

## **ActionAid, Lito Theodorou | General Statement**

By e-mail to [ohchr-igwg-intervention@un.org](mailto:ohchr-igwg-intervention@un.org)

**The session during which the oral intervention is to take place:** General statements  
(Monday, AM or PM)

**How the intervention will take place:** in person delivery,

**The type of stakeholder speaking:** NGO with ECOSOC status

**Name of the State or organization:** ActionAid

**Name of the speaker:** Lito Theodorou

Thank you Chair.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am speaking on behalf of Actionaid European Youth delegation together with other NGOs participating in the 8th session. We welcome the third revised draft of the LBI and are convinced it is a solid basis for further negotiations also around the pressing issue of child labour.

According to the International Labour Organisation, around 260 million children are in employment around the world. It is estimated that 170 million are engaged in child labour.

CHILD LABOUR is defined as work for which a child is either too young, or work which, because of its nature or conditions, is altogether considered unacceptable for children and is prohibited.

- Children below the age of 15 working at cocoa farms e.g. for Nestle..
- Children working in the fields to collect cotton for brands like Zara or HM.
- The famous ‘HELP ME’ tags on garments of companies such as Shein.
- The 2013 Rana Plaza Accident, where at least 1,132 people were killed and more than 2500 were injured. Amongst them: children.

The examples are numerous, and the list is long.

Despite the existing instruments with regards to this issue, as the representatives of the youth, it is in our view, that the Legally Binding Instrument to Regulate, in International Human Rights Law, The Activities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises, should emphasize or at least refer to the issue of Child Labour in a more definitive way.

Child Labour is only mentioned in one article of this Legally Binding Instrument, as an issue on which member states should pay attention to when implementing the present instrument. The way it is mentioned gives out the impression that *special attention shall be undertaken when the cases of Child Labour* are severe. Namely, and I’m quoting, “the worst forms of child labour, including forced and hazardous child labour.” Child Labour is a crime, and therefore it should be given special attention regardless the level of severity.

Thus, we are asking this Working Group to take action and include the issue of Child Labour further in this binding instrument. We are asking the United Nations to grant safety to the children across the world when deprived of their basic human rights. We are asking for their protection.