



Joint UNIACC Statement for the World Day Against Child Labour 2010

The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System (UNIACC), is drawing the attention of the international community to the World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) which reminds the world of the plight of over 215 million of girls and boys around the world who are victims of child labour in violation of their basic human rights. Celebrated annually on 12 June, the World Day highlights the dangers and hazards faced by children who work at an early age, and action necessary to tackle child labour.

The year 2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL),¹ one of the most widely-ratified international labour conventions, and it is six years ahead of the global target of eliminating these worst forms. Human rights enshrined in ILO Convention No. 182 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are mutually reinforcing. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goal 2 (MDG 2) which seeks to ensure universally accessible, free and compulsory primary education would not be possible without the abolition of the WFCL. While the global movement has achieved some progress in reducing the incidence of child labour, efforts must be stepped up if we are to reach the overall objectives of the Global Task Force (GTF) on Child Labour and “Education for All” (EFA) and deliver the commitment of a world free of the worst forms of child labour by 2016. One of the most important investments for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals is in fostering skilled and dedicated teachers. Appropriately qualified teachers are critical for the provision of quality education. However, according to the EFA Monitoring Report and the Machel Study (10+) there is a shortfall of 18 million teachers in the world. Teacher compensation programmes in fragile states, situations of displacement and post-crisis recovery are crucial for guaranteeing protective education for all children. The teachers’ just and favourable work conditions, their motivation, sense of professional responsibility and their skill levels are among the major factors influencing the quality of education. The success or failure of much needed education reforms will be determined by the extent that a human rights culture prevails.

Child labour is a complex phenomenon which cuts across policy and market boundaries. It is clear that the persistence of child labour is systematically undermining progress towards the attainment of MDGs for Education, HIV/AIDS and Gender equality. Child labour is not a phenomenon that can be dealt with in isolation; it is both a cause and consequence of poverty and low levels of social protection. Evidence has shown that targeted action which simultaneously addresses the implementation and enforcement of protective legislation, provision and accessibility of public services (including free, quality compulsory education, training and non-discriminatory social protection services), and the functioning of labour markets, yields high returns against child labour, including its worst forms. These issues are part of the

¹ Convention No. 182 defines the worst forms of child labour as: (a) slavery and forced labour, including child trafficking and forced recruitment for armed conflict; (b) the use of children in prostitution and pornography; (c) illicit activities such as production and trafficking of drugs; and (d) “hazardous work” - work likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

development debate that involves prominent global actors (Governments, Employers' and Workers' Organizations), international institutions as well as Ministries of Education, local governments and municipalities. The Global Conference on Child Labour organized in The Hague in May by the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, in cooperation with the ILO, highlighted the importance of leveraging the "Delivering as One" approach for child labour elimination in the significantly intensified efforts for poverty reduction. The commitment of mayors and local government representatives stated in the "Local Government Millennium Declaration – Bringing the MDGs Back Home" is vital. There is an inseparable link between the elimination and the prevention of child labour, the MDGs and the EFA. The Roadmap developed through a consultation process prior to the Conference, indicates concrete steps to achieve the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016. The Conference adopted the Roadmap by acclamation on 11 May 2010.

We, members of the UNIACC, highlighting the indispensable need for action at the local level in achieving the MDG 2, formally recognising the role of local governments as essential and instrumental partners in implementing the MDGs, taking into consideration the obligation of each Member State who ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, commit to undertake concerted action to end the exploitation of children. In these times of global economic and financial crises that threaten progress made on the elimination of child labour, it is more important than ever to promote and respect human rights values and principles and guarantee the protection of the most vulnerable children.

Through the promotion of economic, social, cultural and vocational development based on principles of good governance, sustainability and social inclusion, and in keeping with the "Delivering as One" approach, we are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with impediments to access basic education. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 12/4, which launched the second phase of the World Programme, we will strengthen cooperation and coordinate joint efforts to urge Member States to invest in human rights training programmes for teachers. We call upon Member States to scale up their efforts and commitment to reach the target of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 as an urgent priority.

The United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System (UNIACC), composed of twelve United Nations entities and affiliated organizations, was set up to promote coordinated United Nations support to the national implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing). The World Programme was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2004 as a global initiative structured in consecutive phases, in order to advance the implementation of human rights education programmes in all sectors. The first phase of the World Programme covered the period 2005-2009 and focused on integrating human rights education in primary and secondary school systems. The World Programme's second phase (2010-2014) focuses on human rights education for higher education and on human rights training programmes for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel at all levels.

For more information on the UNIACC and the World Programme for Human Rights Education, please visit: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/programme.htm>

For more information on the Global Child Labour Conference, please visit: <http://www.childlabourconference2010.com>