Event to launch the International year for the elimination of child labour in Africa and accelerate the implementation of the African Union Ten Year Action Plan on Eradication of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Africa (2020-2030)

*Wednesday 31 March 2021, 12 – 14.30 GMT*

**Virtual event**

**Context**

Child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery are grievous issues of concern throughout the world. Africa is greatly affected by these scourges. In 2016, a fifth of African children (72 million) were in child labour. Nearly half of them were in hazardous work. The continent had both the largest number of child labourers and the highest proportion of children in child labour among the major world regions. The number of victims of forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery were also large: nearly 3 million adults and about half a million children were in forced labour; another 5.8 million people were in forced marriages. In general, women and girls are greatly affected by these forms of exploitation.

In February 2020, African Heads of States adopted the Ten Year Action Plan to Eradicate Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (2020-2030). This Action Plan provides an immediate framework for mobilizing African Union institutions, Member States, Regional economic Commissions (RECs) and other partners on the continent to scale up efforts and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the AU Agenda 2063 and target 8.7 of the Sustainable development goals. This involves ending child labour by 2025 and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030. The Action Plan focuses on a critical set of interventions that can bring rapid results. It also specifies primary implementation responsibilities between country, regional and continental levels.

United Nations member States have renewed their commitment with the adoption of UN Resolution 72/327 that declares 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. In 2021, the global community fighting child labour and forced labour will need to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 and accelerate progress towards the SDG targets in 2025 and 2030.

The 2021 international year will propel momentum towards the V Global Conference on Child Labour (VGC) that will take place in South Africa in 2022, where stakeholders will share experiences and make additional commitments towards ending child labour in all its forms by 2025, and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030.
For the African Union, the 2021 is also dedicated to culture and arts, giving an opportunity to leverage cultural events in support to the implementation of the AU Action plan. Overall, a significant number of UN Organizations were involved in the formulation of the Plan of Action. There is a need to inform them on the Plan of Action as adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of States and Government, and to remobilize them for its implementation.

**Objectives of the event**

The objectives of the event are to:

1. Launch the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour in Africa and provide a platform to African stakeholders to announce 2021 Action pledges
2. Present the African Union Action Plan and reaffirm the AU commitment to eliminate child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking in Africa
3. Engage a broad multi-stakeholder community in view of accelerating the implementation of the African Union Action Plan and give stakeholders the opportunity to express how they intend to contribute to its implementation
4. Provide the opportunity to the Government of South Africa to announce the forthcoming V Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour

**Description of the event and draft agenda**

In a series of interviews, videos and presentations, partners at the forefront of the fight against child labour will share their expectations and plans for the year. The voices of action and commitment from Africa will be raised through interventions from a number of high-level personalities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.00 – 12.10</td>
<td>Opening words and introduction of the International Year on the Elimination of Child Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.10 – 12.25</td>
<td>Testimonies and call for action by activists and former child labourers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.25 – 12.40</td>
<td>Messages from high level personalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.40 – 13.40</td>
<td>Presentation of the African Union action plan on child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery (2020-2030) followed by interventions from stakeholders from African Union Organs, Regional Economic Communities and Member States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.40 – 14.20</td>
<td>Voice of partners and pledging session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.20 – 14.30</td>
<td>Closing words</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expected Outcomes**

The event will contribute to a shift from commitment to action towards the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063 and SDG target 8.7. It will provide the ground for African stakeholders to announce “2021 Action Pledges” which are
meant to drive action in 2021 while sharing experiences and propelling momentum. The event will also provide the ground for African stakeholders to publically express commitment to implement the Ten Year Action Plan to Eradicate Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (2020-2030)

**Target audience**

The event will specifically target:

- African Union Organs
- Regional Economic commissions
- Member states (tripartite constituent)
- Regional workers’ organisation and employers organizations
- United Nations
- Alliance 8.7 and other development partners
- Civil society organizations
- Victims, ‘survivors’, activists
- Private sector
- Media

The event will also be public and the invitation to register will be widely disseminated through social media, newsletters and various networks.

**Languages**

English, French, Arabic and Portuguese

**Registration**

Please register your participation [https://ilo.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y_cZ7g1tQHSwZ7bhZp4KeQ](https://ilo.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y_cZ7g1tQHSwZ7bhZp4KeQ)

Upon your confirmation, the Registration Link will be provided.

When your registration is approved, you will receive the connection details.

If you do not receive your link to connect, please contact: nsimire@ilo.org

Please follow the event on live broadcast on the African Union website: [https://livestream.com/accounts/2466140/events/9554171](https://livestream.com/accounts/2466140/events/9554171)

**Contacts from AU Commission and the ILO:**

**Mr Sabelo Mbokazi** | Head of Labour, Employment & Migration, African Union Commission | E-mail: Mbokazis@africa-union.org

**Mr. Houssein GUEDI**, African Union Commission, Email: GHOUSSEIN@iom.int

**Ms. Sophie De Coninck**, ILO, Senior Specialist Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work deconinck@ilo.org

**Ms. Aimee Manimani Nsimire**, ILO, Communication Officer nsimire@ilo.org