

Resolution No. 10

ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

The Conference recognises that the number of child labour globally declined from 222 million to 215 million, or 3%, over the period 2004 to 2008. In Asia and the Pacific region, there are still 122 million child labourers (5 - 14 years), of whom 100 million are girls. Children working in almost all kinds of economic activities, in spite of their physical and mental immaturity and vulnerability, are often left unprotected, and in some serious cases, they are miserably abused, exploited and exposed to all types of physical, mental and moral hazards. Worst forms of child labour are visibly prevalent in the region such as child trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, bonded child labour, child domestic work and use of children for armed conflict or drug trafficking. Under these precarious conditions, the children's basic rights to education and leisure are wantonly violated.

In the informal economy, child labour is widely visible. Organising informal economy to empower the working poor should be one of the most effective ways to reduce child labour – bringing children from workplace to school. However, governments should take decisive action, with the support of general public and trade unions, to provide free and primary education for all children by mobilising political will and national budget.

The Conference commits the ITUC-AP, working with affiliates and the GUFs to:

- strengthen interaction and cooperation with international agencies such as ILO and other relevant organisations with purposes of protection of rights of child, promotion of campaign against child labour and poverty eradication;
- promote ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions, in particular the Forced Labour, 1930 (No.29), the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No.182);
- continue the regional campaign against child labour and promote free and compulsory primary and secondary education for all children by securing adequate budgetary allocations;
- support affiliates' campaign to integrate child labour issues into National Decent Work Programme; and
- support affiliates in conducting projects for abolition of child labour in collaboration with the GUFs and Solidarity Support Organisations (SSOs).