 

**Committee:** United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

**State:** Vietnam

**Agenda:** Assessing the Current Situation of Child Labor

A great number of children are forced to do hazardous work around the world. Numerous business owners use many underage employees with low wages to reduce the production cost. The number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years, according to a new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF. According to the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) under the International Labour Organization (ILO), “‘child labour’ is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.”  There are plenty reasons why child exploitation counts are so high around the world such as poverty, lack of education or cultural beliefs. Certain consequences of the child labor are; general child abuse and injury, sexual abuse, physical or emotional abuse, emotional or physical neglect.

Us, Vietnam, support the actions against the child labor. Vietnam has laid the foundation for effective and sustainable action against child labour; in November 2000, the Government of Vietnam ratified [the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182), and in 2003 the Government ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138). In Vietnam a person who is under 18 years old, counts as a minor employee. There are laws which protect minor employees from being explioted:  Minor employees may only do works that are suitable for their health in order to ensure their physical health, mental health and personality development; the employer who has minor employees has the responsibility to take care of their work, health and education in the course of their employment; when an employer hires a minor employee, the employer must have the consent of his/her parent or guardian. A person aged 15 to 18 must not be assigned any of the works or to any of the workplaces mentioned in Article 147 of [Labor Code 2019](http://lawnet.vn/vb/Bo-Luat-lao-dong-2019-51766.html). A person aged 13 to 15 may only do the light works on the list promulgated by the Minister of Labor. A person under 13 may only do the works specified in Clause 3 Article 145 of [Labor Code 2019](http://lawnet.vn/vb/Bo-Luat-lao-dong-2019-51766.html).

 On June 7, 2016, Vietnam’s Prime Minister issued on the country’s program to combat illegal child labor. The program, which covers the period 2016-2020, focuses on “preventing and minimizing child labor while timely detecting and assisting child laborers and vulnerable children in accessing opportunities for development.” The aim of the programme is to  seek the development of a pilot model of support and intervention to reduce child labor by providing life and community-integration skills to the young laborers and vulnerable children. Support to the children will be in the form of education, vocational training and policies on seeking work. The children’s families will be given assistance in stabilizing the families’ means of livelihood and increasing their income too.

Furthermore, we think there are more actions could be taken to reduce the count of child labor statistics by inspecting companys, expending school access, promoting decent work for youth of legal working age.

**REFERENCES:**

* <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>
* <https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades>
* <https://lawnet.vn/thong-tin-phap-luat/en/lao-dong-tien-luong/regulations-on-the-employment-of-minor-employees-in-vietnam-under-the-labor-code-110846.html>
* <https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Areasofwork/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm>
* <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2016-06-22/vietnam-five-year-program-to-reduce-child-labor/>
* <https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_653987.pdf>