of individual evaluation reports scattered all round the world. Yet, there is no mechanism for disseminating good practice, no “one-stop shop”. **The third**, finally, has to do with resources (or the lack of them): despite the flagrant violations of human rights implicit in forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, and the millions of people affected, the resources available are still not of the magnitude required to respond to these great challenges. Coordination of the existing financial flows is limited, increasing the risk of fragmentation in this sector.

As a second stage, the participants reflected on how a coalition such as Alliance 8.7 could help countries achieve target 8.7 and SDG 8. **Lastly**, they identified the stakeholders that need to be included in Alliance 8.7 in order to create effective coalitions at the national, regional and global levels, and so achieve target 8.7.

The results of the different groups were presented in Session 6.

SESSION 5: Indicator frameworks for measuring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The objective of the fifth session of the consultation was to brief participants on the methodologies and systems used in recent years to **measure the prevalence** of child labour and forced labour.

The session was moderated by **Ms Mary Read** (OIL), with presentations by **Mr Michel Amani** of the Institut national de la Statistique of Côte d’Ivoire and **Mr Oumarou Habi** of the Institut national de la Statistique of Niger.

Mr Amani reviewed the principal surveys conducted in recent years to measure the incidence of child labour in **Côte d’Ivoire**. An initial national survey on child labour was carried out in 2005 to gather information on children’s activities (including school attendance, economic and non-economic activities). Another national survey was conducted in 2011, focusing solely on the worst forms of child labour, including trafficking in the mining, transport, agricultural, urban domestic service and retail sectors. A basic survey of child labour in the cocoa industry was conducted in 2012, which was useful in establishing reference data for measuring the effectiveness of efforts to reduce the number of children working in the sector and laying the basis for a child labour monitoring system (Système de Suivi du Travail des Enfants en Côte d’Ivoire / SOSTECI). Mr Amani pointed out that, though each of these surveys had yielded useful information, they all suffered from certain limitations as they did not cover the whole of the country, taking into account only certain sectors or areas where there was a significant incidence of child labour. The approach adopted by Côte d’Ivoire in gathering data on indicators for child labour consisted in conducting regular national employment surveys, in alternate years containing questions on employment in the informal economy (ENSESI) or questions on child labour (ENSETE). The ENSETE survey covered

all dimensions of child labour, in terms of methodology, geographical coverage, sectors of activity and the worst forms of child labour. This had been the most economical way of gathering data and monitoring the SDG 8.7 indicators.

Mr Habu presented the experience of **Niger** in measuring child labour and forced labour, with a stronger emphasis on the latter. He noted that measuring forced labour presented some significant challenges, given the existence of many different forms of forced labour and the complexity of the phenomenon. This was due to cultural sensitivities, the country's status as a turntable for trafficking and the growing role of terrorist groups and criminal gangs. In 2009, Niger had conducted a national survey to gather quantitative and qualitative data on child labour, and on forced labour as it affected both children and adults. Precise questions were included in the questionnaire to try to gauge the extent and scope of the phenomenon of forced labour. A total of 4,800 households were included in the sample. The criteria adopted for estimating the prevalence of forced labour included enforced recruitment, level of dependency, lack of freedom and risk of household dependency. The conclusions of the survey report showed that adult forced labour is a reality in the country, women being more affected than men, and that most of the victims are involved in domestic service and agriculture. Using the same criteria for children, the results showed that it is more common for children than for adults to be in situations of forced labour, with boys more heavily represented than girls. Again, in most cases they were engaged in domestic service and agriculture. Mr Habu suggested that the methodology adopted should take street children into account, as well as children working in gold-mining areas, and that, where forced labour is concerned, a 2-level random sample should be taken, with questionnaires administered to children, adults and then the whole household.

SESSION 6: Next steps for Alliance 8.7 in Africa

Mr Andrew Brooks, UNICEF, thanked the ILO for having created this space for sharing experience. He pointed out that a year had passed since the SDGs were adopted and that it was now time for action. The need now is to meet and agree on how to work together. Mr Brooks reminded the participants of the existence of the African Union's Agenda 2014, which contains 10 aspirations for children. His main message was the need to strengthen existing platforms and avoid creating parallel fora, as well as the importance of establishing solid systems in response to the different forms of vulnerability children face.

Ms Beate Andrees, Chief of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch of the ILO, began by insisting on the fact that target 8.7 is linked to the other SDGs; the intention is not to fragment efforts but to highlight the issue of child labour and forced labour. Ms Andrees insisted on the fact that target 8.7 is concerned with human exploitation for economic purposes, which is a problem in all regions of the world. These issues need to be addressed by politicians and the SDGs offer a unique opportunity to put an end to this form of exploitation. She stressed the urgency of the task, which is connected with, among other things, the enormous economic mess we are in. Ms Andrees emphasized that the social partners, i.e. the trade unions and employers' organizations, have a central role to play. Without them, there can be no lasting solution. Moreover, the private sector wants to make a concrete contribution.

Ms Andrees then presented the next stages in implementing Alliance 8.7. (Sub)regional consultations would continue with a view to better identifying priorities and strengthening

networks. The official launch of Alliance 8.7 would then take place in New York on 21 September 2016. The purpose of this event was to give the Alliance greater visibility and fire the starting gun, but clearly consultations must continue. There are as yet no proposals concerning the governance of the Alliance, but it is already clear that the UN (ILO, UNICEF and UNODC), together with the social partners, will be the key members. At regional level, the idea is not to replace existing structures but, on the contrary, to make good use of them. Similarly, at national level, where most of the action will take place, it will be necessary to see whether structures already exist and, if not, create more effective new ones.

Developing the potential role of the Alliance, Ms Andrees gave a few examples of strategic areas of enquiry which could be taken up by action groups associated with national structures, e.g. the informal and rural economy, production chains, decent work for young people of working age, crises and conflicts. Given that action in these areas needs to be better coordinated, it will be important to decide who should take the lead, in what field and with what resources. Another contribution Alliance 8.7 can make is in mobilizing resources in a more coordinated way so as to avoid duplication and inefficiency. Finally, the Alliance will be able to serve as a discussion forum, supported by new technologies.

In the **discussion** that followed, several civil society representatives stressed the importance of going beyond the project-based approach in order to bring about real change. **Mr Kadi**, of the TANAFILI NGO in Niger, highlighted the demographic challenge and the need to cooperate with the UNFPA. **Mr Kevin Willcuts**, of the American Department of Labor (USDOL), welcomed the establishment of the Alliance and the opportunity it offers to go further in the sharing of experience and coordinating efforts. **Mr Olatunde Olayemi**, ECOWAS, drew participants' attention to the importance of clarifying the scope of the Alliance, with a view to avoiding the fragmentation of efforts directed towards particular target groups. Though it is true that target 8.7 is concerned with economic exploitation, it nevertheless raises issues that are linked with other SDGs and targets. Mr Olayemi then elaborated on the need to connect efforts to combat forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour with other development and governance strategies already prioritized and funded by governments and subregional institutions. Finally, where the governance of the Alliance is concerned, the ECOWAS representative mentioned the need to use existing governance structures, i.e. the African Union, regional economic communities in Africa, and governments. At subregional level, he insisted that the central function of coordinating Alliance 8.7 should be assigned to the regional economic communities and that the capacities of these institutions should be reinforced if necessary. **The Honourable Jérémie A.G. Sankara**, Burkina Faso Parliament and ECOWAS, took up the issue of mobilizing resources and stressed that it is primarily the responsibility of States to fund the struggle against these scourges, without which there will not be any change. **Ms Sandrine Gbially-Biggora**, UNODC, suggested creating a fund to ensure the sustainability of the Alliance and to strengthen the capacity of governments to mobilize resources.

Ms Andrees concluded by thanking the participants for contributing so openly to the debate.

Sophie De Coninck, ILO, then presented a concise report on the four parallel sessions. The following points are therefore the **recommendations** made by the Abidjan Consultation with a view to creating Alliance 8.7.

- ✓ **Concerning the scope of Alliance 8.7:** the issues of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour targeted by Alliance 8.7 are closely linked and overlap with other important issues, such as child protection and the promotion of human rights. It is therefore important to clarify the scope of the Alliance, with a view to avoiding the fragmentation of efforts directed towards particular target groups.

- ✓ **Concerning the role of Alliance 8.7:** The Alliance must:
 - Engage in **advocacy** to ensure that States do more to take up the various issues and implement the recommended solutions. Ensure that national strategies are managed from the offices of the Prime Minister. Secure budget allocations for implementing national action plans. Obtain precise commitments from governments that they will implement good practices that can be replicated.
 - Get governments to report on the progress made in combating forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour in their own countries (**accountability**).
 - **Coordinate initiatives and identify synergies** (coordination of the work of the UN agencies, coordination of structures working for social protection, child protection and to combat child labour; also synergies between national and subregional parliaments).
 - Serve as a **platform for discussion and the sharing of knowledge, experience and good practice** (at the international, regional and subregional levels), using the new technologies for this purpose.
 - **Mobilize more resources** in a more coordinated way by bringing together different sources (primarily State budgets, but also public-private partnerships). Increase, diversify, rationalize, mutualize and ensure the long-term availability of resources. Envisage the creation of a fund to ensure the sustainability of the Alliance.
 - Give **technical support** to national structures as they implement initiatives to achieve target 8.7 (e.g. provide support for drawing up national action plans).
 - Define **measurable indicators** for achieving target 8.7 and help Member States to monitor them.

- ✓ **These are the principles that should govern the creation and operations of Alliance 8.7 in Africa:**
 - It is important to build on what the two subregions have already established, integrate sector-related platforms, strengthen existing specialized institutions and extend their mandates to cover child labour and forced labour; support the extension of employers' and workers' organizations into the informal sector. This may mean first performing an inventory of interested agencies at country level.
 - It is essential to adopt an **inclusive** approach and take care to bring on board all stakeholders with an interest in Alliance 8.7, the objective being to make the most of synergies at all levels.
 - It is also crucial to adopt an **integrated approach** in order to build common systems in response to the different forms of vulnerability, and avoid setting up separate institutions and strategies for each target group.

- Efforts to combat forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour need to be **connected with other development and governance strategies** already prioritized and funded by governments and subregional institutions.
- The Alliance must be developed at the **regional, subregional and national levels**. It should be strongly **decentralized**.
- The Alliance must take into account **specific social and cultural factors and local contexts**, the challenges of migration and security, the differences between urban and rural environments, the predominance of the informal sector, the issue of child labour and forced labour in supply chains, and the challenge of decent work for young people.
- The Alliance must be **gender-sensitive**.

Alliance 8.7 stakeholders should include:

- Governments (all ministries concerned)
- The African Union
- The African regional economic communities
- The national, subregional and Pan-African parliaments
- Workers' and employers' organizations at the national, subregional and regional levels
- Networks of children, young people, women and other victims (as part of an inclusive, participatory approach)
- Grass-roots communities, including religious and customary leaders, and local authorities
- Civil society: NGOs and voluntary associations representing NGOs, women's associations
- The private sector
- International, regional and national financial institutions
- The UN organizations (ILO, UNICEF, UNODC, UNFPA) and other technical and financial partners
- Existing inter-agency networks: Réseau de l'Afrique de l'Ouest pour la protection des enfants (West African Child Protection Network)
- Charitable foundations
- The intellectual community (observatories, researchers and universities)
- The media (modern and traditional communicators), journalists' organizations and networks
- Nobel prize-winners (to mobilize funds)
- Artists, sports personalities

✓ **Concerning the governance of Alliance 8.7:**

- It is important to make use of existing governance structures, i.e. the African Union, the African regional economic communities, and governments.
- At subregional level, the central function of coordinating Alliance 8.7 should be assigned to the regional economic communities (such as ECOWAS) and the capacities of these institutions should be reinforced if necessary.
- At national level, effective existing structures should be used to coordinate initiatives and mobilize the agencies concerned; or, if necessary, new ones should be created.

- A mechanism needs to be established to **report** the results of Alliance 8.7., to monitor its effectiveness and make changes to the way it works if necessary.
- The ILO should assume the role of **coordinator** of Alliance 8.7 on account of its tripartite structure.
- The network of **African First Ladies** should be called on to promote Alliance 8.7 in Africa.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing session was moderated by **Ms Mary Read** (ILO), with interventions from **Mr John Odah** (General Secretary of the Organization of West African Trade Unions), **Mr Khalid Benghanem**, employers' representative, **Ms Tessy Winkelman**, Office of the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, representing governments, and **Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon** (Deputy Regional Director of the ILO).

Mr John Odah, the workers' representative, thanked the organizers of the Consultation. The results of the gathering would be reported to the October 2016 meeting of the African section of the International Trade Union Confederation. For the workers, Alliance 8.7 provides a new opportunity to engage in discussion with governments and urge them to redouble their efforts to combat child labour and forced labour nationally and locally.

Mr Khalid Benghanem, speaking for the employers, recalled the employers three principal commitments: (1) to continue to combat child labour and forced labour, especially in small enterprises subcontracting for larger structured enterprises; to ensure that enterprises engage responsibly with their physical environment. (2) To continue to participate in tripartite social dialogue. For example, during the dialogue leading to the new labour code in Morocco, the employers agreed that an employer convicted of the crime of using child labour or forced labour should be sent to prison. (3) To continue to create jobs in order to alleviate poverty, which is the principal cause of child labour and forced labour. The employers' representative made two requests: (1) that branches of Alliance 8.7 be set up in all regions; (2) that there continue to be sharing of information on the development of the Alliance, and of knowledge regarding efforts to combat child labour and forced labour.

Ms Tessy Winkelman, representing governments, thanked the ILO for organizing the consultation. She also thanked the participants and the USDOL, as donor, whose representatives had travelled from Washington to be present. She expressed the hope that Alliance 8.7 would add real value to existing platforms, particularly in mobilizing resources to fill some big gaps, for example the lack of statistical data on the incidence of child labour and forced labour. On behalf of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour, she expressed her delight in the fruitful cooperation with the ILO which had made the consultation such a success.

Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Deputy Regional Director of the ILO, emphasized three important things that had come out of the consultation on Alliance 8.7: (1) achieving better coordination globally in order to maximize the use of resources; (2) channelling the work of Alliance 8.7 through existing structures such as the African Union and the subregional economic organizations; (3) reviewing the mobilization and allocation of resources, so that projects ceased to be ends in themselves.

The Deputy Regional Director thanked all the participants, the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the Office of the First Lady, the government representatives of the other countries present, the employers' and workers' representatives, the international organizations, the civil society organizations and the USDOL representatives. She also thanked the entire BIT team involved in organizing the event.