



ALL OVER THE WORLD TO CHANGE IT!

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH

06 July 2021

United Nations High Level Political Forum

IUSY Secretary General Statement on the behalf of the UN MGCY.

Thank you, Mister moderator,
Distinguished guests and participants,
Dear young members of the High-Level Political Forum of 2021,

My name is Bruno Gonçalves and I am addressing you on the behalf of the International Union of Socialist Youth, the world's largest political youth organisation.

This year marks the international year for the elimination of child labour. Even though we recognize the global efforts over the last decade to address this issue we are still far from the established goal.

Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals says it aims to, and I quote, “secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”.

Last data from UNICEF shows that 29% of children in these conditions live in the least developed countries and the big majority in West, Central and Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by Eastern and Southern Asia.

In the world's poorest countries more than 1 in 4 children are engaged in child labour. More than 150 million children all over the world are still affected today.

The COVID-19 pandemic “has considerably worsened the situation”, according to ILO latest statement, but the current data and dimension of the problem is still to be found since most of the reports are outdated.

To reverse this trend, I leave you some suggestions that could be helpful:

1. Tracking, every semester, the data related to child labour in West, Central and Sub-Saharan African countries as well as Eastern and Southern Asian Countries;
2. Ensuring that the digital transition exponentiated due to the pandemic foments better jobs and provides a Stabilization World Fund to end child labour by improving children and their families' life conditions;
3. Ensuring that the fight against climate change generates qualified jobs in the least developed countries to eradicate all forms of child labour by 2025.



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Dear members,

The eradication of child labour is only possible if we act now.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.