



ACE (Action against Child Exploitation)
1005 Okachimachi Green Heights, 6-1-6 Ueno, Taito-ku,
Tokyo, Japan 110-0005
TEL: +81-3-3835-7555 FAX: +81-3-3835-7601
Email: advocacy@acejapan.org URL: www.acejapan.org

Inputs to the Zero Draft Political Declaration

Yuka Iwatsuki, representing.
Global March against Child Labour/Stop Child Labour Network

Child labour is a cause and a consequence of poverty, and it deprives children's rights and their future.

SDG8.7 aims for ending all forms of child labour by 2025.

However, as of 2020, it was estimated that there were 160 million child labourers in the world, half of them in Sub-Saharan Africa.

We believe the summit and the outcome document should address the targets in peril of being achieved and the zero draft should include a paragraph on child labour as there is a huge gap with a goal and reality, and a reference to the Durban Call to Action, outcome document of 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour.

The 2030 agenda calls for "Leaving no one behind", thus we should also focus on the most neglected and underserved areas -specifically the rural areas in developing countries, and often children and women. As rural areas are often affected most by climate change, COVID-19 pandemic and general lack of accessible education and health services, it deserves more focus in addressing the goals of the SDGs. An integrated area-based approach, guided by local needs and solutions built together through the dialogue with grassroots stakeholders including children, will lead to concrete change and sustainable implementation. Therefore, an area-based approach, with the engagement of local government, should be incorporated as a strategy for achieving the SDGs. There are many successful examples of implementation, but in order to scale-up and speed-up the process it requires more funding. More of the funding of ODA should be allocated to the local level so that the changes can happen more quickly and efficiently.

We have no time to lose. Children cannot wait. Commitments should be honored. Let us make this summit realize stronger political will and more actions in achieving the goals.

In addition to the comments above, which was delivered at the SDGs Summit 2023- Informal Stakeholder Dialogue- Inputs to the Zero Draft Political Declaration, the concrete terms of our proposed resolutions are as follows.

[Original]

■ 15. The 2030 Agenda remains our promise to the children and youth of today so that they may achieve their full human potential and carry the torch of sustainable development to future generations.

[Proposal]

15. The 2030 Agenda remains our promise to the children and youth of today. By listening to their voices, we will ensure that they will achieve their full human potential and carry the torch of sustainable development to future generations.

[Comments]

As the UN promotes mainstreaming children’s rights, it is necessary to make efforts to listen to children’s voices, to hear and strive to understand their opinions and give them a seat at the table in the implementation of SDGs.

■ 29.

[proposal]

Include reference to the “Durban Call to Action”

[Comments]

Durban Call to Action was adopted at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, which took place in May 2022.

■ 36.

[proposal]

Insert a new paragraph below after f)

We strengthen the prevention and elimination of child labour, including its worst forms, forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking in persons by accelerating multi-stakeholder efforts. We recognize importance of realizing a living income particularly for agricultural workers, making social protection universal, and re-skilling of workers in digital shift in transforming a world of work into more fair, sustainable, and decent work.

[Original]

■ 36. b) We will continue increasing investment in inclusive and equitable quality education, including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, skills enhancement and lifelong learning, stressing the importance of addressing the gender gap in education and we take note of the 2022 United Nations Transforming Education Summit.

[Proposal]

... including early childhood education, non-formal education for out-of-school

children including child labourers (added), youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, ...

[Comments]

Our goal is that all children go to formal schools and complete compulsory education. At the moment the situation is dire, 244 million children in the world do not go to school. In addition to youth and adult literacy programs, it is important to provide educational opportunities through informal education for children who are out-of-school due to child labour and other factors.

[Original]

■ 36. I) We pledge to take action to strengthen national efforts to collect high quality, timely, and reliable data on SDG progress and to intensify efforts to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant and reliable data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to increasing the availability of SDG data and closing SDG data gaps at all levels, increasing domestic financing for data and statistics, and embracing new data sources and innovative approaches.

[Proposal]

... and statistical capacities, in particular in developing countries, by providing sufficient funding.

[Comments]

Data on SDG progress are not available in either developing countries or developed countries. For example, the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Japan, shows "Data is not available" for many SDG indicators, including SDG 8.7.1 Proportion and number of child labourers.

It is also important to provide developing countries with funding to collect data.

[proposal]

■ 36.

Insert below paragraph between v) and w)

We enhance our actions to the most neglected and underserved areas -specifically the rural areas in developing countries. We take note that an integrated area-based approach, guided by local needs and solutions built together through the dialogue with grassroots stakeholders including children, is one of the effective ways in leading concrete change and sustainable implementation including building capacity of local governments.