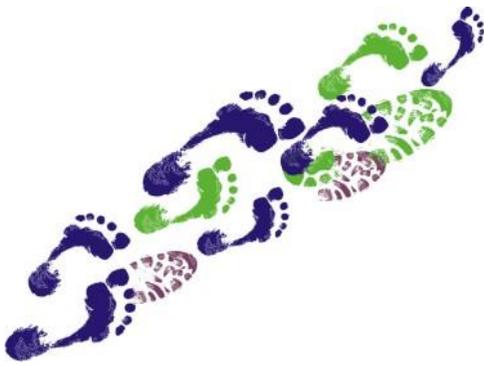


GLOBAL MARCH
Against Child Labour
Contra el Trabajo Infantil
Contre le Travail des Enfants

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Statement of Support from the Chairperson of Global March Against Child Labour

I am pleased to confirm that Global March Against Child Labour (Global March) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles from late 2015 to 2017.

In pursuing our mission for a child friendly world, especially zero tolerance for child labour, child slavery and child trafficking, Global March continues to see value in collaborating with the UN Global Compact.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Ryan
Chairperson
Global March Against Child Labour



Description of Activities

1. Participation in the dialogues/negotiations on Agreements on International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC) in the Netherlands, in the food and metallurgy sector

Businesses can contribute to sustainable growth by respecting human rights and the environment in their international dealings –but they must be vigilant. The globalisation of production chains means that Dutch businesses may unwittingly and knowingly become involved, either directly or indirectly, in child labour, hazardous working conditions, the unlawful appropriation of farmland, or harmful effects on vulnerable ecosystems. Thus, from 2015, Global March collaborated with some Dutch businesses to negotiate the IRBC Agreements within the food and metallurgy sector, to help them develop structured and problem-solving approaches to prevent businesses from employing child labour directly or indirectly. Until now we are still negotiating the terms and conditions of the agreement. If Global March succeeds in reaching an agreement between the different sectors, the initiative will go on for 5 years. These agreements are based on the OECD guidelines and the UN guiding principles.

2. Awareness Video Commercial on Child Labour in Supply Chains, namely “Not Made by Children”

Global March’s End Child Slavery Week Campaign in 2015 commemorated the victory of the inclusion of the term ‘slavery’ along with strong language on child labour and definite target to end it in the Sustainable Development Goals and an awareness video, called ‘Not Made by Children’ was launched that was aired on the German television. The campaign was used as an opportunity to make the supporters of Global March aware of the issue of child labour, slavery, trafficking and reinstated the need for ending child labour in supply chains through audio-visual on TV and social media and was further promoted textual messages on facebook and twitter.



3. Global March's member, ACE Japan, promotes chocolate in Japan using child labour free cocoa from Ghana.

In collaboration with a Japanese trading company Tachibana & Co.Ltd, ACE Japan successfully imported unprocessed cacao beans to Japan for the first time in 2016 from its SMILE-Ghana Project Communities (Sustainable Management of cocoa farm and Improved Life via Education for the Elimination of Child Labour). ACE works with private corporations and promotes the production and sales of "Child Labour Free" chocolate in the market. The chocolates were sold as "Ghana Smile Cacao Premium Series" in stores of 6 locations in Japan, and at online store.

In 2014, Morinaga, the company which supported ACE's SMILE-GHANA project since 2011, produced a new chocolate for their 1 Choco for 1 Smile campaign. This chocolate was made of cocoa beans grown in communities where ACE works to eliminate child labour-- thus this chocolate is Japan's first-ever child labour free chocolate. At first, these chocolate was available only for limited period, but Morinaga made it available year-round since 2015.

4. Global March's initiative, Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights (PWB)'s member, Mr. Roelof Van Laar from the Netherlands initiates 'due diligence law' in the Dutch Parliament.

On 7 February 2017, the Child Labour Due Diligence Law ['Wet Zorgplicht Kinderarbeid'], was initiated by PWB member Mr. Roelof Van Laar of the Labour Party of The Netherlands and the law was adopted by the Dutch Parliament with 82 votes (of 150 MPs) in favour. The parties CDA (Christian Democrats), VVD (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy) and PVV (Party for Freedom) voted against the law however it is now awaiting approval from the Senate. The law requires companies to examine whether child labour occurs in their supply chain. If that is the case they should develop a plan for remediation. Companies have to make sure no child labour has been used in their supply chain and they draw up a declaration about their investigation and plan of action. If the Senate gives its approval too, the Act will be effective from January 1, 2020. So the companies get ample time to prepare themselves thoroughly. But if they already have made enough progress with their approach, they can also deliver their declaration at the registry by 2018. Companies not only have to determine whether there "is a reasonable suspicion" that their first supplier is free from child labour but also - when possible - whether child labour occurs further down the production chain.



5. Toolkit by Global March for Dutch companies to identify and mitigate human trafficking in their supply chains, with special focus on girls and young women

Now that human trafficking has become part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under SDG 8.7, it is likely that the issue of human trafficking will receive more attention. Given the above, Global March has chosen human trafficking, particularly of children, girls and young women, as it's thematic focus in the Garments and Fisheries sectors of Bangladesh, India and Philippines and is producing a toolkit that can serve the following goals:

- a) To serve as a tool for Dutch companies to identify and mitigate human trafficking in their supply chains, based on gender diversity..
- b) To be used as a reference point for regional trainings, workshops on capacity building of the multinationals in combating child trafficking
- c) To support Global March's partners in strengthening their advocacy on different issues of children's rights
- d) To prioritise the gender dimension in strategising the process of identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking effectively, within the SDG framework
- e) To describe the process of due diligence in the fishery and garment sector regarding human trafficking leading to labour exploitation.
- f) To give guidance on how companies can approach local law enforcement authorities, government and other relevant players in the supply chain to mitigate human trafficking

Global March is also conducting a secondary research on trafficking and forced labour in global supply chains with a focus on children, girls and young women to develop a situational understanding of the issue in the sectors and regions where young women and girls are the most vulnerable to being trafficked. The sectors to be covered are – Garments sector in India and Bangladesh and Seafood Industry in Bangladesh and Philippines and if relevant India.

6. Global March's member, Child Labour Coalition (CLC) carried out advocacy on elimination of child labour in tobacco, cotton, footwear, apparel and cocoa industry.



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Global March's member in USA, Child Labour Coalition (CLC) conducted significant advocacy work trying to pass a ban on child labour in US tobacco. If successful, the effort would impact US tobacco companies, who have tried to implement a voluntary ban that extends only to workers who are under 16. The tobacco companies continue to allow farmworker youth to toil in this hazardous work and absorb toxic nicotine. CLC also collected congressional signatures on a letter urging President Obama to ban child labour in tobacco in 2016 and NGO signatures on legislation support statements. Throughout the year, CLC performed congressional advocacy on behalf of the Children's Act for Responsible Employment (CARE), which would equalize child labour laws, removing inequities that apply to children who work in US agriculture. During the period, the CLC performed advocacy to reduce child labour in the West African cocoa sector, which could impact global chocolate companies that benefit from the work of children. CLC also worked collaboratively but on a limited basis with Mars, Inc. and the American Apparel and Footwear Association to retain child labour funding for the US Department of Labour's International Labour Affairs Bureau, which distributes \$50 million in annual child labour program grants. Throughout this period, the CLC supported the excellent work of the Cotton Campaign, which has secured pledges from 275 companies not to knowingly source Uzbek cotton because of concerns about child labour and forced labour.