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HLPF side-event
during high-level segment

Eradicating Child Labor: COVID-19's Lessons on Protecting Children from Exploitation

- When:** Friday, 15 July 2022, 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST
- Where:** Zoom Webinar link (*no registration required*): <https://zoom.us/j/99524565771>
- Opening Remarks:** H.E. Dominique Hasler, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein
H.E. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg
- Panelists:** Ms. Michaëlle De Cock, Head Researcher, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ILO
Mr. Stephen Blight, Global Technical Lead on Child Labour, UNICEF
Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Director, New York University's Center for International Cooperation
Dr. Leona Vaughn, Vulnerable Populations Lead, Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking
- Moderator:** H.E. Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN
- Background:**

The theme for the 2022 HLPF is “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda calls for concrete actions to eradicate the worst forms of child labor. The ILO and UNICEF have estimated that about 160 million children, aged between 5 and 17, were subject to child labor – with some forced into hazardous work through trafficking. And, the Covid-19 pandemic has only amplified the drivers of child labor, including growing poverty and economic inequality.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is therefore a call on all of our societies to do our part in building back better, including the redoubling of efforts to end child labor. Part of these efforts should include leveraging the crucial role played by the financial sector in ending exploitative labor practices.

This event will explore COVID-19's lessons on protecting children from exploitation. The specific role of sustainable finance in addressing child labor will be highlighted, including a presentation on [Unlocking Potential: A Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking](#), a product of the Liechtenstein Initiative for [Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking \(FAST\)](#).