

*Draft programme*  
International Conference  
***Eradicating child labour, Building a better future***  
19 November 2021  
14:30-16:30 CST

*Sala Etchegaray*, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD)

“It is not possible to close our eyes to the exploitation of children, deprived of the right to play, to study and to dream.” – Pope Francis

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2021 the *International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour* and urged the global community to take the necessary measures to achieve Goal 8.7 of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Pope Francis has called for universal responsibility in the elimination of child labour. Inspired by this call to care for the “future of the human family,” we and our partners vow to give a voice to the 160 million children who suffer this unacceptable scourge. Working together, we know that things can change (*cf. Laudato Si’, 13*). In this context, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, together with the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Vatican COVID-19 Commission, is organizing an international conference to give visibility to the exploitation of children and to express solidarity with all individuals and families who suffer the injustice of child labour. It is our hope that by gathering together with local, intermediary, and global stakeholders, we may facilitate conversations that lead to meaningful advocacy and action, especially in this time of COVID-19 pandemic that exacerbated the plague of child-labour.

***[Welcoming remarks]***

Opening Prayer, Dominic Chai, S.J.

Cardinal Peter K. A. Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (DPIHD)

Message from the Director General, FAO

Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate

***1<sup>st</sup> Panel: SEE – Why does child labour persist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Identifying and overcoming obstacles to child flourishing***

Moderator: Bernd Seiffert – FAO focal point for child labour

- Global trends and Barriers: Perspective of an International Organization (Mr. Cornelius Williams, Associate Director for Child Protection, UNICEF)
- Policy and Culture: Perspectives from the margins (Mr. Chetra Khieu, Operation Director, Damnok Toek, *Cambodia*)
- Sustainable business practices (Carla Caballeros, *Directora Ejecutiva de la Camara Agro de Guatemala*)

Group Discussion

***2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: JUDGE – How does child labour impact children’s dignity? A focus on health and education***

Moderator: Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, Interim Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

- Outcomes and Lost Opportunity (Dr. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO)
- International NGO perspective (Philip Goldman, President, Maestral International, *USA*)
- Voices from the ground (Nasreen Sheikh, *Nepal*)

Group Discussion

***3<sup>rd</sup> Panel: ACT – Facilitating conversations and advocating for global cooperation: The church in dialogue***

Moderator: Mons. Tejado Segundo, Under-Secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

- Advocacy in Communities (Ana López Castelló, *Asesora Técnica Principal Programa de Prevención y Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil*, Latin America)
- Building International Alliances (Dr. Guy Ryder, Director General, ILO, *tbc*)
- Local Church Activism (Sr. Catherine Mutindi, RGS, *Democratic Republic of Congo*)

Group Discussion

***[Concluding remarks]***

Mons. Fernando Chica Arellano, Holy See Permanent Observer at the United Nations Organizations and Bodies for Food and Agriculture (FAO, IFAD, and WFP)

Maurizio Martina, Special Advisor to the Director General, FAO