

ALLIANCE



**JOINING FORCES
GLOBALLY** TO END
FORCED LABOUR,
MODERN SLAVERY,
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND CHILD LABOUR

5th Meeting of the Global Coordinating Group

Meeting Report

New York 17th July, 2019

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Meeting report

Objectives of the meeting:

The 5th meeting of the Global Coordinating Group took place in the margins of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in NY and ahead of the Alliance 8.7 side event to launch the first pathfinder report. The purpose of the meeting was:

- Formalize handover to the new Chair (from Australia to France);
- Present vision of new Chair and provide an update on overall progress made since April;
- Provide an update on progress made in Pathfinder Countries and Action Groups;
- Assess engagement modalities with different stakeholder groups; and
- Review the communications strategy.

Participants:

See attached list (Annex I)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and handover to the new Chair
2. Update from pathfinder countries
3. Update from Action Groups
4. Expanding engagement opportunities for different stakeholder groups
5. Update on communications: calendar of events, online platform, and website
6. Update on Delta 8.7 knowledge platform
7. Closing remarks, any other business and dates for the next meeting



1. Welcome and handover to the new Chair

Assistant Secretary Patrick Lawless from [Australia](#) opened the session, looking back over the last 3 years of progress with Australia as Chair of Alliance 8.7. He pointed to the need to generate and foster an online community and to provide tools for measuring progress. He referred to the Pathfinder Strategy as the key element for the success of Alliance 8.7 and welcomed France as the new Chair of the Alliance.

[Argentina](#) (Ms Graciela Guzman) took the floor as Deputy Chair of Alliance 8.7, reflecting on national achievements on child labour and forced labour and proposing to follow up on the [Buenos Aires Declaration](#) (IV Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour) as well as the pledges made by governments and other stakeholders.

The [Chair](#) (Ms Anousheh Karvar) thanked Australia for their leadership during the start-up phase of the Alliance 8.7, bringing a broad range of diverse stakeholders together and giving it the right momentum to accelerate action on a shared objective: Ending forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking (by 2030) and child labour (by 2025). She expressed thanks to Argentina for having supported the consolidation of the Alliance since the Fourth Global Conference on Child Labour in Buenos Aires in November 2017 and for the initiative to declare 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. She then highlighted achievements since the first GCG meeting in Buenos Aires: a consolidated governance structure, strategic vision paper, pathfinder concept and country-level workshops, increased government and civil society participation and knowledge uptake through the Delta 8.7 platform.

Referring to the commitment made by French President Emmanuel Macron in his speech to the International Labour Conference in June, she reaffirmed that it was an honour to chair the Alliance 8.7 and that the government of France would undertake this role with determination and in a spirit of continuity, cooperation, inclusiveness, transparency and openness to any idea from stakeholders. The Alliance was a concrete and unique evidence of what the multilateral system could achieve and would help to break down silos. Increasing its engagement in the three UN centres in New York, Vienna and Geneva was key.

Pathfinder countries and action groups were “at the heart” of this strategy. The Alliance would foster policy coherence and whole-of-government approaches within countries, including criminal justice, labour standards, education, and business engagement on supply chains and ethical recruitment. As part of this commitment, she announced the intention of France to explore seeking pathfinder status.

The Chair mentioned the need to pay particular attention to gender equality and to stronger civil society participation in the work of the Action Groups and in the acceleration efforts in the pathfinder countries.



Looking forward, the Chair announced that the upcoming [Paris Peace Forum](#), to which the Alliance 8.7 has been invited, is a great opportunity to expand outreach, gain support and accelerate efforts. These opportunities are key for increasing and sustaining our visibility, attracting resources and encouraging Pathfinder Countries to foster and demonstrate impact.

The [US Department of Labor](#) acknowledged the great work carried out by the Australian government to get the Alliance 8.7 started, in coordination with the Deputy Chair, Argentina, before thanking France for its high-level commitment.

2. Update from pathfinder countries

The [Alliance 8.7 Secretariat](#) gave an update on progress made on the Pathfinder Strategy, referring to additional information in the briefing package:

- The [Pathfinder Country Guidance Note](#) has been approved by the GCG;
- The first global Pathfinder Progress Report was to be launched that same afternoon, as a side event to the High Level Political Forum in New York;
- A Methodological Note on Strategic Planning Workshops was developed as guidance for new Pathfinder Countries on how to prepare and organize the workshops (agenda, documents, invitations, etc.);
- Formal expressions of interest have been received by **15 countries**: Albania, Chile, Fiji, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda and Vietnam;
- Strategic Planning Workshops have been held in **9 countries**: Albania, Chile, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nepal, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda and Vietnam, as well as the African Union;
- Strategic Planning Workshops were scheduled still in 2019 for Fiji, Malawi, Mexico, and Peru;
- Lessons learned from the workshops:
 - o Endorsement at the highest political level possible is key for ensuring a multi-pronged approach, mobilising resources and sustainability;
 - o The national focal point plays a critical role in leading the process and this must be someone who is highly committed, with a solid network and a supportive team;
 - o In light of the UN Reform, it is particularly important to involve various ministries, including the national statistical office, coordinate with UN agencies and the UN Resident Coordinator and to involve all relevant stakeholders from the very beginning;
 - o A resource mobilisation strategy should be put in place and the Secretariat and Global Coordinating Group should support the Governments' in these efforts;
 - o Involving Pathfinder Countries in global and regional events has been successful so far and should continue, particularly at the upcoming Child



Labour Forum in The Hague in January 2020 which will include a review of the pledges from the Buenos Aires Conference;

- o There is scope to roll out the Pathfinder Country Strategy in Southeast Asia and Arab States.

Interventions from participants:

ITUC mentioned the importance of linking the efforts of pathfinder countries to the ILO and human rights supervisory system, e.g. by facilitating country specific information as an input for the national strategy workshops and linking action plans back to these commitments, reporting periodically on progress. Global March offered their experience on reporting with a group of 16 members during a recent workshop.

Coca Cola mentioned the need to build on healthcare and social security infrastructure to get children out of child labour and to provide their parents with decent job and livelihood opportunities. International development banks needed to play a role here also.

UNU asked how research fitted into the Pathfinder Strategy (e.g. evidence-based needs assessments at country level) and what mechanisms the Alliance would put in place in case of countries that were not living up to their commitments.

The US Department of Labor asked what indicators the Alliance 8.7 had in place to measure progress made by Pathfinder Countries, suggesting that the lessons learned from the ILO's IPEC programme and data from UNICEF could be harnessed for this purpose.

The UK Department for International Development suggested the need to balance incentives with challenges. Deep seated challenges would need deep rooted changes to safety nets, provision of education, economic policies and whole-of-government approaches. The UK asked the Alliance to link up with other SDGs and to foster real participation of survivor networks and work with them as agents of change.

The Alliance 8.7 Secretariat welcomed the comments made and suggested that an Alliance 8.7 Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop be organised to discuss indicators, inviting the group to attend the event in the afternoon which would showcase the Pathfinder Country Progress Reports and give a better idea of the priorities, challenges and indicators already in place.

3. Update from Action Groups

Action Group on Migration

On behalf also of IOM, UNICEF presented progress made by the Action Group on Migration. The [migrant vulnerability report](#) developed together with the Walk Free Foundation and an input paper on child labour and migration served as the basis for the development of the work plan of the Action Group. The online engagement platform ("Slack") will be used for the conversations within the group on next steps.

Action Group on Supply chains



The ILO gave an update on the progress made by the Action Group on Supply Chains. The Second Global Workshop held in Abidjan in May was considered an important step to bring the supply chain discussion to the Global South. The event saw fruitful discussion on public and private procurement, the crucial role of social partners, particularly in the lower tier and allowed for the exchange of experience and knowledge which fed into the subsequent 2020-2021 work plan. The [Draft Outcomes Report](#) is available in the Briefing Pack and has been shared with participants for comments.

The research consortium of ILO, UNICEF, IOM, OECD will release a report on forced labour, child labour and human trafficking in global supply chains in early September at the G-20 labour minister's meeting in Osaka. All GCG members will receive an advance copy for communications by end-August.

Interventions:

The [US Department of Labor](#) asked what should be done with Action Groups that have not been active and whether it was time to activate an Action Group on commercial sexual exploitation. The recent initiative to eradicate modern slavery in global supply chains set up by the UK, New Zealand, Australia and the US could be useful to support the Action Group on Supply Chains.

[Ireland](#) mentioned its recent ratification of the 2014 Protocol to C.29 in Forced Labour as a driver for engagement with Alliance 8.7. The Alliance could figure out how to contribute to the upcoming ILO Technical Meeting on Supply Chains which is planned for February 2020. [UNODC](#) mentioned commonalities with ICAT and the Migration Network and proposed to create closer linkages for practical collaboration.

The [Chair](#) welcomed the comments and agreed that the two remaining Action Groups needed to be launched this year and that the Alliance should find a place for tackling sexual exploitation and/or climate change related issues.

4. Expanding engagement opportunities for different stakeholder groups

The Secretariat introduced the background paper on expanding engagement opportunities with different stakeholder groups, asking how the partnership structure could be enhanced so that partners feel their contribution makes a difference and really drives the process forward towards achievement of target 8.7. The Alliance currently has 217 active partners and a mailing list of over 4000 persons.

The [US Department of Labor](#) asked whether there was any thinking about bringing in the media.

[Free the Slaves](#) asked whether it would be possible to streamline anti-trafficking initiatives or components in all USAID/DFID and other foreign aid interventions and how we can engage with the many faith based organisations that have joined Alliance 8.7 thus far. Looking forward to the upcoming Freedom from Slavery Forum in December in Addis



Ababa, they also asked for suggestions on how to break down the Bangkok statement into operationable pieces of action in countries, sectors, etc. The Civil Society Forum should operate as a “coalition of coalitions”, fostering joint advocacy and development work. Civil society organizations would work through the Alliance, but parallelly implement programmes directly with their counterparts and respective donors in pathfinder and non-pathfinder countries.

Global March suggested two avenues for engagement with civil society: 1) To advocate for commitment and monitor progress in pathfinder countries, to make sure they “stay on track”; 2) To work through the Action Groups as “engines for change”, but more guidance would be needed to support companies with due diligence processes to effectively eradicate forced labour and child labour from supply chains.

UNU suggested including survivors and their networks as a future stakeholder group. This would imply defining their voice and representation at the GCG. Beyond the GCG, an open annual meeting of survivors may be considered.

CGIL called for including genuine social dialogue and freedom of association as part of the broader work of the Alliance.

The Chair welcomed the comments and reiterated that the Alliance should not become a framework for “labelling” countries’ policies. While countries made their efforts visible to a wider public, this also meant they became more vulnerable for scrutiny. Pathfinder countries would need encouragement alongside with constructive, critical inputs from social partners and CSOs on what was really happening “on the ground”, in order to create a win-win partnership.

5. Update on communications: calendar of events, online platform, and website

The Secretariat introduced the key elements of the internal communications strategy, shared ahead of the meeting with participants in the briefing package:

- The expansion and consolidation of the Communications and Engagement Action Group (CEAG);
- The endorsement of the Communications Strategy by the CEAG;
- The creation and distribution among the CEAG of the Communications Toolkit, which includes photo and video guidance, branding guidelines, an activities calendar and user guides for the online engagement platform;
- The piloting of the online engagement platform (“Slack”);
- The updating of the Alliance 8.7 website, including the launch of the pathfinder country page
- New navigating functions to tag partners and access other information.

It was agreed to re-circulate the document amongst the group for further comments and ideas.



6. Update on Delta 8.7 knowledge platform

UNU gave an update on progress and recent developments on Delta 8.7 Knowledge Platform, stating their role as “trustees” and curators of the platform for Alliance 8.7:

- 45 dashboards had been cleared by National Statistics Offices;
- Over 20,000 users from 183 countries had visited the website since its launch in September 2018;
- The platform hosted 85 forum articles from 70 experts – researchers and practitioners from the Alliance 8.7 network;
- 3 Symposia with expert discussions had taken place;

UNU thanked the UK Modern Slavery Innovation Fund for committing to fund Delta 8.7 until March 2021 and called for active engagement from all GCG members to ensure sustainability. The next steps highlighted were:

- To further develop the [Code 8.7](#) initiative on the use of technology, following the conference held in February 2019 in New York;
- To engage more directly with governments, particularly pathfinder countries (e.g. providing country dashboards to support national analysis of priorities and uptake of data and knowledge generation shared during national pathfinder workshops);
- To bring Delta 8.7 closer to the Action Groups, e.g. delivering targeted research to close identified knowledge gaps;
- To use Delta 8.7 to foster innovation;
- The [Liechtenstein Initiative](#) for a Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking will launch their report on 27th September, 2019. This would provide an opportunity for Alliance 8.7 to explore further engagement with actors of the financial sector;

7. Closing remarks, any other business and dates for the next meeting

The Chair informed the group of events taking place this year that are opportunities for the Alliance to participate in important national, regional and global activities including upcoming Pathfinder Country Strategic Planning Workshops, regional initiatives in Latin America and at the African Union level, and the following confirmed events:

[Bali process](#) Steering Group Meeting and Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials’ Meeting– 22-23 July 2019

[Paris Peace forum](#) - Nov 11-13 (Paris)

[UN Business and Human Rights Forum](#) – Nov 25-27 (Geneva)

Child Labour platform– Nov 21 (Paris)

The Chair also invited the Global Coordinating Group to convene in Paris, back to back to the Paris Peace Forum on 11-13 November and committed to confirm the dates shortly.



Annex I: Participants list

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