



INTERNATIONAL FOOD
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**DECLARATION OF INTENT
ON COOPERATION ON CHILD LABOUR
IN AGRICULTURE**

between

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI),
representing the Consultative Group on International
Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant,
Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)

This Declaration of Intent is made between the International Labour Organization (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP); International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), representing the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF);

(hereinafter referred to as the "Partners").

The Partners

- Note that according to ILO's 2006 Global Estimates on child labour, some 132 million children aged 5-14 years work in agriculture;
- Further note that child labour harms children's well being and hinders their education and future livelihoods;
- Recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to harm children's well-being, hinder a child's education, development or future livelihoods, noting at the same time that not all work that children under 18 years undertake in agriculture is bad for them or would qualify as work to be eliminated;
- Reaffirm that selected efforts of the partners should be aimed at the effective elimination of child labour in agriculture, giving priority to hazardous activities;
- Recognize that international agricultural agencies and organizations can play important roles in eliminating child labour in agriculture, especially hazardous work, and that these organizations represent an important conduit to the national level because of their close contacts with national ministries or departments of agriculture, agricultural extension services, farmers' organizations and cooperatives, agricultural workers' unions, agricultural producer organizations, agricultural research bodies and other organizations;
- Have discussed ways and means of cooperation and wish to establish a strategic alliance and effective working relations among them with a view to the attainment of their common and individual objectives and to avoid any duplication, and have agreed that the following modalities should govern their cooperation:

Principles of Cooperation

Cooperation under this Declaration of Intent aims to promote in particular those objectives and principles which are the subject of International Labour Conventions and Recommendations concerning child labour, especially the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and Recommendation (No. 146) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and Recommendation (No. 190), in as far as they pertain to

work in agriculture. It also aims to promote cooperation to remove the underlying causes of child labour in agriculture, the most important contributor of which is poverty.

The aim will be to:

- promote cooperation and achieve policy coherence on child labour among the Partners, and to develop policy and programme links especially at the field level;
- create awareness of and mainstream child labour concerns into existing activities, programmes, and projects of agricultural organizations and help agricultural agencies and bodies to understand how the elimination of child labour in agriculture, especially hazardous child labour, contributes to achieving organizational mandates;
- promote action and cooperation in operational activities aimed at improving rural livelihoods, creating alternative income-generating activities;
- promote action and cooperation in operational activities to ensure that children do not carry out hazardous work in agriculture;
- promote opportunities for decent youth employment in agriculture and in rural areas.

Areas of Cooperation

Subject to existing mandates, and available staff and financial resources, the Partners will cooperate, inter alia, in the following areas, according to their areas of competence:

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on child labour in agriculture and rural areas;
- Promotion of action for the elimination of child labour in agriculture, giving priority to children carrying out hazardous activities, with special attention to girls, children in hidden work situations, children migrating to work or migrating with their parents, and other groups of children with special vulnerabilities or needs;
- Promotion of rural strategies and programmes aimed at improving rural livelihoods, and mainstreaming child labour concerns into agricultural policy making;
- Promotion of actions to overcome the urban/rural and gender gap in education;
- Improvement of occupational safety and health in agriculture as one of the ways of eliminating hazardous child labour;

- Promotion of youth employment opportunities in agriculture and rural areas, including agricultural skills training;
- Organization and/or participation in awareness raising campaigns against child labour in agriculture;
- Support of national, regional and international meetings, seminars and fora and other activities to exchange information between participating agencies and their constituencies, institutions and countries.

Modalities of Cooperation

In order to support cooperation among them, the Partners will establish a steering group, made up of the child labour focal points for the partner organizations and others. The functions of the steering group will include:

- To share information on the work of each of the Partners and to identify, promote and set up joint activities;
- To advise on and help identify priority areas for action and collaboration;
- To annually review and evaluate activities, and to assess the achievement by the Partners of the objectives and targets of their activities and programmes relevant to child labour in agriculture;
- To identify opportunities for broadening and strengthening the Partnership.

Commencement and Operation

It is understood among the Partners that this Declaration of Intent will commence for an initial period of five years upon the signature of all the authorised representatives of the Partners. A Partner may withdraw from this Declaration by informing the other Partners in writing of its intention to do so.

The Partners shall annually review the operation of this Declaration of Intent in the light of the experience acquired to assess whether it has adequately fulfilled its objectives, and undertake future cooperation based on this review.

Nothing in this Declaration of Intent or relating thereto will be interpreted as constituting a waiver of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by any of the Partners, as the case may be. This Declaration of Intent does not replace or modify, or affect the application of, any bilateral agreement or understanding in force between any of the Partners

For the International Labour Organization

For the Food and Agriculture
Organization

Date:

Date:

For the International Fund for Agricultural
Development

For the International Federation of
Agricultural Producers

Date:

Date:

For the International Food Policy
Research Institute, representing the
Consultative Group on International
Agricultural Research

For the International Union of Food,
Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering,
Tobacco and Allied Workers'
Associations

Date:

Date:

ANNEX

DECLARATION OF INTENT ON COOPERATION ON CHILD LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE

FULL NAMES & TITLES OF THE SIGNATORIES

International Labour Organization (ILO): **Mr Kari Tapiola**, Executive Director

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): **Mr Themba Masuku** Director of the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): **Ms Amira Muammar**, Policy coordinator, Policy Division

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): **Dr Todd Benson**, Research Fellow, Food Consumption and Nutrition Division

International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP): **Mr David King**, Secretary General

International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF): **Mr Hans-Olaf Nilsson**, President.