

The Ghana Subcommittee of the Child Labor Cocoa Coordinating Group



Interim Statement on Progress Towards the Reduction in Child Labor in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana Under the Framework of Action To Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol

Prepared by the Offices of Senator Tom Harkin, Representative Eliot Engel,
The United States Department of Labor, The Ghana Ministry on Employment
and Social Welfare, and the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry

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INTERIM STATEMENT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS THE REDUCTION IN CHILD LABOR IN COTE D’IVOIRE AND GHANA UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF ACTION TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HARKIN-ENGEL PROTOCOL

In September 2010, the United States Department of Labor, the Government of Cote d’Ivoire, the Government of Ghana, and the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry signed a Declaration of Joint Action to Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, which was witnessed by Senator Tom Harkin, Representative Eliot Engel and the International Labour Organization. This Declaration formalized the new Framework of Action to Support the Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, a holistic set of coordinated remediation initiatives with the following ambitious goal:

By 2020, the worst forms of child labor as defined by ILO Convention 182 in the cocoa sectors of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana will be reduced by 70 percent in aggregate through joint efforts by key stakeholders to provide and support remediation services for children removed from the worst forms of child labor, including education and vocational training, protective measures to address issues of occupational safety and health related to cocoa production, and livelihood services for the households of children in cocoa growing communities; the establishment and implementation of a credible and transparent sector-wide monitoring system across cocoa growing regions in the two countries; and the promotion of respect for core labor standards.

Recalling the signing of this Declaration and as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, we cannot help but reflect on progress made so far and the path forward. As Senator Harkin stated at last year’s signing ceremony, “To date, our joint efforts have not yet risen to a level that matches the magnitude of the challenge. Today we are here to change that... This is truly an historic step, with the key stakeholders – the national governments, the industry, and the Department of Labor – working as partners to tackle the worst forms of child labor and give these children a brighter future.”

This commitment was echoed by Representative Engel, who added that “Great strides have been made to identify precisely where child labor occurs in the West African cocoa sector. We must now use this data to continue bringing about real change. Today, we pledge to take concrete steps to eliminate child labor in the cocoa sector. At the end of the day, that is what the Harkin-Engel Protocol is all about.”

In order to meet this challenge in a coordinated and transparent manner, the Framework calls for regular public reports to be issued on progress and lessons learned. The signatories intend to inform all interested stakeholders and parties on the efforts underway to achieve our overall goal. This document represents an interim report and a summary of our efforts to date. We are currently preparing a more detailed report on the programs undertaken under the Framework, which we expect to share within the next few months.

This first year of Framework activity has focused on the development of a steering group and mechanisms for coordinating our work, reviewing program proposals from the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry (Industry), and supporting our Ghanaian colleagues in the development of the Ghana Child Labor Monitoring System.

Formation of the Child Labor Cocoa Coordinating Group and the Ghana Subcommittee

The Framework established the Child Labor Cocoa Coordinating Group (CLCCG). The CLCCG is comprised of representatives of the United States Department of Labor (DOL), the Government of Cote d’Ivoire, the Government of Ghana, the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry, Senator Tom Harkin and Representative Eliot Engel. The group functions as a steering committee and a working task force. The role of the CLCCG is to promote more effective coordination of action under the Framework, avoid duplication of remediation efforts, monitor and assess the progress of programs, and support the goal of more rapidly

bringing about a significant reduction in the worst forms of child labor in cocoa-growing areas of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

In October 2010, the CLCCG held its first Quarterly Meeting and began developing by-laws for the Group. After the disputed presidential election in Cote d'Ivoire in November 2010, actions under the Framework could not continue as originally planned in Cote d'Ivoire. To avoid delaying further progress in Ghana, the CLCCG continued its work by forming an interim CLCCG Ghana Subcommittee (The Ghana Subcommittee), focused solely on Framework activities in Ghana. On this basis, the Ghana Subcommittee set up governing structures and settled on a decision making process that would be guided by the principle of seeking a consensus of the entire subcommittee whenever possible.

Led by Minister of Employment and Social Welfare E.T. Mensah, the delegation of the Government of Ghana has made substantial progress this past year toward the development of a community based Ghana Child Labor Monitoring System (GCLMS). Through the Ghana Subcommittee, these efforts are being coordinated and expanded as both Industry and USDOL supported International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC) projects supplement the Ministry's efforts. During this time, the Government of Ghana ratified ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age of employment, and took on key leadership roles on ILO's global governing body. The Government of Ghana has called on the expertise of the Ghana Cocoa Board, and Ghanaian worker and employer organizations to participate as working group members of the Ghanaian delegation.

Since September 2010, the CLCCG or the Ghana Subcommittee has been meeting on a quarterly basis. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana on October 24, 2011, and will be hosted by the Government of Ghana.

Proposals for Programs under the Framework and Status of Financial Commitments

In the Declaration of Joint Action, the United States Department of Labor committed \$10 million and the Industry \$7 million in new funding towards the remediation initiatives identified in the Framework. The Industry also pledged to explore the possibility of committing an additional \$3 million to the Framework programs. The Governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana committed to “ensure adequate human, financial and organizational resources” to support their national programs.

In order to consider these commitments in more detail, the Ghana Subcommittee developed a system for assessing proposals submitted by individual companies as new funding under the Framework, and consonant with the Framework's goals. As of this report, the Ghana Subcommittee has reviewed project proposals from The Hershey Company and Kraft Foods. These proposals were assessed by the Ghana Subcommittee as contributing to a reduction in the worst forms of child labor in the cocoa sector, and have been counted together as representing \$2.148 million in new funding. These programs address specific gaps and needs in services or represent new or expanded approaches for reducing the worst forms of child labor in cocoa growing areas of Ghana. The Ghana Subcommittee lauds these companies for integrating these programs into the Framework and encourages other companies to propose additional initiatives to address other gaps or needs in the two countries.

- To date, the United States Department of Labor has committed \$10 million to ILO-IPEC for a regional project, “Towards Child Labour Free Cocoa Growing Communities in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana through an Integrated Area Based Approach,” also called the Cocoa Communities Project. The project will withdraw and prevent children from hazardous and exploitative labor in the cocoa-producing areas of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, providing education and/or occupational skills training to the children and livelihood services to their families. The project will also

work with cocoa-producing communities to develop community action plans to sustainably reduce child labor and will reinforce government efforts to develop and implement a child labor monitoring system.

- To date, Industry has committed \$4.148 million (out of its total \$7 million Declaration commitment)
 - \$2 million towards an ILO-IPEC Public-Private Partnership, “Combatting Child Labour in Cocoa Growing Communities in Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire” from the companies that comprise the industry coalition. The project supports IPEC’s work during the next four years in the development and extension of community-based child labor monitoring systems; the strengthening the capacity of governments, social partners and cocoa farmers to combat the worst forms of child labor in cocoa growing communities; and enhancement of the role of tripartite national child labor steering committees. This partnership includes the participation of ADM, Barry Callebaut, Cargill, Ferrero, The Hershey Company, Kraft Foods, Mars, Incorporated, and Nestlé.
 - \$1.548 million approved through a set of initiatives supported by Kraft Foods. The proposals will be coordinated under the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership, a holistic program that supports thriving rural cocoa communities through the improvement of the livelihoods of cocoa farmers and the reduction of child labor in farming families. By working to increase the incomes of households with at risk children and increasing educational access for children in those farming families, the program furthers the goals of the Framework.
 - \$600,000 approved through a project supported by The Hershey Company. The CocoaLink Project - Connecting Cocoa Communities uses innovative mobile technology

to deliver agricultural and social information to rural cocoa farmers in Ghana, providing an interactive platform which also enables farmers to ask questions and provide and receive real-time feedback. By working to increase the incomes of households with at-risk children and directing messaging on the worst forms of child labor to those households, the project supports the goals of the Framework.

- Since the signing of the Declaration of Joint Action, the Government of Ghana has budgeted approximately \$2.3 million to develop and implement the GCLMS. Approximately \$950,000 of this budgeted funding has been expended so far on efforts that include development and validation of an implementation plan, database, and training manual; training workshops; logistical support to GCLMS partners; and pre-testing of GCLMS tools in selected households in six Districts.

A more detailed report of these programs will be forthcoming in our next report.

Going Forward

Moving forward, the members of the CLCCG hope to broaden our engagement with the larger community of stakeholders on the ground in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. To promote coordination with other interested parties, the CLCCG is developing mechanisms to facilitate information sharing. This includes engaging with other companies, other government programs, civil society groups, and non-governmental organizations and coordinating our intervention efforts with them.

We particularly look forward to the re-engagement of Cote d'Ivoire in the Framework activity in the coming year, and to welcoming the Cote d'Ivoire delegation at the next CLCCG quarterly meeting in October in Accra. This re-integration is particularly important, as our goal of reducing child labor by an aggregate of 70 percent across the two countries can only be achieved with our Ivoirian colleagues, as well as the

participation of Industry companies that have programs on the ground in Cote d'Ivoire.

Important progress has been made in the past year. We fully expect that our efforts this year will begin bearing fruit in Ghana and that we will see more rapid progress towards the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. We appreciate the necessity of continued proactive efforts to achieve the Framework's goals and will continue looking for opportunities to accelerate our efforts.

We are also committed, as a group, to reach out to, coordinate and work with organizations working throughout Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. These organizations may be taking part in efforts that directly seek to reduce the worst forms of child labor, or may support other programs that may contribute to the objectives of the Framework. By working together we can amplify all of our efforts and ensure that resources are coordinated to more effectively and efficiently achieve our shared goals.

The Framework of Action also calls for continued data collection to assess the extent of the worst forms of child labor and track progress toward achieving the goal of an aggregate 70 percent reduction. This need will be met, in part, through the regular implementation of nationally representative child labor surveys covering cocoa growing areas of the two countries. Both the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana committed to supporting such surveys on a five-year basis, using the survey carried out by Tulane University in 2008-2009 as a baseline. Progress and lessons learned will also be assessed by reporting on common indicators and milestones that are being developed by the CLCCG.

Ten years ago, representatives of the International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry committed themselves and their members to fulfill the letter and spirit of the Harkin-Engel Protocol. One year ago, we came together in partnership and signed the Declaration of Joint Action to Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, a vital step towards realizing the goals of the Harkin-Engel Protocol. Today, we are pleased by the first steps that have been taken towards the

implementation of the Declaration of Joint Action and its accompanying Framework of Action. Our goal is to achieve the aggregate 70 percent reduction we committed to last year. Our intent is to accelerate efforts to reduce the worst forms of child labor in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. Our vision is that by working together and enhancing effective coordination, we can more effectively leverage our resources and have a greater impact in reducing the worst forms of child labor, offering children new hope for the future.

For More Information

Office of Senator Tom Harkin, Kate Cyrul,
kate_cyrul@harkin.senate.gov, (202-224-3254)

Office of Representative Eliot Engel, Jeremy Tomasulo,
jeremy.tomasulo@mail.house.gov, (202-225-2464)

**Ghana National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of
Child Labour in Cocoa, Sam Atukwei Quaye,**
atukweisamquaye@yahoo.com

International Chocolate and Cocoa Industry, Joanna Scott,
joannascott@cocoafarming.org.uk, (44 (0)7879 486070) and
Susan Smith, susan.smith@candyusa.com, (202-534-1440)

U.S. Department of Labor, Gloria Della, Della.Gloria@dol.gov

