

SAVE THE DATE - 23rd March, 2018
Geneva, Switzerland

**European Consultation on the ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour
and Human Trafficking**

The International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the International Employers Organization (IOE), the Swiss Employers' Confederation, and the Government of Switzerland, invites companies and employers based in Europe to join a consultation on the ILO *Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking*.

Addressing forced labour and human trafficking is a critical issue for business yet despite a proliferation in approaches, tools, and actors over recent years, companies of all sizes continue to face challenges and there is a growing call for a broader-based, expanded response to address the distinctive characteristics of modern forced labour and human trafficking.

Responding to this call and building upon the conclusions of the ILO's 2014 Forced Labour Protocol, the *Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking* is a new partnership being formed among the ILO, multinational and domestic enterprises, employers' organizations, and business associations. The Global Business Network will aim to influence policy makers, work with business representative organisations to reach out to small and medium sized enterprises, and to shape collective action in ways that leverage comparative advantages to deliver scalable solutions. Membership will be open to companies of all sizes and location, as well as Employers Organizations, business associations and industry groups.

With this vision in mind, the objective of the consultation is to bring together business leaders, experts and practitioners to:

- Reflect on experience with existing collaborative efforts to identify effective strategies for delivering shared value and making an impact;
- Consider key challenges and constraints, as well as emerging strategies, tools and approaches for tackling the issues, to distil recommended areas for focus by the Global Business Network

Participation is open to companies and employers based in Europe with an interest in learning about collaborative efforts to tackle the issues and able to articulate how the Global Business Network could help achieve some of their unmet needs.

To express interest in joining the consultation or to learn more about the initiative and ways to get involved, please contact:

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Funding is provided by the United States Department of Labor under cooperative agreement. This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.



This event is supported by the European Commission

TENTATIVE MORNING AGENDA

Open to the wider business community and invited expert speakers

08.30 – 09.00 *Registration*

09.00 – 09.20 **Opening Remarks**

- Marco Taddei, International Business Policy Manager, Swiss Employers' Confederation
- Valérie Berset Bircher, Head of Section a.i., International Labour Affairs, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, Swiss Confederation
- Deborah France-Massin, Director, Bureau for Employers' Activities, International Labour Organization (ILO)

09.20 – 10.30 **Forced Labour and Human Trafficking – The modern characteristics and factors driving business action**

This session will begin with an analysis of the distinguishing characteristics of modern forced labour before an expert panel provides different perspectives on the factors driving business engagement on the issues.

Expert presentations followed by plenary discussion

10.30 – 10.45 *Coffee*

10.45 – 1200 **Business Collaboration – Engaging firms, shared value, and impact**

This session will reflect on ways forced labour and human trafficking are being addressed in collaborative efforts with attention to the interactions between various initiatives, alignment between priorities and objectives at different levels, and the extent to which SME in the lower tiers are being engaged.

Expert presentations followed by plenary discussion

12.00 – 13.00 *Lunch*

TENTATIVE AFTERNOON AGENDA

Open only to companies and operated under Chatham House Rule

13.00 – 14.15	The Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking <i>This session will further elaborate on the ILO's vision and process. Building on the previous session, a work up of initial feedback received will then be shared before group work, report back and discussion with the aim of creating a shared understanding of the current state of collaboration among participants and identifying guidance and strategies for delivering shared value to be considered as the Global Business Network moves forward.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wade Bromley, Senior Technical Officer, ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking Group work followed by report back and discussion
14.15 – 15.15	Taking Action – Opportunities, priorities and action <i>This session will consider the key challenges and constraints experienced by participants, as well as bring attention to some of the new or innovative strategies, tools and approaches being employed by business. The goal will be to draw on the experience and knowledge of participants to distil clear and practical recommendations to assist the Global Business Network in formulating a program to pursue in 2018-2019</i> Group work followed by report back and discussion
15.15 – 15.30	Next steps and closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marco Taddei, International Business Policy Manager, Swiss Employers' Confederation▪ Deborah France-Massin, Director, Bureau for Employers' Activities, International Labour Organization (ILO)

ILO GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK ON FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ABOUT

The *Global Business Network* is a new partnership between the ILO, multinational and domestic enterprises, employers' organizations, and business associations calling for a broader-based, expanded response to address the distinctive characteristics of forced labour and human trafficking. By providing a platform for advocacy, leadership development, and tactical investments, the mission is to engage the wider business community on these issues and shape collective action.

RATIONALE

Forced labour and human trafficking persist despite the proliferation of public and private initiatives to combat the issues. They are an epidemic that constrain the positive economic and social progress that businesses can drive and no employer anywhere wishes to be associated with these issues. Yet the reality is that the majority of enterprises are not being engaged. In particular, small firms have a limited resource base in which to respond and companies of all sizes have difficulty determining how to most effectively take action. There is also a need to recognize that the distinctive characteristics of modern slavery mean there are limits to the impact conventional supply chain approaches can have. A broader-based, expanded response is called for to promote responsible business practices among businesses of all sizes and sectors, and to strengthen capacities to address the structural issues undermining progress and threatening sustainability. In forming a *Global Business Network*, the ILO and its partners in the private-sector are calling for a response that openly recognizes these facts and builds on existing efforts to incorporate these issues into collective actions and development agendas.

APPROACH

The *Global Business Network* will raise awareness, build leadership, and strengthen capacity for business and employers through the following approach:

Connect – Forge new working partnerships with and between the private-sector and those in a position to do something about the cause or consequences of these issues.

Discover – Track innovations and progress around the world so as to provide a consolidated resource hub for best practices.

Align – Encourage the streamlining of company and collective actions to draw on comparative advantages and promote more effective national responses.

Motivate – Engage in dialogue with political and business leaders, keeping the issues in public view and taking advantage of every opportunity to influence and inform key influencers and policy-makers.

Enable – Work continuously to keep the approach on the agenda of major donor countries, organizations and the private-sector and find ways to make tactical investments in pilot interventions and resources which can catalyse action.



The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency mandated to address labour and social policy issues. Unique within the UN, the ILO is a tripartite organisation where governance is shared between governments, workers' organisations and employers' organisations. Employers are represented through the Employers' Group within the ILO Governing Body which oversees and provides policy input into the work of the ILO, and participates through tripartite delegations in the work of the International Labour Conference.

GETTING INVOLVED



Guy Ryder, ILO Director General, addresses delegates from 187 member states on the contribution of global supply chains to decent work and sustainable development



Current ILO projects working with business on the issues of forced labour and human trafficking.

Who can Join

Membership will be open to companies of all sizes, Employers Organizations, business associations and industry groups committed to taking action on these issues and in mobilizing a broader-based, expanded response.

Membership Benefits

Along with exclusive access to webinars, peer exchange, and technical support, members will benefit from:

- A global platform to take on leadership within industry;
- New partnerships, tools and approaches to enhance risk management through the engagement and support of supply chain intermediaries;
- Opportunities to engage with policy makers and key influencers on the need for a sustained and expanded response in which comparative advantages are recognized;
- Access to a market place for pitching activity proposals, soliciting technical inputs, and crowd sourcing funds and other support;
- For smaller firms, greater support to apply responsible business practices as a vehicle productivity and competitiveness gains;
- For employers organizations, industry groups, and other business associations, opportunities to learn from each other and align more effectively across sectors and jurisdictions;
- A entry point to engage on and contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);

Next steps

Consultations between January and March 2018 are currently being planned to engage with business about their needs and priorities. In preparation, the ILO is undertaking a mapping and situation analysis of existing initiatives and a work-up of the findings will be presented to participants. In parallel, an enterprise survey will also be conducted to further assist in scoping the level of firm engagement on the issues and the identification of specific challenges being faced by business. Collectively these inputs will be used to formulate an overall strategy and practical program for action to be taken forward.

To express interest in the consultations, participate in the enterprise survey, offer support, or learn more about the initiative, please contact:

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