



Alliance 8.7 - Pathfinder Country Guidance Note

Who are pathfinder countries?

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

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

Why do we need pathfinder countries?

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

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

What are the opportunities for a pathfinder country?

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

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



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

What are the implications of becoming a pathfinder country?

Countries interested in becoming a pathfinder country should approach the Chair or the Secretariat and ask to be invited to the next meeting of the Global Coordinating Group (GCG), as observers, where they can express their commitment.¹ After their participation in that meeting, they should submit an expression of interest to the head of the Secretariat, via a responsible government minister, with a senior government official appointed to lead the acceleration effort.²

Following the receipt of the expression of interest, potential pathfinder countries turn commitments into action on the ground, as indicated below:

1. Organize an inclusive Strategic Planning Workshop at country level, convening all interested Alliance 8.7 partners to develop a roadmap and a workplan. Workshops should include a wide range of ministries, private sector, civil society organisations, social partners, survivors and affected groups. The workshop will also be the opportunity to assess the progress made by the country on Target 8.7. The workplan³ sets out measurable actions to achieve accelerated deadlines, based on the results of the Strategic Planning Workshop. The necessary resources to fully implement the workplan and the indicators to review the process will also be identified.
2. Once the workshop has successfully taken place, the country reports back to the GCG, and the Chair sends a confirmation letter to the responsible Minister, awarding pathfinder country status.
3. Report against agreed indicators (linked to the VNR) to showcase progress made and to provide visibility to those countries achieving success. Pathfinder countries will also collect data to measure results and to make them available to the Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform so that efforts everywhere are continuously improved and lessons learned are shared as widely as possible. This may include gatherings of pathfinder countries to share lessons learned.
4. Support Alliance 8.7 outside their own country context for which a range of options exists, including by:
 - Providing political support to subregional, regional and global level efforts, for example by sponsoring, convening or chairing initiatives and events to accelerate action.

¹ The participation in the GCG can take place face-to-face or through videoconference.

² Should a Minister sign the letter, it should be addressed to the ILO Director-General

³ The plan should include clear benchmarks of progress that can be evaluated. These will be flexibly adjusted through regular review to avoid rigid programming arrangements. Alliance 8.7 will serve as a source of expertise, know-how and resources, to help pathfinder countries move forward.



- Scaling up or testing multi-stakeholder and innovative approaches in countries and sectors through the provision of financial and/or technical support.
 - Contributing to the Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform that others can draw on to improve results.
 - Participating in one or more of the Alliance 8.7 action groups by providing technical and/or financial support.
5. The Secretariat and GCG will conduct annual reviews of the progress of Pathfinder countries toward implementing action plans. After two annual reviews showing lack of substantial progress on its action plan with no reasonable justification, a country's Pathfinder status can be put on hold until progress is once again documented.