

# PARTNERSHIPS TO END FORCED LABOUR IN SUPPLY CHAINS

*InterContinental Hotel Berlin - 20th June 2017*

## Executive Summary

### Opening Remarks/Setting the Scene

The conference was kicked off by Marcia Eugenio, Director, Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking, Bureau of International Labor Affairs; U.S. Department of Labor, Thomas Wissing, Head of Partnerships and Advocacy, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Organization; and Peter Freedman, Managing Director, The Consumer Goods Forum. The opening speakers emphasised the need of economic development to go hand-in-hand with decent working conditions and the crucial role that partnerships have in ensuring society as a whole works together to address forced labour. The Consumer Goods Forum initiative on forced labour and the ILO's Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking were cited as being prime platforms for this crucial collaboration.

### Panel 1: What Does the Data and Research Tell us? Gaps, Risks and Impact.

The first panel of the conference was moderated by Laura Rubbo, Director, Responsible Governance and Supply Chain, The Walt Disney Company and had three speakers: David Segall, Policy Associate,



NYU Stern Business and Human Rights Centre; Brent Wilton, Director of Global Workplace Rights, The Coca-Cola Company; and Leonardo Sakamoto, President, Repórter Brasil. The panel focused on the analytical gaps that exist in today's

research on the topic of forced labour and what can be done to address these gaps. Research was highlighted as an essential piece of the puzzle in the fight against forced labour, however it was mentioned that research and data alone is not sufficient and that data must drive impact to have long-term and positive effects. Due diligence for example is also crucial for companies that want to address

forced labour in their supply chains. Panellists noted that challenges do exist when going through the due diligence process, notably engaging with local communities and trade unions. Other reporting mechanisms such as Brazil's "Dirty List" that contains names of companies where slave labour has been found were named for their positive impact. In order for reports like these and data in general to be used most efficiently, panellists agreed that research should be made easily accessible, interesting and publicly available. One way to personalise data and research is through the sharing of case studies, through avenues such as The Consumer Goods Forum [Business Actions Against Forced Labour Booklet](#). Participants also raised the issue and existing gap of targeted research, at a national, regional and industry level. This type of research and data is essential to understanding the complex landscapes that companies work in and can only be conducted with local personnel on the ground in collaboration with specialised organisations and local governments.

### **Panel 2: What New Tools and Initiatives are Available to Tackle Forced Labour in Supply Chains? What is Needed for Businesses to Better Succeed?**

The second panel was moderated by Rachel Rigby, Deputy Chief, Division of Research and Policy, Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, US Department of Labor and included the following three speakers: John Morrison, Director, Institute for Human Rights and Business; Bob Mitchell, Vice President of Social and Environmental Responsibility, Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition; and Didier Bergeret, Social Sustainability Director, The



Consumer Goods Forum. The session deep dived into what tools and initiatives are currently being used to help prevent and eliminate forced labour and how to determine which have been most successful and what else is still needed.

Numerous new and up-and-coming tools were cited as being useful in addressing forced labour such as the ILO Eliminating and Preventing Forced Labour smartphone application. Speakers emphasised that tools need to be simple to use and practical to have the greatest positive impact and that for true success these tools must also be used in conjunction with other methods of forced labour prevention. Moreover, questions from the audience raised the important challenge many face which is determining which tools and initiatives to use – a potential area for further collaboration moving forward.

### **Panel 3: Collaborating on Solutions: Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: What Should it Deliver and How Should it Function?**

The third panel was moderated by Henrik Moller, Senior Relations Specialist, ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities and included the following panelists: Houtan Homayounpour, Forced Labour Specialist, International Labour Organization; Marika McCauley Sine, Human Rights Director, Mars Incorporated; and Ivanka Mamic, Senior Director, Responsible Sourcing, Target Corporation. The panellists shared



how their respective organisations and companies addressed forced labour in their supply chains and what role collaboration plays in these efforts. Networks like the ILO's Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking (to be launched in early 2018), Alliance 8.7 and The Consumer Goods Forum

provide platforms for collaboration, however speakers stressed that networks must be complimentary and not 'reinvent the wheel'. In addition, the audience raised the issue of partnering with regional organisations to truly understand the cultural and historical nuances at play in cases of forced labour. Understanding these concerns, the ILO intends to hold consultations to hear from the private sector first-hand what challenges they face and how the ILO can incorporate these challenges in the development of their Global Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking. Speakers also cited the unique value of this new ILO business network, which is the capability to facilitate dialogue on sensitive issues linked to forced labour and human trafficking between private sector and governments.

**Summary and Closing**

The day came to an end with closing remarks from Barry Parkin, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mars Incorporated and Thomas Wissing, Head of Partnerships and Advocacy, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, International Labour Organization. They thanked all speakers for their engaging participation and attendees for their stimulating questions, before reemphasising the conference's main findings and breaking off for a networking reception.

*Please note that 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.*