

TOWARDS ENHANCED PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO COMBAT THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR PURPOSES OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Regional Conference organized jointly by the National Assembly of Benin, the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Cotonou, 26-28 May 2010

International Conference Centre (ICC)



PROVISIONAL AGENDA

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY

8 - 9 a.m.

Registration of participants and distribution of documents

9 - 10 a.m.

► **Inaugural session**

- President of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC-OECD)
- Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin

10 - 10.15 a.m.

Coffee break

10.15 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Election of the Bureau of the Conference

Amendment and adoption of the agenda

► **Session I: Children and their rights : strengthening knowledge and understanding of international and regional standards on children's rights and child labour**

The objective of this segment is to familiarize parliamentarians with the major international and regional standards on children's rights and child labour with a view to developing appropriate laws against trafficking in children.

- How States parties could implement these instruments
- How international organizations (ILO, UNICEF and OHCHR) could help countries implement these instruments
- **The 1959 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child**
- **The Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Presentation: Expert from the United Nations Office of the High-Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) and/or from UNICEF

- **The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child**

Presentation: Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

- **138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973**
- **182 Convention on the Prohibition and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999**

Presentation : Representative of the ILO

Discussion

1 - 3 p.m.

Lunch

3 - 6 p.m.

▶ **Session II: Mapping trafficking in children for labour exploitation in the region: Taking stock of actions and initiatives**

Many actions and initiatives have been taken against trafficking in children for labour exploitation. The presentations under this segment aim to take stock of what has been done so far and to use the lessons learned and best practises as a basis for coordinated regional action.

- **Contribution of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC-OECD) to the fight against child labour**

Presentation: Representative of the SWAC

- **The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), ILO**
- **The Programme to combat trafficking in children for labour exploitation in West and Central Africa (LUTRENA), ILO**

- A broad overview of the situation in the region
- Programme strategies
- Main achievements

Presentation: Representative of IPEC

- **Cocoa production without child labour : the Harkin-Engel Protocol or Cocoa Protocol**

Presentation: Ghana Cocoa Board

Discussion

THURSDAY 27 MAY

9 - 11 a.m.

▶ **Session II (continued)**

- **The role of employers in the elimination of child labour: strategies of the International Organization of Employers: strategies and policies implemented**

Presentation: Representative of the International Organization of Employers (IOE)

- **Involvement of civil society in combating trafficking in children for labour exploitation:**

- How it operates
- Main collaboration partners
- Concrete achievements

Presentation: A representative of the Children and Young Workers' Association in Benin (AEJT), part of the Children and Young Workers' African movement (MAEJT)

Discussion

11 - 11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 - 1 p.m.

▶ **Session II (continued)**

- **Legislative measures at the national level**

Benin and Ghana

Presentation: MPs from Benin and Ghana

Discussion

1 - 3 p.m.

▶ Lunch

3 - 5 p.m.

▶ **Session II : Legislative measures (continued)**

Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso

Presentation: MPs from Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso

Discussion

FRIDAY 28 MAY

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

▶ **Session III: The determining role of parliaments in combating trafficking in children for labour exploitation : Protecting - Preventing - Ensuring the enforcement of international standards to eliminate this scourge**

Following discussions about what has been done so far to combat child trafficking and labour exploitation, this segment will be devoted to strengthening parliamentary action at the national level in view of coordinating efforts among the parliaments involved in this project.

To that end, three key actions will be identified: protection, prevention and law enforcement. Protective measures also include assistance with the rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking in children

- **Creating and strengthening a legislative framework based on protection and prevention**

Presenter: To be announced.

- **Effective enforcement and follow-up of laws against trafficking in children and labour laws both at the national and regional levels: necessary cooperation between parliament and other stakeholders**

Presenter: To be announced.

Discussion

1 - 3 p.m.

Lunch

3 - 4 p.m.

- ▶ Discussion on the conclusions of the Conference

4 - 5 p.m.

- ▶ Closing ceremony