


APPENDIX - X



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION 1996 PRESS KITS

 <p>Click here for photos</p>	<h3>Stop! Child Labour</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Child Labour Today Facts and figures● Child Labour: Action required at the national level● International Action: Standards need reinforcing
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Child Labour Today: Facts and figures

Geneva, 10 June 1996

Though reliable statistics are rare, available information suggests that the number of working children remains extremely high. No region of the world today is entirely free of child labour.

Although the internationally recommended minimum age for work is 15 years (ILO Convention **No. 138**) and the number of child workers under the age of 10 is far from negligible, almost all the data available on child labour concerns the 10-to-14 age group. Combining various official sources, the ILO estimates that more than 73 million children in that age group alone were economically active in 1995, representing 13.2 per cent of all 10-to-14 year olds around the world.

- The greatest numbers were found in Asia - 44.6 million (13 per cent) - followed by Africa - 23.6 million (by far the highest rate at 26.3 per cent) - and Latin America - 5.1 million (9.8 per cent).

- Estimates by country showed the following rates of economic activity among children 10-to-14: Bangladesh (30.1 per cent), China (11.6), India (14.4), Pakistan (17.7), Turkey (24), Côte d'Ivoire (20.5), Egypt (11.2), Kenya (41.3), Nigeria (25.8), Senegal (31.4), Argentina (4.5), Brazil (16.1), Mexico (6.7), Italy (0.4), Portugal (1.8).

"But this is only part of the picture", says Assefa Bequele, departmental Director and child labour specialist at the ILO. "No reliable figures on workers under 10 are available though their numbers, we know, are significant. The same is true of children between 14 and 15 on whom few reports exist. If all of these could be counted and if proper account were taken of the domestic work performed full-time by girls, the total number of child workers around the world today might well be in the hundreds of millions."

Though mostly prevalent in the developing regions, child labour also exists in richer industrialized countries. "In southern Europe, there have always been relatively large numbers of children working for pay, in particular in seasonal activities, street trades, small workshops or in a home setting", notes an ILO report Endnote1 prepared for a meeting to be held in conjunction with this year's session of the International Labour Conference (4-20 June 1996)

In central and eastern Europe, the difficulties connected with the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy has led to a substantial increase in child labour. The ILO report points out that "the same is true of the United States, where the growth of the service sector, the rapid increase in the supply of part-time jobs and the search for a more flexible workforce have contributed to the expansion of the child labour market "

Traditionally, the proportion of working children has been much higher in rural than in urban areas - nine out of ten are engaged in agricultural or related activities. In the towns and cities of developing countries, where child labour has increased steadily as a result of the rapid urbanization of recent years, working children are found mainly in trade and services and to a lesser extent in the manufacturing sector.

Experimental statistical surveys carried out by the ILO in Ghana, India, Indonesia and Senegal have shown that the economic activity of over three quarters of children between the ages of 5 and 14 takes place in a family enterprise setting. With the exception of Latin America where their numbers appear to be substantial, "children employed as wage-earners usually account for a relatively small percentage of total child labour", says the report

"At the international level," notes the report, "attention focuses mainly on children employed in Third World countries and predominantly export industries, such as textiles, clothing, carpets and footwear. In fact, though, children producing for export are substantially fewer than those employed in branches of activity geared essentially to meeting domestic consumption needs."

Available statistics suggest that more boys than girls work. "It should be borne in mind, however, that the number of working girls is often underestimated by statistical surveys, as they usually do not take into account full-time housework performed by many children, the vast majority of whom are girls, in order to enable their parents to go to work"

Girls, moreover, tend to work longer hours, on average, than do boys. "This is especially true for the many girls employed as domestic workers, a type of employment in which hours of work are typically extremely long. This is also the case of girls employed in other types of jobs who, in addition to their professional activity, must help with the housework in their parents' home."

One of the factors affecting the supply of child labour is the high cost, in real terms, of obtaining an education. Many children work to cover the costs of school expenses. But, "many schools serving the poor are of such abysmal quality, or chances of upward mobility for graduates are so slim, that the expected return is not equal to the sacrifice made (..) While it is true that many children drop out of school because they have to work, it is equally true that many become so discouraged by school that they prefer to work"

Refuting the "nimble fingers" argument

In manufacturing industries, children are most likely to be employed, says the report, "when their labour is less expensive or less troublesome than that of adults, when other labour is scarce, and when they are considered irreplaceable by reason of their size or perceived dexterity."

The ILO investigated this latter question in 1992 as it applied in the handwoven carpet and glass bracelet (bangles) industries in India, subsequently expanding its studies to include the diamond polishing, gem polishing, slate, limestone and mosaic chip quarrying industries

The findings of these studies, says the ILO, "clearly refute the 'nimble fingers' argument - the claim that only children can do certain jobs, or can do them better than adults " Very often, the studies found, "the jobs that only children perform consist of menial unskilled work that adults could do at least as quickly."

"Some of the best carpets, those having the greatest density of small knots, are woven by adults", states the report. If child dexterity is not uniquely necessary to knot the finest carpets, it is difficult to imagine other trades for which the 'nimble fingers' argument could be valid

Eliminating child slavery and the most abusive forms of child labour

Many working children face significant threats to their health and safety. The majority are involved in farming and are routinely exposed to harsh climate, sharpened tools, heavy loads as well, increasingly, as to toxic chemicals and motorized equipment.

Others, particularly girls working as domestic servants away from their homes, are frequent victims of physical, mental and sexual abuses which can have devastating consequences on their health

"Prostitution is another type of activity in which children, especially girls, are increasingly found", says the ILO report. "The AIDS epidemic is a contributing factor to this trend, as adults see the use of children for sexual purposes as the best means of preventing infection The laissez-faire attitude of the authorities in charge of national and international tourism is also largely responsible for the current situation."

Another "extremely serious problem", says the report, is child slavery.

"Available information points to the existence of traditional forms of child slavery in South Asia and sub-Saharan East Africa. Instances have also been found in two Latin American countries" Contemporary forms of child slavery however, appear to be evolving "either by a link being established between an adult's work contract and the availability of a child or by the exchange of a child for a sum of money that is often described as an advance on wages "

"A large number of child slaves" who, according to reports cited in the ILO report may number in the tens of millions, "are to be found in agriculture, domestic help, the sex industry, the carpet and textile industries, quarrying and brickmaking."

"Child slavery predominates mainly where there are social systems based on the exploitation of poverty, such as debt bondage, when the motivation is the debt incurred by a family to meet a social or religious obligation or simply to acquire the means of survival", says the report, adding that wars are also conducive to child slavery

"A different approach is needed for each of these different forms of child slavery" warns the ILO. "In the first instance, any external, and particularly international, intervention is doomed to failure if it is not accompanied by a process of social transformation implemented by the communities concerned. In the second case, the enslavement of civil populations in the context of an armed conflict is a crime against humanity", which the international community has an obligation to stop and to punish

There is a growing body of opinion "that national and international efforts need to be more sharply focused on the most abusive and hazardous forms of child labour, granting them first concern and priority", underlines the report

"Perhaps the most telling social argument against child labour is that its effects are highly discriminatory, adding to the burden and disadvantage of individuals and groups already among the socially excluded while benefiting those who are privileged "

"For that reason, child labour is inconsistent with democracy and social justice."

Estimated percentages of economically active children between 10 and 14 years of age, 1995
Endnote2 (Selected countries and territories)

| AFRICA | ASIA | EUROPE | LATIN AMERICA | OCEANIA |

Africa (%)

Algeria 1.63

Burkina Faso 51.05

Burundi 48.97

Cameroon 25 25

Côte d'Ivoire 20 46

Egypt 11.23

Ethiopia 42.30

Ghana 13.27

Kenya 41 27

Mali 54 53

Morocco 5 61

Niger 45.17

Nigeria 25 75

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/235press/pkits/child1.htm>

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Senegal 31 36

South Africa 0 00

Tunisia 0 00

Uganda 45 31

Zambia 16.27

Zimbabwe 29 44

Asia (%)

Bangladesh 30 12

Bhutan 55 10

China 11 55

East Timor 45 39

Hong Kong 0 00

India 14 37

Indonesia 9 55

Iran 4 71

Iraq 2.95

Japan 0 00

Jordan 0 68

Malaysia 3 16

Nepal 45 18

Pakistan 17.67

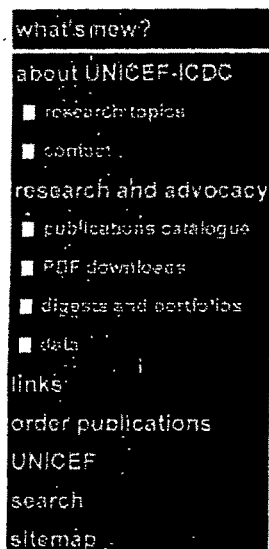
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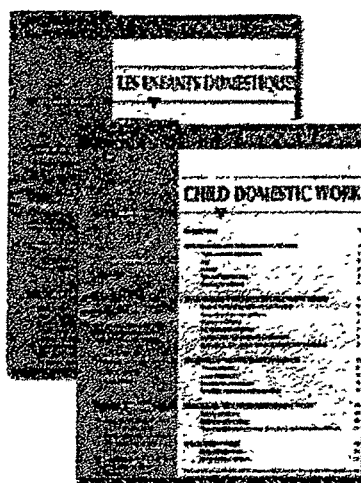
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The fifth Innocenti Digest looks at what is probably the largest and most ignored group of child workers: child domestic workers. The limited research available on this 'invisible workforce' suggests that 90 percent are girls, most are 12 to 17 years old, and some work 15-hour days. One of the world's oldest occupations, child domestic work is increasingly becoming a commercialized trade and in many societies child domestics are still considered 'cared for' and not exploited. A guest commentary by Anti-Slavery International urges that in seeking solutions "nothing can be done to improve the situation of child domestic workers unless employers are involved".

The Digest examines challenges for practitioners, reviews national legislation and international standards, describes the work of organizations active in the field, and provides a list of relevant readings. The Digest was launched at a time when the **'Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999'** was unanimously adopted at the the 87th annual International Labour Conference. The Digest asserts that child domestic work becomes one of the worst forms of child labour when the child has been sold, is bonded or works without pay, works excessive hours, in isolation or at night; is exposed to grave safety or health hazards, is abused in the household or is at risk of physical violence or sexual harassment; and works at a very young age.

Les enfants employés en tant que domestiques constituent sans doute le groupe le plus important de toutes les catégories d'enfants au travail dans le monde. Pourtant, ce n'est que tout récemment que les milieux qui luttent contre le

travail des enfants ont commencé à consacrer à ce phénomène toute l'attention qu'il mérite. Dans les pays industrialisés ainsi que dans certains pays émergents, le nombre d'enfants employés de maison a connu une baisse régulière. Dans d'autres régions du monde, en revanche, les forces de l'offre et de la demande qui précipitent femmes et enfants dans des emplois de domestiques semblent pousser en sens contraire. Ce Digest donne des informations sur les différentes formes de travail des enfants employés en tant que domestiques, l'ampleur du phénomène, les effets du travail domestique sur les enfants aussi bien psychologiques que physiques. Faisant le point sur des projets et des actions en faveur de ces enfants, cette publication entame un 'forum' de discussions par un article. *Commencer par le commencement*. Tout en identifiant les problèmes qui peuvent surgir dans la lutte contre cette forme d'exploitation, cet article souligne qu'il faut réfléchir avec attention aux mesures à entreprendre au nom des enfants domestiques si l'on entend réellement avoir une action efficace plutôt que de provoquer des controverses stériles.

The full report is available in PDF format [English](#) [French](#)

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Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

Whereas the ILO was founded in the conviction that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace,

Whereas economic growth is essential but not sufficient to ensure equity, social progress and the eradication of poverty, confirming the need for the ILO to promote strong social policies, justice and democratic institutions,

Whereas the ILO should, now more than ever draw upon all its standard-setting, technical cooperation and research resources in all its areas of competence, in particular employment, vocational training and working conditions, to ensure that, in the context of a global strategy for economic and social development economic and social policies are mutually reinforcing components in order to create broad-based sustainable development.

Whereas the ILO should give special attention to the problems of persons with special social needs, particularly the unemployed and migrant workers, and mobilize and encourage international, regional and national efforts aimed at resolving their problems, and promote effective policies aimed at job creation,

Whereas, in seeking to maintain the link between social progress and economic growth, the guarantee of fundamental principles and rights at work is of particular significance in that it enables the persons concerned to claim freely and on the basis of equality of opportunity their fair share of the wealth which they have helped to generate, and to achieve fully their human potential,

Whereas the ILO is the constitutionally mandated international organization and the competent body to set and deal with international labour standards, and enjoys universal support and acknowledgement in promoting fundamental rights at work as the expression of its constitutional principles;

Whereas it is urgent, in a situation of growing economic interdependence, to reaffirm the immutable nature of the fundamental principles and rights embodied in the Constitution of the Organization and to promote their universal application,

The International Labour Conference,

1 Recalls.

(a) that in freely joining the ILO, all Members have endorsed the principles and rights set out in its Constitution and in the Declaration of Philadelphia, and have undertaken to work towards attaining the overall objectives of the Organization to the best of their resources and fully in line with their specific circumstances;

(b) that these principles and rights have been expressed and developed in the form of specific rights and obligations in Conventions recognized as fundamental both inside and outside the Organization

2. Declares that all Members, even if they have not ratified the Conventions in question, have an obligation arising from the very fact of membership in the Organization, to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions, namely:

Annex

Follow-up to the Declaration

I. Overall purpose

1 The aim of the follow-up described below is to encourage the efforts made by the Members of the Organization to promote the fundamental principles and rights enshrined in the Constitution of the ILO and the Declaration of Philadelphia and reaffirmed in this Declaration

2. In line with this objective, which is of a strictly promotional nature, this follow-up will allow the identification of areas in which the assistance of the Organization through its technical cooperation activities may prove useful to its Members to help them implement these fundamental principles and rights. It is not a substitute for the established supervisory mechanisms, nor shall it impede their functioning; consequently, specific situations within the purview of those mechanisms shall not be examined or re-examined within the framework of this follow-up

3 The two aspects of this follow-up, described below, are based on existing procedures: the annual follow-up concerning non-ratified fundamental Conventions will entail merely some adaptation of the present modalities of application of article 19, paragraph 5(e) of the Constitution; and the global report will serve to obtain the best results from the procedures carried out pursuant to the Constitution.

II. Annual follow-up concerning non-ratified fundamental Conventions

A. Purpose and scope

1 The purpose is to provide an opportunity to review each year, by means of simplified procedures to replace the four-year review introduced by the Governing Body in 1995, the efforts made in accordance with the Declaration by Members which have not yet ratified all the fundamental Conventions

2. The follow-up will cover each year the four areas of fundamental principles and rights specified in the Declaration

B. Modalities

1. The follow-up will be based on reports requested from Members under article 19, paragraph 5 (e) of the Constitution. The report forms will be drawn up so as to obtain information from governments which have not ratified one or more of the fundamental Conventions, on any changes which may have taken place in their law and practice, taking due account of article 23 of the Constitution and established practice.

2. These reports, as compiled by the Office, will be reviewed by the Governing Body.

3. With a view to presenting an introduction to the reports thus compiled, drawing attention to any aspects which might call for a more in-depth discussion, the Office may call upon a group of experts appointed for this purpose by the Governing Body.

4. Adjustments to the Governing Body's existing procedures should be examined to allow Members which are not represented on the Governing Body to provide, in the most appropriate way, clarifications which might prove necessary or useful during Governing Body discussions to supplement the information contained in their reports

(a) freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

(b) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour,

(c) the effective abolition of child labour, and

(d) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

3. Recognizes the obligation on the Organization to assist its Members, in response to their established and expressed needs, in order to attain these objectives by making full use of its constitutional, operational and budgetary resources, including by the mobilization of external resources and support, as well as by encouraging other international organizations with which the ILO has established relations, pursuant to article 12 of its Constitution, to support these efforts:

(a) by offering technical cooperation and advisory services to promote the ratification and implementation of the fundamental Conventions;

(b) by assisting those Members not yet in a position to ratify some or all of these Conventions in their efforts to respect, to promote and to realize the principles concerning fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions; and

(c) by helping the Members in their efforts to create a climate for economic and social development

4. Decides that, to give full effect to this Declaration, a promotional follow-up, which is meaningful and effective, shall be implemented in accordance with the measures specified in the annex hereto, which shall be considered as an integral part of this Declaration.

5. Stresses that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes, and that nothing in this Declaration and its follow-up shall be invoked or otherwise used for such purposes, in addition, the comparative advantage of any country should in no way be called into question by this Declaration and its follow-up.

Annex

Follow-up to the Declaration

I. Overall purpose

1 The aim of the follow

III. Global report

A. Purpose and scope

1 The purpose of this report is to provide a dynamic global picture relating to each category of fundamental principles and rights noted during the preceding four-year period, and to serve as a basis for assessing the effectiveness of the assistance provided by the Organization, and for determining priorities for the following period, in the form of action plans for technical cooperation designed in particular to mobilize the internal and external resources necessary to carry them out

2 The report will cover, each year, one of the four categories of fundamental principles and rights in turn

B. Modalities

1. The report will be drawn up under the responsibility of the Director-General on the basis of official information, or information gathered and assessed in accordance with established procedures. In the case of States which have not ratified the fundamental Conventions, it will be based in particular on the findings of the aforementioned annual follow-up. In the case of Members which have ratified the Conventions concerned, the report will be based in particular on reports as dealt with pursuant to article 22 of the Constitution.

2. This report will be submitted to the Conference for tripartite discussion as a report of the Director-General. The Conference may deal with this report separately from reports under article 12 of its Standing Orders, and may discuss it during a sitting devoted entirely to this report, or in any other appropriate way. It will then be for the Governing Body, at an early session, to draw conclusions from this discussion concerning the priorities and plans of action for technical cooperation to be implemented for the following four-year period.

IV. It is understood that:

1 Proposals shall be made for amendments to the Standing Orders of the Governing Body and the Conference which are required to implement the preceding provisions

2. The Conference shall, in due course, review the operation of this follow-up in the light of the experience acquired to assess whether it has adequately fulfilled the overall purpose articulated in Part I

The foregoing is the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up duly adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization during its Eighty-sixth Session which was held at Geneva and declared closed the 18 June 1998

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures this nineteenth day of June 1998

The President of the Conference,

The Director-General of the International Labour Office.

For further information, please contact the Official Relations Branch at Tel. +41.22.799.7732 or Fax. +41.22.799.8944 or by e-mail: RELOFF@ilo.org