

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

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2019



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.

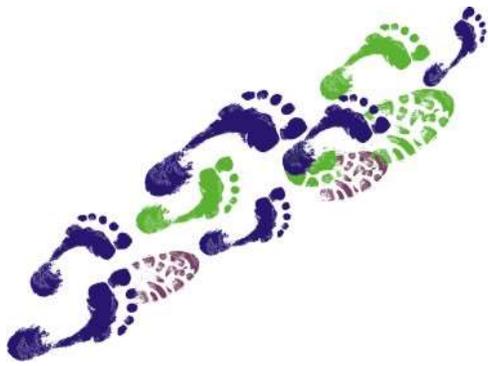
This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles from 2017 to 2019.

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



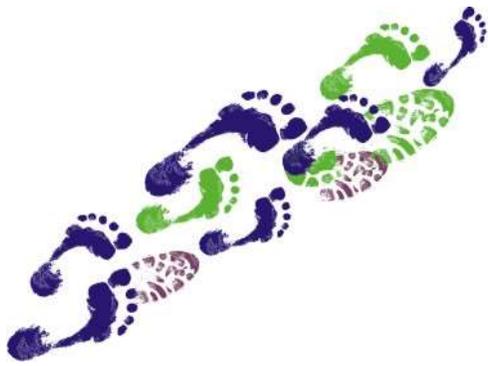
Description of Activities

1. Practical Guidelines for garment and shrimp sector

As part of Global March's initiatives towards the prevention and mitigation of child labour, forced labour and trafficking in supply chains, practical guidelines for businesses in the shrimp and garment sector have been developed. The aim is to strengthen compliance with the OECD guidelines and the UN guiding principles and implementation of SDG 8.7. These guidelines can be used as a reference point for trainings, workshops and capacity building of garment and shrimp companies and other relevant stakeholders. For the purpose of the guidelines, data from 3 countries - Bangladesh, India and Philippines has been used (countries that also rank among the lowest on Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index) in order to identify human trafficking and forced labour of children, girls and young women in the garment sector's supply chain. Countries such as Bangladesh and India are source, destination, and transit countries for men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. In India for instance, forced labour constitutes to be country's largest trafficking problem; men, women, and children are forced to work in the textile industries, embroidery factories, fish farms, among others.

2. Workshops for introducing the guidelines

Global March Against Child Labour has been working on understanding the nuances of child labour in the supply chain of agricultural commodities and how it can be mitigated to create more child friendly supply chains. As a part of working on this issue with different stakeholders, particularly the businesses, Global March and Center for Responsible Business have developed practical guidelines on 'Creating Child Friendly Supply Chains' in the garment and seafood sector in Bangladesh, India and Philippines. The guidelines were shared with various stakeholders such as the International Labour Organisation, international garment brands, garment manufacturers and exporters, along with CSOs in a session co-organised with the Centre for Responsible Business at its 5th Annual Conference, 'India and Sustainability Standards' on 16th November 2018 in New Delhi, India.



The objectives of the session were:

- a. To introduce the practical guidelines developed by Global March and the Centre for Responsible Business that helps apparel and textiles companies/brands procuring from developing countries identify and mitigate the risk of child labour and/or forced labour in their supply chains
- b. To reach out to diverse stakeholders such as businesses, trade unions, garment brands, manufacturers and CSOs for working together on the issue of child labour in supply chains, using the practical guidelines
- c. To engage in knowledge and experience sharing with the stakeholders and include the learning in strengthening the relevance and efficacy of the practical guidelines

Global March Against Child Labour has been working on understanding the nuances of child labour in the supply chain of seafood and related commodities and how it can be mitigated to create a more child friendly supply chain. As a part of working on this issue with different stakeholders, particularly the businesses, Global March and Center for Responsible Business have developed practical guidelines on 'Creating Child Friendly Supply Chains' in the seafood sector in Bangladesh. The guidelines were shared with various stakeholders such as the local NGOs, fisheries department, child welfare officers and trade unions in a workshop co-organised with Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) on 20th November 2018 in Khulna, Bangladesh.

The objectives of the workshop were

- a. Understanding why preventing child labour in the supply chain of fisheries is important
- b. How to identify practices of and related to child labour
- c. How to implement the UN guiding principles in a practical manner using the "zero child labour lens" to prevent child labour in supply chains
- d. Understanding how civil society can be a partner
- e. Connecting the practical and the theoretical: How Civil society will help implement Due Diligence?
- f. Participants can put a gender lens on child labour and trafficking



3. Situational Analysis - Catch of the day

A situational analysis was drafted by Dr. Geeta Sekhon for Global March to highlight the issue of child labour, forced labour and trafficking in the global supply chains of the garment and seafood industry in Bangladesh, Philippines, and India (countries that also rank among the lowest on Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index) in order to identify human trafficking and forced labour of children, girls and young women in international supply chains of these sectors. It also attempts to develop an understanding of how the victims end up in these supply chains and identify the source areas of trafficking and manufacturing and production hubs in the respective countries.

4. Child labour due diligence in the Spices supply chain in India

An initiative of 3 Dutch spices companies led Global March to assess the risks and identify practices related to child labour in 4 states of India in the supply chain of turmeric (2018). The pilot project of 1 year was based on primary and secondary research and engagement with stakeholders, including children in various turmeric farming communities across the states. The research's objectives consisted of - Identifying and analysing, forms, causes and consequences of child labour affecting girls and boys differentially; Applying knowledge from the field to cover knowledge gaps with respect to child labour in the spices cultivation and supply chains of turmeric in India; Coming up with solutions to work with Dutch companies to develop feasible action plans to eradicate child labour from their specific supply chains

5. Food sector dialogue in The Netherlands

Global March is an active member of the broad coalition under the International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC) Agreement for the Food Products Sector in Netherlands. This Agreement will help the sector make changes in business operations that are needed for responsible business conduct in the production chain, particularly ensuring that it is free of child and forced labour.

6. Addressing child labour in the Seafood sector



Global March recognises the importance of including emerging sectors such as aquaculture in the assessment of child labour in agricultural activities. Global March's partner in Ghana, General Agricultural Workers Union has also been working with ILO and FAO to address child labour in fish supply chain in the Torkor community of Lake Volta region. Thus, our focus has with time expanded to include the seafood sector in our key aspects of working with supply chains, as a result of which we have conducted secondary research on child labour, forced labour and trafficking in the seafood sector of Bangladesh, India and The Philippines, and designed practical guidelines for companies in the seafood sector to do due diligence for analysing risks of child labour in their supply chain and developing mitigation strategies. Currently, we are working on an area based intervention in specific districts of Bangladesh for addressing child labour in shrimp sector.

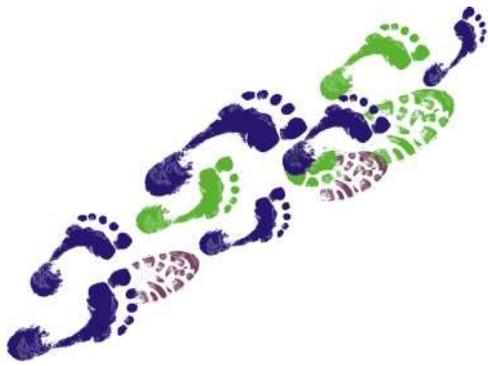
7. Child labour due diligence in the metallurgic supply chain in Peru

During the months of April and October 2018, a study on child labour in the production and supply chain of tin and zinc from two districts in Peru exported to the Netherlands was conducted by Global March with the collaboration of its local partner, CESIP, and an external consultancy. The project was based on primary and secondary research and multi-stakeholder engagement. The research's objectives consisted of - Obtaining in depth insight in the scope and characteristics of child labour in the supply chains of two mining units studied in Peru; Identifying root causes of child labour in the supply chains; and Identifying feasible measures to mitigate or prevent child labour in the supply chains.

8. Gender In Due Diligence Stakeholder meeting

Global March participated in the stakeholder meeting of the IBRC Dutch Agreements on the challenges in due diligence for companies. The purpose of the presentation was to create awareness about the importance of using a gender lens when performing due diligence and how this can be permanently applied, included in the designing, anchoring and performing of this process. The presentation focused on exemplifying the use of a gender-sensitive approach by explaining the ways how men and women encounter specific different risks (risk analysis) to reduce those inequalities (risk mitigation) and strive for -gender- equality within companies chains (gender transformative approach) while stressing collaboration as a key component.

9. Supporting Jewellery Campaign of Human Rights Watch



After discussions that took almost 2 years, the civil society collaborated to express the concerns over the abuse and exploitation of children in the supply chain of jewellery. In 2018 Global March signed the joint NGO letter to the responsible jewellery council, initiated by Human Rights Watch to give inputs to the Responsible Jewellery Council's (RJC) review of its Code of Practices, the standard against which all RJC members must be certified. Some crucial inputs were:

- a. All members are expected to fully comply with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict Affected and High-Risk Areas (OECD Guidance)
- b. Ensuring the Code of Practices is in full alignment with international human rights standards, and all members to respect these standards
- c. Requiring all members to report publicly (not just to their stakeholders) on their human rights due diligence in line with these standards on an annual basis
- d. Increasing the transparency and rigor of third-party audits. Auditors should assess a company, not just its material (or part of it) and specifically focus on high-risk business areas at site-level.
- e. The Code of Practices should require companies to share their full audit report with the RJC before certification, and to make audit summaries publicly available.
- f. Implementing the recommendations made by the OECD Alignment Assessment in the new Code of Practices, such as the inclusion of robust responsible sourcing requirements, implementation of these requirements across all gold sourced by refiners, and the strengthening of audit programme requirements and competency of auditors.

10. On Going Research - Child Labour and Gender in Sugarcane Growing in India and Uganda

At present Global March is working on addressing child labour and gender in the sugarcane industry in the various regions of India and Uganda by proposing an in-depth primary research. The research focuses on addressing the limitations in understanding the issue of child labour in agriculture, particularly in sugarcane as the number of children, boys and girls separately is unknown and knowledge on nuanced gendered challenges of working in this sector is scant, evidencing a lack of combined sector specific and gender inclusive research.