Briefing Pack for the 9th Meeting of the Global Coordinating Group

Virtual meeting, 28 October 2020
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9th Alliance 8.7 Global Coordinating Group meeting

Agenda

Date: 28 October 2020
Time: 14:00-17:00 CET
Location: Virtual meeting through Zoom
Meeting ID: 949 6659 3163
Join ZOOM meeting
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The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Anousheh Karvar and has the following agenda:

1. Welcome of the Chair - 10 min.
   Objective: To welcome participants, refer to the 8th GCG meeting report and provide an update on developments since. Introduction of the objectives of this GCG meeting.

2. Welcome of new Pathfinder Country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo - 10 min.
   Objective: To give the Democratic Republic of the Congo an opportunity to share its commitment as a Pathfinder Country, the national challenges related to SDG Target 8.7, and next steps of the process (5 min. presentation followed by 5 min. Q&A)

3. Alliance 8.7 COVID-19 Statement and survey report: Next steps - 20 min.
   Objective: To share information on the impact of the COVID-19 statement and to present the main findings of the survey report and discuss possible types of Alliance 8.7 support.
4. **Pathfinder Focal Point Workshop - 15 min.**  

**Objective:** To share information on the main objectives of the Pathfinder Focal Point Workshop, due to take place in November 2020.

**VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK (10 min)**

5. **The Alliance 8.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Framework - 20 min.**  

**Objective:** To present and gather inputs on the ToR for the Monitoring and Evaluation Group and discuss an Accountability Framework.

6. **Alliance 8.7 engagement on the International Year 2021 – 30 min.**  

**Objective:** To present the Roadmap for the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour and discuss ideas for Alliance 8.7 engagement in 2021.

7. **Alliance 8.7 resource mobilization strategy - 15 min.**  

**Objective:** To share information on the Alliance 8.7 funding situation and to discuss resource mobilization opportunities.

8. **Updates on the Action Group on Supply Chains, on knowledge mobilisation and research (Delta 8.7, other) and on partner events and activities – 30 min.**  

**Objective:** To share latest developments on Alliance 8.7 key areas of work and to exchange information on upcoming partner events and activities.

9. **Closing remarks and next steps (Chair) – 5 min.**
## Agenda point 1

### List of new Partners of Alliance 8.7 (since 7th GCG meeting)

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8th Meeting of the Global Coordinating Group
Meeting Report
Virtual extra-ordinary session, 22 July 2020
Meeting report

Background and objective of the meeting:

During its 6th Global Coordinating Group Meeting in Paris, on 12th November 2020, the Alliance 8.7 adopted an amended procedure for the inclusion of pathfinder countries. Prospective Pathfinder Countries should be invited to present their interest to the GCG and would receive a reply to their expression of interest after the successful implementation of their first Strategic Planning Workshop. This workshop should ensure broad participation and produce a viable roadmap for the way forward. This is to ensure coordination with and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including those represented in the GCG as well as effective implementation and follow-up measures. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, not all of these workshops could take place and the GCG decided in its 7th session on 19th May 2020 to organize a virtual extra-ordinary session of the GCG before its next regular meeting. The upcoming GCG meeting on 22nd July offers this platform for exchange between new and existing pathfinder countries and all other GCG members.

Participants:

Some 40 participants attended the meeting. See attached list (Annex I)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and update from the Chair
2. Update on the Pathfinder Country Strategy from the Secretariat
3. Commitments of new pathfinder countries
   - Cameroon
   - Costa Rica
   - Côte d’Ivoire
   - Ghana
   - Guatemala
   - Honduras
4. Experience / good practice from other pathfinder countries
   - Chile
   - Madagascar
5. Exchange with all GCG members
6. Preparation of SDG 8.7 monitoring workshop
7. Closing remarks and next steps
1. Welcome and update from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all partners, apologising for the last minute change in time to accommodate all time zones, noting that no decisions would be made without all GCG members’ approval. The Chair outlined the main objective of the extra-ordinary GCG meeting, which was to hear from and have an exchange with prospective Pathfinder Countries, following their submission of membership request letters to the Alliance 8.7. The Chair welcomed the representatives from Latin America (Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras) and Africa (Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana). The Chair also welcomed the focal points from two established Pathfinder Countries (Chile and Madagascar) who would be sharing their experiences and insights.

For those new to the Alliance, the Chair provided some background information on the GCG. The GCG reviews progress and provides strategic direction to the Alliance. The GCG supports and monitors thematic action groups and Pathfinder Countries’ efforts, and liaises with other SDG partnerships. It also addresses governance issues and decides on changes in the operational structure, if needed. It is the governing body of the Alliance and is composed of all stakeholders.

The Chair provided a recap of the agenda, which was then adopted. Referring to the report of the 7th GCG, the Chair invited participants to send any comments by 7 August.

The Chair provided an update on recent events in which she had represented the Alliance, including the World Day Against Child Labour and High-Level Political Forum events, as well as the ILO World of Work Digital Summit. The Chair noted the renewed mobilisation around the world in the face of current challenges, which again proves the strength of the Alliance’s unique multi-stakeholder approach.

2. Update on the Pathfinder Country Strategy from the Secretariat

The Secretariat recalled the main objectives of Alliance 8.7, its’ operational structure and the Pathfinder country concept. The Pathfinder countries provide an example to others on how to reach SDG Target 8.7, building on existing structures, mobilising internal resources and engaging in frequent monitoring and reporting on progress. Having manifested interest and nominated a national Alliance 8.7 focal point, the above-mentioned six countries are at the first of five steps in the Pathfinder country process. Next steps will include organising a strategic planning workshop to identify priorities, engaging in the established monitoring system and reporting and communicating on progress. The Secretariat highlighted the main opportunities for Pathfinder Countries, which include, amongst others, being able to gain development and economic benefits that come from reduced forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour; having access to the Alliance’s resources also in terms of knowledge and successful interventions; and being able to leverage reputation benefits.

The Secretariat noted that in just 1½ years of developing and rolling the Pathfinder process, there are now 22 Pathfinder Countries, representing all geographic regions and different levels of economic and
social development. Eleven Pathfinder Countries have submitted for the first time progress reports and the Alliance website has been updated with a new section on progress. The Secretariat recalled 2019 and 2020 July side events to the High-Level Political Forum, which provided an opportunity for Pathfinder Countries to showcase commitment and progress. The 2020 virtual event reached a wide audience with over 1,000 live views. Looking forward, the Secretariat noted that the next focal point meeting is planned for October 2020.

3. Commitments of new pathfinder countries

Representatives from the six prospective pathfinder countries presented their commitments to the pathfinder process and towards achieving SDG Target 8.7.

Cameroon gave an overview of the challenging country context, where ongoing instability has led to migration, putting families and communities in situations where they are vulnerable to human trafficking and child labour. The COVID-19 crisis has negatively affected the economy, with a rising informal sector, rising unemployment and the closure of borders putting families in more vulnerable situations and more likely to resort to child labour. High-level political commitment to tackle these issues is manifested in the National Plan of Action to End Child Labour (PANETEC) and the President of the Republic’s backing for Cameroon to become a Pathfinder Country. The Labour Ministry is planning to hold a national workshop with all stakeholders in the third semester of 2020. As a prospective Pathfinder Country, Cameroon has already undertaken a number of measures towards achieving SDG Target 8.7. These include: the adoption of a Law to combat trafficking in persons; reinforcing the capacity of the labour inspectorate on the application of ILO Conventions and instruments on child labour and forced labour; and the extension of the mandate of the Committee in charge of the implementation of the NAP to 2025. In terms of future action, Cameroon is currently prioritizing action to tackle child labour, with planned activities including the revision of the hazardous work list; gathering new statistics; further reinforcing the capacity of the labour inspectorate; and organising national awareness raising activities. Activities to tackle forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking will follow in 2022.

Costa Rica explained becoming a Pathfinder Country is a priority for the country, to join forces to end child labour in Costa Rica and in the rest of the region. With the ILO’s support, Costa Rica would like to consolidate action in the context of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Costa Rica does not currently have any of the worst forms of Child Labour but challenges remain as statistics show that 2 per cent of our underaged population is engaged in Child Labour or dangerous forms of work in Costa Rica. We want to continue our efforts towards the eradication of Child Labour, not only in Costa Rica, but also at a regional level. 2021 will be both the bicentenary of our independence and the UN year on the elimination of Child Labour. We want to take this opportunity to further consolidate our
actions. A crucial question for Costa Rica is how a country can define itself as being free of child labour. The representative asked for the ILO’s support in defining criteria for such a statement. Costa Rica had an objective of eradicating Child Labour by 2020 and reached 2 percent. Costa Rica is fully committed to SDG Target 8.7, and to working with all actors, employers, workers, NGOs and local governments. Costa Rica is elaborating a National Strategy and will carry out four separate workshops with different groups – employers (in collaboration with the Child Labour Platform); workers’ organizations, government authorities; and NGOs to inform the Strategy. A national workshop will follow to discuss the outcomes of these four workshops and inform the National Strategy. Risk factor models that indicate which risks might impact both Child Labour, as well as issues related to children sexual abuse, will be taken into consideration. Costa Rica explained their aspirations in terms of becoming a Pathfinder country: ensuring that the pandemic does not lead to an increase in child labour; sharing experiences and learning from others; cooperating with countries at the global level in tackling child labour; contributing to developing innovative solutions; and ultimately to achieve the SDG goal to end child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Côte d’Ivoire explained that the Government is committed to the SDGs, which are reflected in the National Plan for Sustainable Development. As a member of Alliance 8.7, Côte d’Ivoire has in place national policies that have led to progress, and has adopted a National Plan for the achievement of SDG Target 8.7. Challenges include mobilizing the necessary financial resources to implement programmes and building the capacity of key actors in the field and providing them with the necessary technological equipment. There are also challenges related to the joint national strategy that enables communication on action taken in terms of the fight against trafficking in persons, and in terms of following up on the trans-national cooperation agreements on combating trafficking in persons and child labour. Looking ahead, Côte d’Ivoire has started to plan for the Pathfinder Country national workshop, identifying the key actors and establishing a National Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will guide the Pathfinder process, mapping initiatives, programmes and projects towards achieving SDG Target 8.7 and organizing a national consultation to plan and identify national priorities.

Ghana expressed its’ motivation to join the Alliance to further reduce the number of children in child labour, and to learn from and share experiences with others. Ghana reaffirmed its’ political commitment to tackling Target 8.7 issues, with, since last year, the Ministry having allocated 12.5 per cent of their goods and services to drive efforts to achieve Target 8.7. The ongoing second National Plan of Action to End Child Labour aims to further reduce child labour by 10 per cent. The Ministry has established a Committee to drive the Pathfinder process, supported also by the tripartite plus NAP National Steering Committee. Looking ahead, in addition to the national Pathfinder Country workshop planned for August, a PPP agreement is being negotiated to tackle child labour in the cocoa sector, also child labour-free zones have been declared and guidelines established for this. Ghana is working on regulations that will have an impact on the child labour situation, for example regulations on domestic work. Ghana is eager to conduct a national survey on child labour, expecting to see a significant reduction in numbers since the last survey in 2014. The Pathfinder Country workshop, which will bring together all key ministries
and stakeholders, will result in a Roadmap bringing together action in these key areas. Ghana looks forward to officially being welcomed as a Pathfinder Country.

Guatemala

Guatemala reaffirmed its commitment to fighting child labour first by outlining some of the progress made in recent years. Since 2006, the Government has aimed at ensuring compliance with ILO Convention 182 and more recently ILO Convention 138. In 2019, the Ministry of Social Development launched the National Action Plan 2019-2021 which includes the eradication of child labour and human trafficking at its core, and is implemented by tripartite Departmental Committees on the Eradication of Child Labour under the coordination and supervision of the National Commission (CONAPETI). The final evaluation of the roadmap towards a child labour-free Guatemala will be used to inform next steps.

Honduras underlined how COVID-19 is having a huge impact on people’s lives with school closures and that the Government is taking action to prevent child labour, trafficking in persons, and to protect adolescents in authorised work. The President of the Republic is backing efforts towards the achievement of SDG Target 8.7. In Honduras, efforts are centred on social dialogue and tripartism, bringing actors together to drive progress. Honduras’ National Strategic Plan on the Worst Forms of Child Labour ends in 2020 and is currently under evaluation for the purposes of developing a new Strategic Plan. Honduras has developed a number of tools and programs to support efforts to tackle child labour. A Protocol for the Referral of Child Labour to Government Social Programs was developed and has now been published in the official gazette. Activities which adolescents are permitted to carry out have been listed. Local Committees on the Prevention of Child Labour have been established, and Preventive Child Labour Programs and Labour Reconversion Programs for Adolescents have been set up in Rural Areas, including a specific program targeting child labour in the coffee sector. In the face of the pandemic, the Government has also developed education programmes for home schooling via TV, radio or through guidance provided by teachers. Honduras is revising the child labour module in the Multi-Purpose Household Survey which will allow the Government to locate children in child labour and help them. As a prospective Pathfinder Country, Honduras is developing, together with social partners, a Roadmap for the prevention, protection and eradication of child labour. It will not be easy, but Honduras is determined to comply with its obligations as a Pathfinder Country.

4. Experience / good practice from other pathfinder countries

Chile and Madagascar, as established Pathfinder Countries, were invited to share their experiences.

Chile welcomed the opportunity to participate in the exchange. For Chile, becoming a Pathfinder Country helped advance its agenda for sustainable development and efforts to achieve SDG Target 8.7 and the 2030 agenda. When Chile was invited to join Alliance 8.7 in 2018 and following an analysis of the challenge that presented and the need to increase national efforts, Child was proud to join the Global Partnership and that the country’s actions to tackle these issues had been recognized. Already before
joining Alliance 8.7, Chile had adopted two public policies on eliminating trafficking in persons and eradicating child labour, implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Ministry of Public Security which allowed for an inter-sectoral and coordinated approach to tackling these issues at the national and departmental level. Together with the public authorities, civil society and employers’ and workers’ organizations have come together to ensure a integrated and coordinated response to child labour and forced labour in the country. Being an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country has allowed the Government of Chile to prioritise these issues in the public agenda in coordination with key partners, leading to the development of the 2019-2021 Roadmap to advance efforts towards SDG Target 8.7 during the Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country Workshop. The Roadmap includes four key points:

1. Institutional reform through the Committee on Eradicating Child labour and the Intersectoral Body on the Eradication of Human Trafficking;
2. The incorporation of forced labour and human trafficking prevention in social development programmes aimed at children and adolescents;
3. Regional coordination on the implementation of the public policies on child labour and trafficking in persons;
4. Incorporation of specific interventions to tackle child labour and trafficking in persons in public policies and programmes.

Chile has prioritised the achievement of Target 8.7 in its national budgets to ensure the adequate implementation of the abovementioned Roadmap. The Government recently presented a draft law to update the regulations on the hiring of children and adolescents and the list of hazardous work. Since joining the Alliance 8.7, SDG 8.7 issues have been incorporated into training and capacity building for different institutional actors. Chile acknowledged that the current social and health crisis will likely have an impact on progress made so far but reiterated the importance of tackling said crisis together, through the Regional Initiative and the Alliance 8.7.

Madagascar welcomed the prospective Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Countries, and the opportunity to present its’ experience as a Pathfinder Country (since 2008). The Government has established, by Decree, an inter-ministerial national structure to coordinate action to tackle trafficking in persons and forced labour and an implementation plan is being finalised. In addition, the Government has undertaken initiatives to repatriate foreign nationals coming from high-risk countries. Madagascar has recently ratified six ILO Conventions and the Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with the ILO, is currently working on aligning national legislation with the provisions of these Conventions. During the ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work, the President of the Republic of Madagascar emphasised the country’s commitment to work further on tackling trafficking in persons. In terms of tackling child labour, recent action includes a multi-sectoral study on child labour undertaken by the National Office of Employment and Vocational Training in September 2019; a series of workshops to build the capacity of the labour inspectorate and the Ministry of Labour is working to extend the mandate of the Labour Inspectorate to intervene in high-risk areas; and action to strengthen coordination among the network of actors engaged in tackling child labour. Madagascar is engaged in a number of projects on tackling child labour, financed by different partners. In conclusion, in Madagascar, action has been driven by political
commitment and the support of partners including the ILO, UNICEF and IOM, but further action is still needed, in particular, to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 as well as to tackle child labour in the mining sector.

5. Exchange with all GCG members

Global March welcomed the opportunity to get an update from both established and aspiring Pathfinder Countries. The Global March drew attention to the body of expertise, experience and commitment in many of these countries in the CSO and trade union communities and their motivation to part of the process in working towards the goals of Alliance 8.7. In this sense, the Global March, as a GCG member, appealed to the Pathfinder Countries governments to engage with the CSO’s on the ground and encouraged Alliance 8.7 and the ILO to help support these efforts.

Cameroon asked about how other countries went about organising the Pathfinder Country national workshops and establishing the national priorities. Cameroon asked about resource mobilisation and whether separate workshops were organised with different partners or if just one workshop held with all partners. Finally, Cameroon asked Chile and Madagascar if they had a monitoring system in place to monitor and evaluate progress to achieve the priorities established in the national strategic plans.

Costa Rica explained that in terms of national strategic planning, they set the priorities by sector and organized four separate planning workshops with employers’ organizations, workers’ organizations, NGOs, and with the public sector, including local government, to identify what each group could contribute towards achieving SDG Target 8.7. After these workshops, they organized a national workshop to validate a comprehensive national programme bringing together the priorities by sector.

Madagascar, in terms of resource mobilisation, mentioned that the country has two distinct national strategies, one on combating child labour and the second on tackling trafficking in persons. The National Plan of Action on child labour was developed 3 years ago, and resource mobilisation to support the activities in the National Plan has already taken place. The national policy on tackling trafficking in persons is under development, and the Government is working on gathering the necessary resources for its implementation.

Chile explained that the 2019-2021 Roadmap was developed during the national pathfinder workshop in a space that allowed for all relevant actors to share common challenges and offer good practices. The political weight behind the Pathfinder Status allowed each actor to prioritise their participation in the workshop and for future coordination.

ITUC thanked the government representatives for sharing their reports, noting that it would be useful to have this information electronically to share with national partners. Linking to Global March’s intervention, ITUC referred to guidance that it is preparing for national trade union centres and sectoral
federations to engage more with Alliance 8.7 and join the national activities. ITUC proposed that the Pathfinder Countries jointly organize seminars in the coming year to identify priorities and activities together with affiliates. Referring to an overlap in priorities, specifically in areas such as fair recruitment, returning migrants in the COVID-19 context, and mandatory due diligence, ITUC encouraged identifying priority areas of work that trade unions could contribute to as well. ITUC highlighted the situation in countries like Guatemala and Honduras, where national trade union affiliates have concerns regarding tax on trade unionists and violent contexts, and suggested to focus on this as a priority area of concern.

The Chair, in conclusion, emphasized the importance to listening to the voices of all partners and build upon joint engagement, with constant monitoring of progress. Due to COVID-19, the Chair encouraged the prospective Pathfinder Countries to consider organizing digital webinars to engage partners and identify national priorities, strategies and action plans. The Chair noted that the Alliance 8.7 partners stand ready to support such processes.

6. Preparation of SDG 8.7 monitoring workshop

The Secretariat presented an update on the monitoring tools that the Pathfinder Countries have started to use (Brief summary below. For more detailed information, refer to Powerpoint slides “How to Monitor progress… An update on the processes, The case of Pathfinder countries, and beyond.”).

The Secretariat recalled the agreement from the last GCG meeting to set up an SDG 8.7 monitoring working group, responsible for overseeing Pathfinder country monitoring, the monitoring of other Alliance 8.7 groups and acting as the advisory board for research to be “branded under the Alliance 8.7. In 2019, a draft monitoring framework, with proposed indicators, and a reporting template were established to help Pathfinder countries to monitor and report on progress. In 2020, the framework and indicators were tested and Pathfinder countries were asked to report using the questionnaire and indicators. To support the national Alliance 8.7 focal points, group and one-on-one webinars took place in English, French and Spanish. The Secretariat noted that the Alliance 8.7 monitoring and reporting mechanism is a voluntary mechanism, designed to support countries in their own monitoring. Eleven Pathfinder countries reported using the questionnaires, and information on progress was showcased on the Alliance website. The Secretariat highlighted main areas of progress, including on coordination mechanisms, legal frameworks, National Action Plans and others. The Secretariat highlighted what went well from this first trial of the monitoring framework, including, amongst others, the bilateral calls with focal points, the flexible reporting format and countries reporting against the priorities. At the same time, there is room for improvement in areas such as, amongst others, the quantitative reporting on indicators as well as on the implementation information, automating some of the reporting and
monitoring, and the focus on the workshop priorities. Looking ahead, the SDG 8.7 monitoring group will be set up in September 2020, and will be overseeing the review of the monitoring framework. A monitoring workshop with Pathfinder country focal points is planned for October, and a more comprehensive website to showcase progress will later be launched.

The Chair, in conclusion, noted that a draft Terms of Reference for the SDG 8.7 monitoring group will be shared with the GCG members online for comments, asking the GCG members to also nominate focal points for the upcoming monitoring workshop.

Ghana noted an inconsistency in dates in the concept note, requesting that the Secretariat check this and resend an amended note.

The Global March emphasized that the working group on monitoring is an excellent entry point how partners on the ground can contribute to the areas of work…emphasised the importance of documenting practical examples of what works and what does not so that Pathfinder countries can use these experiences in their own work. From the CSO perspective, the Global March is accountability and transparency in this process.

7. Closing remarks and next steps

The Secretariat, in terms of next steps, will follow up with Ghana on inconsistencies in the concept note; will look into dates for the monitoring workshop; and, together with the Chair, will plan for the next GCG meeting, which would likely take place still virtually and in October, possibly back-to-back with the next ILO Governing Body session.

The Chair, in closing, thanked all the Pathfinder countries and acknowledged the importance of hearing from all actors, including employers, workers, civil society organizations, and the value of their inputs to the Pathfinder country process.
### Annex I: Participants list

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Anousheh Karvar</td>
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<tr>
<td>French Ministry of Labour</td>
<td>Martin Denis</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour, France</td>
<td>Maria Rhomari</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina</td>
<td>Suyay Cubelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Businesses</td>
<td>Moya Drayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</td>
<td>Alison Edye</td>
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<td>Australian Delegation to the ILO</td>
<td>Manon Gahan</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour, Cameroon</td>
<td>Angélique Mbouzie Akanda</td>
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<td>Government of Canada</td>
<td>Youna Zhang</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour, Chile</td>
<td>Paula Guajardo</td>
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<td>Alejandra Gonzalez</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour, Chile</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Costa Rica</td>
<td>Ericka Alvarez</td>
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<td>Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<td>Emma Ofori Agyemang</td>
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<td>Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour, Guatemala</td>
<td>William Godoy</td>
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<td>Katherine Paniagua Santos</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour, Madagascar</td>
<td>Jerson Razafimanantsoa</td>
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<td>Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN</td>
<td>Sara Luna</td>
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<td>Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment</td>
<td>Laurens Warnink</td>
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<td>Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs</td>
<td>Myriam Ait Yahia</td>
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<td>TTUC</td>
<td>Jeroen Beirnaert</td>
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<td>Global March Against Child Labour</td>
<td>Marcus Dubbelt</td>
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<td>Global March against Child Labour</td>
<td>Timothy Ryan</td>
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<td>Free the Slaves</td>
<td>Terry FitzPatrick</td>
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Proposals for the GCG response to the COVID-19 survey results

In June 2020 the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat carried out a survey of Partners to gather their views on:

- The effects of the COVID-19 crisis on achieving SDG Target 8.7, including on the operations of organizations, projects and programmes working to achieve Target 8.7
- The public policy responses that can prevent (further) increases in forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour
- The support Alliance 8.7 can usefully provide to its Partners to help overcome the challenges to achieving Target 8.7 resulting from the pandemic.

A total of 95 people together dedicated over 36 hours of their time to complete the survey. The survey report can be accessed here.

This paper tentatively proposes a GCG response to the survey findings and aims to form the basis for a group discussion on eventual actions to be taken. GCG members will be asked to review the proposed actions and to suggest additional or alternative ones. GCG members are invited to consider the resource implications of each action and to make any actions time-bound, to enable monitoring.

TARGET 8.7 ACHIEVEMENT

All survey respondents said that the COVID-19 pandemic, including the socioeconomic effects of social distancing measures, is making the achievement of Target 8.7 more difficult. The biggest short-term challenges are destitution and difficulties in organizing and accessing support. Increased poverty, lack of operational capacity and political will are seen as the biggest long-term challenges.

Given the above, the GCG may wish to discuss if:

- Pathfinder Countries, supported by the Alliance, will explore options to increase support for organizations working on the ground to achieve SDG target 8.7, from civil society organizations to public sector organizations;
- The Alliance 8.7 secretariat will adapt current advocacy and communications messages to the COVID-19 context, in particular highlighting the (expected impact) on Target 8.7. Messaging will include a focus on those actions; Alliance
8.7 Partners advocate for the following policy recommendations related to the achievement of SDG target 8.7 in times of Covid:

- Actively implement and enforce appropriate legislation to achieve Target 8.7 while also effectively managing the pandemic;
- Extend social protection schemes and strive for universal coverage;
- Schools and education: Re-open schools as soon as possible under safe conditions, bridge the digital divide, implement re-enrolment schemes and support children and adolescents with catching up; leaving no one behind;
- Ensure all business practices are ethical by (1) incorporating the social impact of business practices into recovery measures and (2) tackling abuses in private and public supply chains, including by carrying out supply chain due diligence;
- Improve opportunities for livelihoods and decent work.

- The GCG will formally ask all Alliance 8.7 Partners to reinvigorate advocacy efforts asking political decision makers and public administration to protect the most vulnerable groups and potential victims of forced labour, contemporary forms of slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour.

**OPERATIONAL CAPACITY**

Current funding opportunities for Target 8.7 activities are declining, survey respondents said, but future opportunities could present a more mixed picture. A third of respondents expect funding opportunities to decrease in the longer-term.

Four out of 10 respondents face cost-cutting measures. Respondents say that the nature of their work has changed as a result of the pandemic, and that the latter is also affecting the operations of their partners and networks.

In light of these new challenges, the GCG may wish to commit to the following actions:

- The GCG will set up a (temporary or permanent) working group to explore and influence relevant funding opportunities for Alliance 8.7 Partners. This will include all funding streams, from government and philanthropy to private sector funding and innovative financing mechanisms. The working group will publish and regularly update a list of available funding opportunities for partners. It will also set out the (business) case for tackling target 8.7 now more than ever. This can be used by Partners applying for funding, in particular with relation to new funding streams set up under COVID-19 for crisis response and recovery.

- The Alliance 8.7 Secretariat will host a webinar on how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the nature of Target 8.7 work, as well as impacts of the pandemic on operational capacity. The webinar will bring together Partners to explore solutions, allowing the network to pool ideas and resources.
ALLIANCE 8.7 SUPPORT FOR ITS PARTNERS

Respondents were asked what kind of Alliance 8.7 support would be most useful during these difficult times. Respondents have a clear preference for communications materials on COVID-19 and Target 8.7 (e.g. social media cards, blogs, press releases). They would also like more opportunities to connect with other Partners virtually (e.g. webinars, moderated virtual discussions on the online engagement platform (Slack), etc.)

The GCG may decide:

- To include communications and advocacy materials in the forthcoming Alliance 8.7 web page featuring tools and resources
- To better promote the use of the [Alliance 8.7 communications toolkit for Partners](#). The secretariat will also gather and include relevant communications and advocacy materials produced by individual Alliance 8.7 Partners in the toolkit.
- That the secretariat will continue to organize Alliance 8.7 webinars, as well as encouraging Partners to host and organize these.
- To investigate options for continuous moderation of the online engagement platform (Slack), instead of for key events only, as is the case currently.
Alliance 8.7 - Pathfinder Focal Point Workshop

The Secretariat of Alliance 8.7 would like to convene a brainstorming online workshop to have an opportunity to reflect and have your feedback on the pathfinder country process to date, including the experience with the first reporting exercise, and to discuss the way forward.

The workshop has following objectives:

1. Shared understanding on the progress achieved, lessons learned of the first reporting exercise including a reflection on the indicators;
2. Pathfinder countries inspire each other by sharing good practices and experiences that can be adaptable to different contexts. The following topics are of particular interest: coordination mechanisms, resource mobilization, and the response to the impact of COVID19;
3. Pathfinder countries have a good understanding of the opportunities to engage with Global Coordinating Group members and business networks;
4. Common understanding on the way forward, particularly in the framework of the International Year of the Elimination of Child Labour.

We are planning to spread these discussions among different sessions held on more than one day and to open a forum before and after the workshop. Some short preparatory videos will be developed to go directly into the discussions during the workshop. Some sessions will be held regionally to adapt to the different time zones, and for others we will try to find a time that is suitable for all regions to have the opportunity for inter-regional exchange. The interaction with GCG members could be held in the framework of some of the thematic discussions mentioned under point 2.
Agenda point 5

Alliance 8.7
SDG 8.7 Monitoring Working Group
Terms of Reference

*Adopted by the Alliance 8.7 Global Coordinating Group on XXX (Date TBC)*

**Background**

The Alliance 8.7 was launched in September 2016 to help all UN member states achieve SDG 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.

The Alliance 8.7’s establishment was informed by a series of regional consultations and workshops. This process led to the formation of the Global Coordination Group, the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat, the establishment of Pathfinder Country Status, thematic Action Groups (Rule of law and governance, Conflict and humanitarian settings, Migration, Supply chains), Working Groups and coordination with business networks and other inter-agency platforms.

In 2017, Alliance 8.7 defined the following expected results: 1) Accelerating action, 2) Conducting research and sharing knowledge and 3) Driving innovation and leveraging resources.

**Objective**

In 2020 in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the deadline to achieve Target 8.7 approaches, the number of partners of the Alliance increase, and the number of pathfinder countries that reported on progress against their national priorities for the first time, the Alliance 8.7 Global Coordinating Group decided to establish the SDG Monitoring Working Group to promote learning, accountability, and transparency for the Alliance 8.7.

**Scope of Work**

This Working Group will focus on ensuring the learning, accountability and transparency for the Alliance 8.7 and the entities that compose it (GCG, Secretariat, Path Finder Countries, Action Groups, Working groups...) and make sure that statements of progress are backed up by credible evidence.

The SDG 8.7 monitoring working group will

1. Provide guidance to facilitate progress monitoring and reporting against the objectives of the Alliance 8.7 at national, regional and global levels. Concretely, in the case of Pathfinder Countries, the SDG monitoring working group will establish a monitoring framework - including indicators, reporting templates and a timeline - for PFCs to report against. Similar frameworks will be established and implemented for the other entities of the Alliance 8.7.
2. Keep track of the progress made against the objectives of the Alliance 8.7 and its entities:
Measurement of progress towards target 8.7 has always been at the heart of the work of Alliance 8.7 partners. The SDG Monitoring working group will keep track of progress made against the objectives of the Alliance 8.7 and, in the broader term, monitoring towards the achievement of target 8.7 for all countries (SDG indicators, pledges and political commitment). More specifically the working group will for example review the Pathfinder progress reports and advise the GCG on their endorsement ahead of the annual High Level Political Forum.

3. Act as a advisory body to the Alliance 8.7 ‘branded’ projects (conducted by at least 2 members of the Alliance), facilitate collaboration on studies and research related to SDG target 8.7 and provide a platform for other partners to provide input to these studies. In light of the Covid-19 crisis, the need to support or coordinate rigorous studies to better understand the current situation of child labour and forced labour is even more critical. There is added value in developing knowledge products for which two or more Alliance partners join forces to design and implement studies or statistical activities on child labour, including the worst forms of child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking. Among current projects, we can highlight the preparation for 2021 of the Global Estimates of Child Labour, a collaboration between the ILO and UNICEF, and the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, a collaboration between the ILO, IOM and Walk Free Foundation.

Organisation and structure

Membership to the SDG 8.7 Monitoring working Group is open to any Alliance 8.7 GCG member (organisation, government, human rights organization, civil society organization, think tank, and UN agency). Members of the working Group will contribute to its activities through technical, human and where possible, financial resources.

Participants: members of the GCG are invited to each nominate one representative and one alternate to participate in the SDG monitoring group. These representatives will be technical experts in research/Monitoring and Evaluation on child labour, or forced labour and or human trafficking.

Chair: The SDG Monitoring Working group will be chaired by the Secretariat of Alliance 8.7.

Working Group Subcommittees: At the discretion of the Chair, Subcommittees may be established for defined periods to progress different streams of working Group work. The Chair may call on working Group members to participate in subcommittees.

Meetings

Meetings will be in English. The Working Group will meet at least two times per year. Tentatively the dates would be Feb-March and Sept-October ahead of the GCG meetings. Once a year, the meeting will aim to be an in-person meeting. Notice of meetings will be provided to each working Group member no fewer than one week prior to the meeting for remote meetings and three weeks for in-person meetings.

Decision Making

The SDG monitoring Working Group has an advisory role to the GCG. The working group will submit recommendations to the GCG for endorsement on progress made against the objectives of
the Alliance 8.7 and its entities, guidance to facilitate progress monitoring and reporting and the
design of joint projects.

Financial Obligations
Working Group members are expected to self-fund their own participation in the Working Group.

Internal communication
The Chair is responsible for communicating with working Group members regarding all matters
related to the working Group.
The Implementation of an Accountability Framework at the Alliance 8.7

The accountability mechanism within the United Nations system is one of the most effective mechanisms and places the United Nations as the most trusted multinational institution in the world. Accountability has become a tradition within the United Nations and has enhanced the effectiveness of the United Nations as an institution.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) posed a set of challenges given the inter-connected nature of these goals. Capacity must be developed to balance agency-specific and system-wide accountability. It is this very reason why the SDG 16.6 calls for an “effective development of accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”.

The Alliance 8.7, an inclusive global partnership committed to achieving target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, should develop its capacity to establish a system-wide accountability.

Free the Slaves, an anti-modern slavery organization and a global civil society leader, would work with the Alliance 8.7 to establish an accountability and transparency mechanism to help reach its goals.

Key pathway to accountability mechanism at the Alliance 8.7

a) **A Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism**: the purpose is to provide for the systemic gathering of accurate, timely, objective and reliable data or information on pathfinder countries implementing actions plans. To date, this is still under works.

b) **Action Plans**: A set of commitments from pathfinder countries turned into actions. This is already taking place.

c) **Reporting Mechanism**: a framework for informing particular audiences or stakeholders including the public on the pathfinder countries. This can be an annual or 6-month report by the Chair of the Alliance 8.7. The structure of the report can be discussed or decided by the GCG.

d) **Accountability Framework**: in a broader sense, describes the responsibility or obligations of pathfinder countries for the action plans (activities, decisions – agreed or promised – and results). It also describes what happens when pathfinder country does not meet its commitments or promises. Moreover, transparency is a key pillar for upholding accountability.

There are similar frameworks across UN systems. For example, the CAC (Children and Armed Conflict and its Working Group at the UN Security Council: UNSC resolution 1612). The information gathered through the MRM (Monitoring & Reporting Mechanism) is used in the UN reporting including the annual report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict and country-specific reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict. These reports trigger actions by the Security Council and other actors.

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Roadmap to 2021

Vth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour and the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

Informal Briefing Note (September 2020)

Background
In the last 20 years, great strides have been made in the elimination of child labour. More than 90 million children have been removed from child labour, bringing numbers down from 246 million in 2000 to 152 million in 2016. Nevertheless, challenges remain with younger age groups, child labour in agriculture and the “hardest to reach”. Furthermore, 40 million children, women and men are in modern slavery, of which 25 million are in forced labour. At the current pace of reduction, it will be impossible to meet the SDG target 8.7 to eliminate child labour by 2025 and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030.

This scenario is being aggravated by the unprecedented consequences of the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment figures are increasing dramatically around the world and the economic and social disruption threatens the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions of people.

For many children and their families, the fast-evolving situation means disrupted education, family illness and potential loss of household income. The pandemic may revert years of progress in the elimination of child labour and force millions of children to contribute to family income, in times of crisis and closed schools. The absence of adequate social protection systems exacerbates the vulnerability of families and hence risks exposing them to forced labour, and their children to child labour. Covid-19 is also putting many women, men and children in a more vulnerable situation to exploitation for forced labour and human trafficking. This implies that more focused action and additional efforts are required to keep up with the international commitment towards the achievement of SDG target 8.7.

UN member States have renewed their commitment with the adoption of UN Resolution 72/327 to declare 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. This coincides with the follow-up to the 2017 Buenos Aires Declaration on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Youth Employment and the preparation of the Vth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour (VGC) that will take place in South Africa in 2022. The year 2021 therefore presents a unique opportunity to take stock, commit to renewed efforts, address the challenges posed by COVID-19 and accelerate progress towards 2025.¹

¹ UN Resolution A/RES/73/237 calls on the ILO to take the lead in the preparation of the UN Year. See also paper GB/338/POL/4 which was submitted to the ILO’s Governing Body in February 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision on this paper is still pending.
The following roadmap sets out the strategy to seize this opportunity. It has been prepared by the ILO for consultation with its constituents and partners of the Alliance 8.7 – the Global Partnership to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour in all forms. The Alliance 8.7 currently brings together more than 200 partners and 22 pathfinder countries that are committed to accelerating action at the global, regional, national and local level.

**Measuring progress at national, regional and global levels**

In order to demonstrate progress to the international community in 2025, continued investment into measuring the problem at different levels is needed. A significant number of countries are now collecting their own child labour data through national surveys, and some countries are getting very close to becoming “child labour free”. Countries need a “toolbox” for measuring the problem, including criteria for assessing its full elimination, and to assess pledges made by governments and social partners at the IV Global Conference in 2017.

New global estimates of child labour and forced labour, to be released in 2021, will provide a critical benchmark against which to measure progress, just four years from the 2025 target date for the elimination of child labour. It will also include an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the elimination of child labour. The new global report will place particular emphasis on region-specific policy priorities and policy responses, as well as addressing the specific challenges derived from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Key action points and deliverables:**
- Terms of Reference for implementation, monitoring and voluntary reporting framework for Alliance 8.7 pathfinder countries shared for consultation (Oct 2020)
- SDG 8.7 monitoring working group launched as part of Alliance 8.7 (Nov./Dec.2020)
- Action-oriented research activities to support the 2021 milestones and their follow up at the country level, with a particular emphasis on the Pathfinder countries (throughout 2021):
  - Portfolio of smart policies and practices, including knowledge tools
  - Regional briefs
  - App for monitoring on child labour figures and follow up on pledges
  - Innovation toolbox on child labour
- Release of statistical toolbox for countries to continue and improve measurement of child labour and forced labour (Sept 2021)
- Release of new Global Estimates and global report on child labour (Sept 2021)
- Release of new Global Estimates and global report on forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery (Sept 2021)
Engagement with Member States, including pathfinder countries

Engaging with governments, social partners and other stakeholders at national level as well as with regional organizations and platforms such as the African Union and the Regional Initiative *Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour* will be critical in preparing for 2021. Countries need to be actively engaged and regional “champions” or “advocates” could lead this process. Under Alliance 8.7, the implementation of the pathfinder country strategy has to be a primary focus in order to demonstrate that progress is possible, even under adverse circumstances. In July 2020, the Alliance 8.7 has presented a new digital pathfinder report highlighting the progress made by countries since the first report was launched in 2019.

An important aspect of the implementation of priorities is the exchange of experiences between pathfinder countries and beyond, in order to encourage other countries to accelerate efforts and try new and evidence-based approaches to eliminate child labour. The V Global Conference (VGC) will be a good opportunity to follow up on progress made, showcase innovative ideas and pilot interventions developed under Alliance 8.7. It will build momentum to formulate new pledges, translating commitments into accelerated action towards the full elimination of all forms of child labour, as established under SDG target 8.7.

**Key action points and deliverables:**

- Thematic, networking and coordination webinars with pathfinder country focal points (ongoing)
- Alliance 8.7 meeting of national focal points (Nov.2020)
- National strategy and monitoring workshops in pathfinder countries to assess progress and adjust action as required (ongoing, some of them probably as virtual events)
- Launch of new digital report (“e-report”) on progress of pathfinder countries (July 2021), including review of pledges made at the IV Global Conference

Advocacy, communication and partnerships to build political momentum

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the VGC will be the culminating points of action and commitment in 2021 and 2022. The UNGA presents an opportunity to mobilize political support at the level of heads of state, the UN Secretary General and leaders of Alliance 8.7 partners. The VGC will be a platform to translate high-level commitments into concrete action, for example through new pledges, exchange of good practices and new initiatives. The World Days Against Child Labour (WDACL) in 2020 and 2021 are good advocacy opportunities that will generate momentum around the International Year and VGC, on the road to 2025.

Members of the Child Labour Platform and the Forced Labour Business Network will also be involved in the 2021 advocacy campaign, as well as their associated companies, employers’ organizations and other multi-stakeholder initiatives. Trade unions and civil society organizations will play an important role in holding governments accountable for their international commitments, and international and regional organizations and initiatives are considered key partners. To engage all partners with the activities around the International Year, a kick-start event for the official launch
of the International Year will be organized in January 2021 with a virtual format involving representatives of the UN at their main Headquarters in New York and Geneva. It may be supported by parallel launch events in different parts of the world (at least one in each Region).

**Key action points and deliverables:**
- Development of advocacy framework and communication strategy for the International Year (Sept.-Oct.2020)
- Multi-stakeholder consultation to prepare for International Year and V Global Conference (December 2020, pending further developments related to COVID-19, tbc)
- Kick-start event(s) of the International Year in New York, Geneva and each Region (January 2021)
- FAO regional conferences and global conference on child labour in agriculture, to prepare commitments and engagement by stakeholders in agriculture (March to July 2021 or later, tbc)
- VGC preparatory meetings with constituents in Geneva and the Regions (throughout 2021)
- Discussion of UN Resolution on child labour (Q1 2021)
- High-level event with Heads of States at UNGA (September 2021)
- VGC with outcome document and pledges (Sept. 2022)

**Timeline, resources and institutional arrangements to implement the roadmap**

The UN Year and the VGC are global deliverables of ILO’s Programme and Budget 2020-2021 and 2022-23; hence a range of ILO departments and field offices are expected to support implementation of the roadmap. Members of the Alliance 8.7 Global Coordinating Group and other external partners will be invited to play an active role in the implementation of the roadmap. Substantive resource mobilization is required to implement it. This requires strategic thinking on how to attract resources to the fight against child labour and forced labour, in the context of unprecedented public and private spending going into the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Attached is a tentative timeline of key events, which will create momentum towards 2021 and the VGC.
International Roadmap on SDG Target 8.7

2020
- 16-26 March, Geneva: ILO Governing Body - Cancelled, GB paper on V Global Conference on Child Labour submitted to Screening Group
- June, Virtual: World Day Against Child Labour - Online and field messages towards the International Year on the Elimination of Child Labour (2021)

2021
- January, second half: Kick-start events in New York, Geneva and Regions
- March – July, tbc, Virtual: Regional consultations and global conference on Child labour in agriculture (FAO) - Commitments and engagement by stakeholders in agriculture
- June, Geneva: International Labour Conference - World Day Against Child Labour - Event with selected pathfinder countries

2022
- TBC, South Africa: V Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour - Alliance 8.7 partners actively involved

International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour (2021)

Regional Consultations VGC