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Governing Board Meetings

The International Secretariat conducted regular meetings of the Governing Board through 2013. Additionally Board Steering Committee of the Global March were facilitated through conference calls year-round on strategy, resource mobilisation, development of the strategic plan of action, implementation of the different projects and advocacy activities with partners.

Networking and participation in international events

South Asia Mission by Board Member Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary

Mr. Dilli Bahadur Chaudhury, Board Member and present Regional Co-ordinator (appointed in September 2013), Global March undertook a mission to South Asia across India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in April 2013 with the objective of engaging with Global March partners in the region and also meet with grassroots organisations working actively on the issues of child labour, slavery and education and explore the potentials for joint action.

The major highlights of the mission across the three countries are summarised as under:

India

- Meeting with Global March International Secretariat: Mr. Chaudhary met with Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and the staff of the International Secretariat to discuss the Global March activities in South Asia. Mr. Chaudhary was concerned over the lack of visibility and communication of the Global March in South Asia in the last couple of years and also emphasised on the need for more pro-active initiative in this region.

- Meeting with partner organisation Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA): Mr. Chaudhary met with Mr. R S Chaurasia, Chairperson, BBA and Mr. Bhuwan Ribhu, Advocate, BBA to discuss ways to strengthen responses on child rights through rights-based movements and legal action and advocacy.

- Participation in the “Informal Discussion on the Proposed amendments on the CLPRA Amendment, 2012” on 4 April, 2013 hosted by ILO and Save the Children: In this forum a clause-by-clause discussion on the proposed amendments was undertaken by the NGO’s and the combined responses were presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour in India. Mr Chaudhary had the opportunity to interact with different stakeholders in India during the meeting and discuss the potential for joint action in South Asia.

- Meeting with HAQ Centre for Child Rights: Mr Chaudhary met with Ms Enakshi Ganguly Thukral, Founding Member and Co-Director, HAQ to understand the work of HAQ Centre particularly in documenting and reporting on child rights in the country.

- Discussion with National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR): Mr Chaudhary held a telephonic discussion with Prof. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson of NCPCR on the actions undertaken by the Commission and the potentials for future interventions.
Pakistan:

- Meetings with Grassroots Organisation for Human Development (GODH) Lahore: Mr Chaudhary was hosted in Pakistan by GODH where he met with the staff and board members of GODH. Meetings were also conducted with Human Rights Commission, Association Network for Empowerment, Suneha, Anjam e Flah e Millat, Bonded Labour Liberation Front.
- Meetings in Peshawar: Mr Chaudhary met with Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) and other child rights NGOs in SPARC Peshawar office where he discussed the potential for grassroots action on child rights in South Asia.
- Meetings in Islamabad: Mr Chaudhary met with SPARC's Executive Director Zarina Jilani. A major concern raised was the lowered levels of engagement between Global March and SPARC. Mr Chaudhary also had meetings with Mr Anees Jilani, a board member and former coordinator of SPARC who suggested that Global March organise more exchange visits in South Asia and coordinate joint action in the region and promote greater engagement.
- Meetings in Karachi: Mr Chaudhary had a short visit to Karachi to meet with potential partner organisations in the region.

Bangladesh:

- Meeting with Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbodik Forum (BMSF): Mr Chaudhary was hosted by Global March partner BMSF in Bangladesh.
- Meeting with Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF): Mr Chaudhary met Mr. Abdus S. Mahmood of BSAF which is the co-ordinating body for Global March in Bangladesh.
- A meeting was organised between BMSF represented by its Executive Director, Khaireuzzaman Kamal and BSAF represented by with Emranul Haq Chaudhary, the current Executive Director of BSAF and UDDIPAN (the largest child right organisation in Bangladesh). The suggestion to shift the Regional Coordinator of South Asia to another country was brought up during this meeting.
- Meeting with Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS): BILS is a long time partner of the Global March and a leading reference point for labour rights in the country. A meeting was held with Mr. Shahjat to discuss BIL's child labour programmes.
- Meetings were also held with Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Samaj Unanr Prayas (SUP) and The Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP) to explore the scope of future partnerships with Global March in Bangladesh.

Chairperson's Europe Mission - September 2013

The Chairperson organised a networking mission to Europe in September 2013 covering organisations and foundations in the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The Netherlands: Attending the Children's Peace Prize Award, the annual event organised by KidsRights took the Chairperson to the Netherlands in September 2013. Other interactions in the Netherlands included an introductory meeting with Terre de Hommes to discuss potential collaboration on child labour, child trafficking and slavery and with OxfamNovib to discuss potentially new areas of collaboration particularly in the Middle East and the situation of education in emergencies. The Chairperson also had a successful meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands.

UK: The Chairperson also met with UN Special Envoy for Education, Gordon Brown in a follow-up discussion with the ongoing negotiations with Global Partnership for Education. A meeting with Comic Relief was held to explore possible collaboration in the area of child domestic labour, child labour in agriculture and child trafficking. The opportunity for possible research collaborations was also explored with Overseas Development Institute.
Former Child Bonded Labourer Awarded Global Education's Youth Courage Award

The right to receive a free and meaningful education and the right to be free from economic exploitation are the underlying principles of Global March's fight against child labour. Razia Sultan from Nanglakhumba village in Uttar Pradesh, India proved this right when she was awarded Global Educations Youth Courage Award for Education by the United Nations in July 2013.

An activist with BBA, Global March Against Child Labour's partner organisation in India, Razia was a former child labourer stitching football. Withdrawn from exploitative work in football manufacturing industry by BBA activists, Razia was enrolled in a school. Her fight against child labour has resulted in the liberation of 46 child labourers in her neighbourhood. She along with other rescued child labourers and activists have transformed nearly six villages around her into Child Friendly Villages. Razia has been a core marcher in Nepal March for Education which not only resulted in the recognition of education as a fundamental right by the Nepalese Government but also led to the formation of Nepalese National Commission on Child Labour.

Razia was nominated for the prestigious award by the Chairperson of Global March.
Thematic Campaigns

Education for All and Out-of-School Children

A major focus of the Global March since its inception has been the fostering of inter-agency collaboration of child labour and education for all (EFA). 2013 had been a rewarding year for Global March with regard to its education advocacy efforts:

Washington DC Event: Global March played an instrumental role in forming the agenda for the meeting held in Washington in April 2013. The event convened by UN Special Envoy for Education and Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown successfully brought together a broad, global coalition for the elimination of child slavery and children in forced labour including International Labour Organisation, UNICEF and Walkfree. With time ticking away, political and social action towards the 2015 Education MDG’s was imperative.

Foremost amongst the outcomes in the event was inclusion of the Global March demand to end child slavery in UN General Assembly agenda. The demand raised by the Chair of Global March for a special UN resolution to end child slavery was incorporated by UN Special Envoy for Education and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom as a major agenda in the next UN General Assembly. The demand raised at the Round Table in Washington on child slavery and convened by Gordon Brown highlighted child labour as being a major obstacle in achieving the EFA goals with 57 million children of primary age and 69 million children of lower secondary age still out of school. The incorporation of the demand is an effort towards revitalising the movement and recapturing the political priority and momentum towards the issue. The other demands of the Global March in this forum included:

• Creation of a UN Task Force on Child Slavery and Child Labour ensuring specialised and high-level monitoring and reporting mechanism to chart the progress towards the education goals.
• Recognising the ‘education for all’ objectives as a cross-cutting integrated development agenda to support the removal of children and young people from slavery conditions and the worst forms of labour.
• Ensuring that Governments adopt national re-integration programmes for children moving from exploitation to education.
• Inclusion of marginalized and exploited children in the post-2015 framework
• Setting up funding support through the mechanism of a Global Fund.

Global March Policy Paper on 'Out of School Children and Child Labour'

Re-iterating its strategy of the Triangular Paradigm Global March is in the process of releasing its policy paper on ‘Out-of-School Children and Child Labour’. The paper looks at access to education as being one of the key components in the elimination of child labour, Achievement of EFA and poverty alleviation and focuses particularly on the ‘hard-to-reach’ children and within them child labourers.

The document aiming to explore the major
obstacles to attaining universal primary education and eliminating child labour also intends to channelise the attention of academicians, policymakers, civil society and other stakeholders and pledge their will and resources to ensuring quality education for all.

Not Made by Children in the Garment Sector: An Initiative to end Child Labour in the Garment Manufacturing Supply Chain in India

Through its ongoing initiative “Not Made by Children”, Global March under a grant from UKaid of DFID endeavoured to work towards sustainable elimination of child labour from the garment manufacturing sector in India. The project tenure was 01 March 2011 to 30 September 2013. A multipronged strategy with following interventions at all levels of garment supply chains was adopted:

a. Training the Labour Inspectorate to monitor child labour in supply chains;

b. Sensitising the garment workers on decent working conditions and fundamental rights at work;

c. Rescuing/ withdrawing and repatriation of child labourers from the garment manufacturing sector;

d. Creation of a model child labour free hub in Khanpur, Delhi;

e. Dialogue with major International apparel retailers in a multilateral space for evolving strategies for elimination child labour from their supply chains;

f. Fostering responsible buying in garment consumers.

Support by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in New Delhi for interventions in garment sector

Following the successful interventions in the Not Made by Children initiative, the Royal Netherlands Embassy in New Delhi supported Global March Secretariat in India for capacity building of women homeworkers and awareness on child labour in New Delhi.

Support from the EILEEN FISHER for interventions in garment sector

EILEEN FISHER, US fashion brand at the RAGS Dissemination Event in New Delhi, supported Global March for interventions in the garment manufacturing sector in India.

Global Advocacy Campaign for Elimination of Child Domestic Labour and Protection of Child Domestic Workers

With the support of ILO-IPEC, Global March started a 20 month project “Global Advocacy Campaign for Elimination of Child Domestic Labour and
Protection of Child Domestic Workers in January 2013, with the prime aim of pushing ratification of Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The campaign, FREE: Free from Exploitation for Education is a global in nature with focussed action in 3 countries, i.e., Indonesia, Panama and Togo entailing research, awareness raising, advocacy and capacity building activities.

Overall objective of the campaign is to accelerate action to fight against child domestic labour and to better protect child domestic workers (in permissible situations).

Specific objectives of the campaign are:

i) increased awareness on the need to protect child domestic workers by promoting the ratification and implementation of Convention 189 in line with Convention 138 and Convention 182, and

ii) To strengthen capacities of trade unions (especially of domestic workers) and civil society organisations for taking advocacy efforts and action against domestic child labour to provide better protection to child domestic workers (in permissible situations).

A brief on the activities carried out and progress made under the campaign for the year 2013 is given below. Also included in follow-up action for different activities:

- Joint letters to Labour Ministers on Convention 189: In a collective initiative, Global March and Human Rights Watch in collaboration with 8 other international child rights organisations sent letters to labour ministers across several countries (~134) to push for ratification of Convention 189 in February.

- Web-based platform on child domestic labour: A sub-site on child domestic labour has been developed to support the campaign, primarily in terms of awareness raising, sharing updates on the campaign activities and different resources and materials on the issue. The sub-site was officially launched on 12th June, World Day Against Child Labour. The sub-site also contains specific web pages for Indonesia, Panama and Togo, updated on the activities in these countries.

- World Day Against Child Labour: To commemorate this year's World Day Against Child Labour, the theme of which was “No to Child Labour in Domestic Work, country partners of the campaign organised extensive and focussed activities and events. These activities included not only raising awareness on the issue of child domestic labour, but also mobilising support for country ratification of Convention 189. The International Secretariat prepared materials (see below) that was used by country partners as well as shared with members of Global March for use in their World Day celebration activities. A special newsletter, “Action around the globe for World Day Against Child Labour 2013”, that covered activities and events organised by country partners and Global March members in celebration of June 12 was prepared and disseminated. For the 2014 World Day, Global March will mobilise its members to tackle action on the issue of exploitation of children as domestic helps.

- Repertoire of publications/reports on child domestic labour: A mapping and compilation exercise of all existing materials on child domestic labour at global level and for
Indonesia, Panama and Togo as well as the availability of such materials in English, Bahasa, French and Spanish has been undertaken, and such materials have been added to sub-site under the “Resources” section. This would provide ready reference on child domestic labour to persons using/accessing the sub-site. The “Resource” section is regularly updated in light of new reports/publications.

- **Materials/tools developed:** Various advocacy and awareness raising materials (tools) have been developed. These include stickers, posters and flyers which are each available in English, Bahasa, French and Spanish (stickers are available in more languages). An online-survey on child domestic labour has also been developed for the purpose of awareness raising. These tools have been widely shared and disseminated via electronic and social media.

- **Capacity building tools:** A comprehensive resource manual on child domestic labour has been developed by a consultant. This manual will serve as a reference material for the capacity building and training activities of NGOs and civil society for enhanced action and advocacy on child domestic labour and child domestic work. To make it user-friendly, illustrated dialogues have been included under various sections of the manual which have been designed to debunk common myths about child domestic work and provide a starting point for discussions amongst stakeholders, among other things. Translation of the resource manual into Bahasa, French and Spanish will be undertaken to be used in capacity building activities in Indonesia, Panama, and Togo. Wide dissemination of the English and other language versions is being planned.

- **3rd Global Conference on Child Labour:** The Secretariat participated in the 3rd Global Conference held from 8-10th October 2013 in Brasilia. At the Conference, Chairperson, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi highlighted the issue of exploitation of children in domestic work in the opening speech. The Secretariat also participated in the semi-plenary session on “Child Labour in Domestic Work and Gender Issues” held on October 8th.

- **Supporting awareness conference in Pakistan:** Global March member in Pakistan, Grassroot Organisation for Human Development (GODH) is actively working on raising voice against the issue of child domestic labour in the country. In November with the support of Global March, it organised an awareness conference on the issue, attended by around 43 participants who included 2 Parliamentarians, representatives from governments departments, civil society and others.

- **Resource mobilisation:** To support Global March’s current focus on child domestic labour, including post the completion of ILO supported project, efforts have been made to mobilise resources. The Secretariat submitted a concept note followed by a full application in April after selection to the European Commission, titled, “Strengthening regional response for tackling child trafficking for forced labour and child labour in agricultural and domestic work in West Africa, and in Benin, Niger & Togo in particular”. Unfortunately, Global March’s application was
unsuccessful. Global is currently preparing an application for funding support to the Commonwealth Foundation “Forging civil society action against child domestic labour to combat the gender disadvantage”. It is also collaborating with Terre des Hommes-Netherlands for jointly submitting a concept note for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women for preventing and protecting girls and adolescents from violence in domestic work, possibly in India and Bangladesh.

Campaign Against Child Labour in India - Ratification of ILO Convention 138 and 182

Under the project “Campaign Against Child Labour in India” Global March endeavoured to bring together the various civil society actors – the trade unions, teacher's organisations and child rights organisations for providing necessary impetus to the Government of India to ratify the child labour conventions at the earliest with a stronger anti-child labour legislation [Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation (Amendment) Act; i.e. CLPRA] banning all forms of child labour for children under 14 years of age, and prohibiting hazardous work by adolescents under 18 years of age. Consensus of various stakeholders (towards ratification of ILO conventions 138 and 182 and associated amendments in the national laws) involved in the fight against child labour in India has been envisaged through a process of mutual consultation between key stakeholders and coherent advocacy efforts. The discussions initiated/facilitated by Global March between various state agencies responsible for labour, child protection and education, and the pro-active interventions by the judiciary have been aimed at galvanising the efforts for eliminating child labour in a time bound and systematic manner. Various steps were taken to build a consensus among stakeholders in the fight against child labour in India so that the CLPRA could be aligned with other progressive laws like Right to Education Act, Juvenile Justice Act and Anti Trafficking laws of the country. This included constant follow up with Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) for putting up a strong case for amending the CLPRA of 1986 with an endeavour to ratify the long pending ILO Conventions 138 and 182.

Global March has been regularly networking with its tripartite constituents (trade unions, teachers' unions and child rights' organisations) to build consensus for amendments in the anti child labour law. The Chair of Global March also wrote to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Ruling Coalition in India seeking their support for expeditious passage of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill. Additionally meetings were held with the leaders of all political parties for seeking their support. Global March also networked with various government agencies and child rights protection bodies and other law enforcement bodies at national and state level to mobilise support in demand for a robust anti child labour law with inbuilt framework towards rehabilitation, accountability of law enforcement actors, speedy trial of child labour cases and convergence with all the relevant ministries, department and governments schemes to ensure prevention, protection, rehabilitation and education of child labour.

Global March also ran an online petition (“Petition to End Child Labour”) with the help of online campaign organisations Avaaz that invoked a lot of interest from people across the globe, calling upon the Indian Parliamentarians to take up the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2012 for vote and discussion. Global March also mobilised support from the Office of UN Special Envoy on Global Education, Gordon Brown in an endeavour to expedite the passage of the amendment bill through both the houses of Indian Parliament. The petition with One Million signatures was delivered in Lok Sabha Secretariat in August 2013.

As a result of its policy advocacy efforts, Global March was formally invited by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour to depose for the
proposed amendments in the anti child labour law. Most of the demands of Global March were upheld by the committee and were included in the recommendation report that was tabled in Parliament in December 2013. The Bill could not be taken up for vote and discussion before the culmination of the last working session of the 15th Parliament, therefore it is hoped that based on the recommendations of the standing committee MOLE will amend the bill and it will be reintroduced in the 16th Parliament that will be formed after the general elections in April - May 2014. It is further hoped that the amended bill will be taken up for vote and discussion during the first session of the 16th Parliament in July 2014.

Global March will strengthen its efforts to mobilise the support from Parliamentarians and the various ministries, so that the Amendment Bill could be revised and reintroduced in the Upper House of Indian Parliament soon after.

The liaison with parliamentarians, MOLE and other relevant ministries will also have to be re-strategized in wake of the changes and reshuffles in the associated ministries and government departments. It will be imperative for Global March to keep the momentum till the child labour law is amended and notified in Gazette of India.

Once the amended law comes into force, Global March will structure the further interventions towards effective implementation, enforcement, monitoring of the legislations, by the law enforcement agencies. Global March would particularly emphasize on efforts to enhance the capacities of law enforcement agencies (primarily Police, Revenue Department and Labour Department) aiming at overall convergence of policy and action will have to be sustained for effective implementation of the proposed act. Efforts would also be directed to enhance the capacity of government agencies to curb trafficking of children for forced labour. Monitoring and inspection of the proposed act will be the responsibility of the labour department; therefore sustained efforts will be put in for networking with state agencies for coming up with state specific rules. Since more number of children below the age of 14 and adolescents working in hazardous occupations will be rescued, capacity of the labour inspectorate in terms of carrying out inspections, identifying child labourers, identification of hazardous processes, age verification of age etc will have to be enhanced. This can be done by regular workshops and sessions at state/ district level.

Since ‘adolescents’ i.e. individuals between 14 and 18 years of age would also be prohibited to work in hazardous occupations, Global March would also direct its policy advocacy efforts to support smooth transformation of hazardous child labour to decent working conditions for the youth. Global March along with its partner organisations in India would also continue with judicial advocacy in an endeavour to secure favourable directions/orders from the courts of law for protecting the children from exploitation.

Continued dialogue with the Govt. of India for ratification of ILO Conventions 138 on minimum age of employment and 182 on worst forms of child labour is absolutely essential. Global March will continue to liaise with various ministries/departments related to child rights, labour laws, poverty alleviation, education, social justice and empowerment, etc for bringing the national laws in conformance to the standards set in the ILO’s child labour conventions.

National Consultation on Child Trafficking and Child Labour

Global March has been actively engaged in the speedy ratification and effective enforcement of international labour legislations, particularly the ILO conventions on ‘worst forms of child labour’ (C 182) and ‘minimum age for admission to employment’(C 138). India is among the very few countries like Somalia, Tuvalu and Palau that have not yet ratified any of these international instruments. However, the Government of India has been making sincere efforts to amend the child labour law, Child Labour...
Against this backdrop, Global March in its fight against child labour sought to build a nationwide consensus of all stakeholders on amendments in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (CLPRA). They organised a two-day National Consultation on Child Trafficking and Child Labour along with its partner in India, BBA in May 2013. The principal objective of the consultation was to identify and analyse the gaps in the existing Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and collate suggestions for amendments in the existing child labour law from the civil society and practitioners for a formal submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour. Through a series of plenary sessions, the broad spectrum of stakeholders brought in collective knowledge and experience for strengthening the tenets of the existing Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The consultation had over 100 representatives from the government, UN agencies, trade unions, and civil society. The focus of the National Consultation was on the proposed amendments to the child labour law: how it could be made more effective, efficient, and enforceable; how to link it to other related laws like Juvenile Justice Act, Bonded Labour Act, and Right to Education Act. Substantial focus was also laid down on the uniform definition of 'child' across various acts.

The Consultation brought about concrete suggestions from participants which have been summarised below:

- Rehabilitation to be made an integral part of the child labour law and should essentially include prevention as well.
- Child labour to be made a non-bailable offence with stringent punishment for all involved in child labour and child trafficking.
- Prosecution should be made stronger in the best interest of the child by indicting the offender under multiple offenses as applicable.
- Accountability of centre, state, and all other stakeholders to be defined properly and legal action against law enforcement officials for dereliction of duty or not pursuing complaints related to child labour, child trafficking, and missing children.
- Detailed monitoring mechanisms to be specified in order to address the issue of irregularities in the realm of inspection and identification and should include the active participation of civil society.
- Stringent laws to be put in place to tackle the issue of trafficking with a system deployed to tackle the issue of re-trafficking.

Through these series of sessions, the broad spectrum of stakeholders brought in their collective knowledge and experiences for strengthening the tenets of the existing Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.
Handbook for Parliamentarians for the Prevention of Child Labour

Following the Consultative Campaign on Child Trafficking and Child Labour, Global March published the ‘Handbook for Parliamentarians for the Prevention of Child Labour’ as an enabling tool for the policy-makers of India to understand the subject of child labour and other cross-cutting issues like child trafficking, slavery and violence against children. The working paper commissioned with the support of Human Dignity Foundation was aimed at highlighting the causes and consequences of child labour as well as various legislations upholding the rights of the children.

The major emphasis of the document was on the following:

- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies at national, state and district levels for effective implementation of laws upholding the rights of children and ensuring their protection, security, education and overall well being.
- Leveraging poverty alleviation programmes’ expertise and resources to provide families of child labourers with the social safety mechanisms and livelihood assistance including training, to help them keep their children in school and out of work.
- Pursuing justice and policy changes through the courts both Supreme Court of India and the High Courts for protection of children’s rights.

Global March believes that the Handbook would be a step ahead in its endeavour to fight exploitation against children and debunk the many myths and misconceptions that support child labour.

Child Labour in Agriculture

Child Labour in Cocoa Farming - Global March’s Scoping Mission to Côte d’Ivoire

The latest ILO statistics reveal that agriculture by far accounts for the maximum number of child labourers accounting for 59% of all child labourers and 98 million in absolute terms. Global March has focused on the attention on this endemic sector through the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in Washington DC, USA in
2012. The conference brought together 160 representatives from 40 countries spanning the range of key stakeholders on the issue, and committed to work on a Framework of Action. Following thereon, Global March undertook a scoping mission to Côte d’Ivoire in January – February 2013 with the objectives of gaining on ground experiences through interactions with the key stakeholders and community members on the situation of child labour in the country; identifying the strengths and gaps; and proposing comprehensive strategies for tackling child labour in cocoa production in the country. This mission was undertaken by Kailash Satyarthi, and Cleophas Mally, Board Member and Regional Coordinator of Global March, Francophone Africa, and Director WAO-Afrique from 29 January to 02 February 2013.

The report titled “Child Labour in Cocoa Farming in Côte d’Ivoire” was presented by Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson Global March to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Gordon Brown and several other dignitaries. The report notes that child labour is still a serious problem in cocoa farming in Côte d’Ivoire particularly because of traditional beliefs and practices fostering gender disparity and disconnect between social and community members and recommends that it is important to strengthen the primary as well as secondary education system and including teachers as partners in the growth story of Côte d’Ivoire. Substituting hazardous child labour with decent work for youth coupled up with income generation prospects and women empowerment are also needed for the sustainable elimination of child labour. The active participation of the First Lady of Republic of Côte d’Ivoire and the renewed commitment of the country for the fight against child labour were identified as key enablers in the report.

The report was an effort in bringing together the efforts of various stakeholders and help in translating the same into speedy and tangible actions on the ground.

Child Labour in Livestock

Child labour in livestock is widespread and largely ignored, according to Food and Organization’s recent publication, Children’s work in the livestock sector: Herding and
beyond – the first global study on the subject. Noting that agriculture accounts for the highest proportion of global child labour across economic sectors (60% as per ILO statistics), the report points out that livestock accounts for some 40 percent of the agricultural economy and efforts to curb child labour will require getting governments, farmer organizations and rural families directly involved in finding alternatives to practices which often reflect the need for survival. The report sustains that hazardous or potentially harmful work for children in the livestock sector has received less attention than child labour in other areas of agriculture, where much more has been done by international organizations, governments, civil society and rural families to address the problem.

The International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture, organised by Global March Against Child Labour in July 2012, also recognised the need to tackle child labour in various neglected sub-sectors of agriculture, specifically livestock and fisheries wherein less attention has been paid in addressing the worst forms of child labour. Highlighting a serious data and knowledge gap of child labour in different agricultural sub-sectors, the Conference recommended collection of dis-aggregated data and knowledge at national and global level on child labour in the sub-sectors to guide policy and action. Given this, the FAO report is a welcome step forward in this direction.

Youth Empowerment and Child Labour

Global March holds child labour elimination and decent work for youth as two sides of the same coin, and since the International Conference on Child Labour in Agriculture in 2012, youth empowerment and decent work for young people have been identified as a key theme for intervention.

Towards this end, Global March has been focussing on youth empowerment and child labour as a theme, and the following activities are being undertaken by the Secretariat:

- Policy paper on ‘Transforming hazardous child labour into decent work for young people’ is in process.
- Policy paper on ‘Youth participation and Empowerment and Ending Child Labour’ is in process.

Both children and youth comprise a section of the population that is most vulnerable. Susceptible to exploitation, gender inequality, risks of migration and trafficking are common to both and the needs of one cannot be prioritised and framed without looking into that of the other. The challenge for Global March is thus to translate hazardous work for children into decent youth employment with special focus on the informal sector in the coming year.
Global March holds trafficking to be the greatest form of abuse and violence against children and women. In the backdrop of heightened extent and intensity of violence exerted on women and children in India, Global March presented its suggestions to the Justice Verma Committee constituted to recommend amendments to the criminal law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing sexual assault against women. Global March submitted its suggestions to the Committee to include trafficking in persons, especially the sexual exploitation, along with a range of suggestions to deter sexual violence against women and children in India.

The definition of trafficking as proposed to be included in Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is in line with the international definition of trafficking. Not only does the legislation clearly define and lay down the procedures to deter sexual crimes against women, but as a landmark also includes the definition of trafficking in persons for the first time in the Indian criminal justice system.

The document offers a data-driven statistical analysis to effectively highlight the characteristics, extent, patterns, mechanisms and the economic magnitude in CDL and CSE to discover the patterns behind trafficking in the source and destination areas, and the economic magnitude of the CDL and CSE forced labour industry.
The research will further guide Global March’s action on its themes of CDL and CSE and trafficking and by presenting a comprehensive analysis of the issues for public awareness, lobbying and advocacy efforts.

Children’s rights and Business

Global March’s Submission on General Comment on “State Obligations Regarding The Impact Of The Business Sector On Children’s Rights” By The Committee On The Rights Of The Child. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) issued General Comment No. 16 (2013) on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children’s rights. Recognising that States have obligations regarding the impact of business activities and operations on children’s rights arising from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the General Comment provides States with a framework for implementing the Convention as a whole with regard to the business sector whilst focusing on specific contexts where the impact of business activities on children’s rights can be most significant.

Global March Against Child Labour actively participated in the consultative process followed during the drafting of the General comment to seek views and opinions of civil society and submitted its comments on the Annotated Outline of the General Comment in 2012 in relation to the causes and consequences of child labour in the global supply chains, and the impact businesses have on child rights, especially child labourers.

Post 2015 Development Agenda

With the 2015 deadline approaching fast, the focus of the Global March has been on the global development agenda post 2015. Discussions on the same began in early 2013 with the technical sessions of the UN high-level panel (HLP) commencing in Liberia with the Liberian president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and her HLP co-chairs – British Prime Minister David Cameron and Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The UN Secretary General’s High Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda submitted the report “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development” in May 2013. Global March's recommendations in the HLP consultation process included the following:

- Incorporation of a future framework with a clear human rights basis focusing on sustainable development
- Focusing on ‘hardest to reach’ and zero tolerance for poverty, discrimination and exploitation
- Intertwining access, inclusion and quality

Global March undertook a detailed analysis of the report and welcomed the five transformational shifts – leave no one behind, put sustainable development at the core, transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth, build peace and effective accountable institutions for all, and forge a new Global Partnership as the basis for a single, universal post-2015 agenda. However, it also highlighted the shortcomings of the report that must be taken note of during the post 2015 agenda.

- The indicator on quality education fails to identify the ‘the hardest-to-reach’ categories of children.
- “Elimination of all forms of violence against children” lacks a sense of urgency that is needed to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence.

The pace of progress towards gender equality and the indicator of preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against girls and women incorporated in the agenda is also in line with Global March’s consistent advocacy for stronger measures for protection of children, especially girls from violence including the prohibition of trafficking in all forms.

Similarly bringing youth to the centre of the development agenda is directly linked to Global March’s focus on how to substitute hazardous child labour into decent youth employment, particularly in informal work, so that young people remain in employment, earning decent wages and learning skills.
Global March Website: In an endeavour to attain strategic objective to compile and disseminate a broad framework of knowledge for making the organisation a central point of reference on child labour, Global March paid special emphasis on managing the content of the website for a quick turnaround in response to issues related to the rights of the child particularly their freedom from exploitation and access to education.

The website http://www.globalmarch.org was regularly optimised for better search engine returns. Our website returns to top ten results (on the first page) when searched by www.google.com through key phrase “Child Labour”.

Since November 2013, Global March has been using Google Analytics to analyse the performance on its website. The software now tracks the performance of the website based on parameters such as 'Number of Users', 'Pageviews', 'Pageviews/Session', 'Average Duration of Session', 'Percentage of New/Returning Visitors', 'Bounce-Rate', 'Country-Wise Pageviews'. The month of December 2013 had 8,703 pageviews with 2.02 pages/session.

Facebook and Twitter Accounts: Global March also maintains its presence in the social networking media of Twitter and Facebook which are regularly updated and trends monitored by the Communications Team.

Mass mailing database: In the year 2013, our database was increased to 4500 from the erstwhile 1500. We have extracted the contact list of individual staff members of Global March and merged into the mailing list database. On regular basis we keep updating the database with new contact coordinates. 24 mass mails were sent out during 2013 on related issues.

In 2013, Global March completed 15 years. Commemorating the anniversary of the movement ILO, Education International and Child Labor Coalition reiterated their support to the Global March towards policy advocacy intervention in support of universal ratification of ILO Convention 182 on worst forms of child labour.

Scoping report on child labour in cocoa farming in Cote d' Ivoire

In the third week of April 2013, the Chair of Global March was in Washington, D.C. on the invitation of Mr. Gordon Brown, Education Envoy to UN Secretary General for a series of events planned in conjunction with the IMF World Bank Development Committee meetings. On this occasion the Chair formally presented a report on his scoping mission to Cote’d Ivoire (in late January 2013) to Senator Tom Harkin. The report was also presented to Gordon Brown and several other dignitaries during the series of events. A special communiqué was sent out at the release.
On World Day Against Child Labour in 2013, Global March officially launched the campaign micro-site FREE from exploitation for education to push for speedy ratification of ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, especially to restore freedom and dignity for 11.5 million child domestic workers worldwide. Global March partnered with 9 leading international organisations and jointly called upon the Ministers of Labour from around the globe to protect child domestic workers and ratify this important convention. Global March also demanded for a greater role of civil society in planning, implementation and monitoring of child labour elimination strategies in line with the recommendations to the ILO Convention 189. This global campaign by Global March specifically focuses on three countries – Indonesia, Panama and Togo for ratification of ILO Convention 189. These countries are representative of some of the countries in their respective regions where the situation of child domestic labour and young domestic workers needs particular attention. Campaign related IEC has been developed primarily in four languages - Bahasa Indonesia, English, French and Spanish. Stickers are available in more languages considering country/region specific adaptation.

The materials are available online

To further give impetus for ratification of ILO Convention 189 and making ground for policy level changes in the wake of torture and death of child domestic labourers in Pakistan, Global March also supported partner organisation Grassroots Organisation for Human Development (GODH) with a conference on Child Domestic Labour. The discussion at the conference saw the active participation of delegates, sharing different perspectives, concerns and possible solutions to the issue of child domestic labour. The Deputy Director of the Labour Department of Punjab shared steps taken by the government to impose a ban on child domestic labour in Punjab. The Parliamentarians attending the conference stated that they would raise the issue of child domestic labour in the National Assembly.

Global March Advocacy Efforts Unites Lebanese Family

The family of Gazale Salame and Ahmed Siala were re-united in March 2013 after having been separated for eight years due to legal and political complications of German Authorities.

Gazale and her husband Ahmed, Lebanese Kurds and refugees from the first war in the Lebanon, had been living in Germany for 17 and 20 years, respectively. 8 years ago the pregnant Gazale together with her infant were deported to Turkey by German authorities based speculation, that her ancestors were Turkish and thus had no right to live in Germany. Ever since, the father who has remained behind with his two daughters (6 and 7 years old) was struggling to be granted the right of abode for himself and his daughters and for the return of his wife and the two sons. Gazale and Ahmed Siala, a couple married according to Muslim law, were denied the right of residence in Germany after having lived here for 17 years, with the argument that in 1988 they had fled from war torn Beirut to Germany as 6 and 7 year old children with their parents. But with the insinuation that...
they have allegedly Turkish ancestors, their parents were accused of having faked their entry as refugees from the Lebanon, with the consequence that the authorities regarded them as Turkish citizens.

Global March had begun its intervention against this serious human rights violation since 2009 with the Chairperson writing to Jean Zermatten, President, United Nations Committee on Children's Rights in September 2012 leading to the re-union of the family in March 2013 and thus upholding the rights of the children.

Global Campaign Against Injustice - Promoting Child Rights In Iran

Global March also supported the partners in Iran by pinning Global Campaign Against Injustice Promoting Child Rights in Iran on its home page. The campaign has been designed to mobilise support for Global March partner The Centre for Children's Literature, Darvag against regressive segments of “Protection of Children's Rights” legislation in October 2013 that allows the foster parents to marry the adopted children. The campaign calls upon the International Human Rights and Child Protection Institutions, for their immediate intervention in order to withdraw the following harmful laws against the children of Iran.

Colour my Dream Campaign

Global March also supported its partners in Bad Bentheim in Germany by hosting Colour My Dream Campaign which facilitates children, teenagers and global citizens to appeal to the politicians across the world to ensure security, peace, education and well-being of children. This campaign amplifies the voice of children/teenagers in reminding the policy makers about the millennium development goals that have to be accomplished by 2015.
Activities and Events

4th International Meeting Against Child Labour in Mexico: March 2013

The 4th International Meeting Against Child Labour was held recently on 21st March 2013 in Mexico. Organised by Fundación Telefónica in collaboration with ILO, UNESCO - Santiago de Chile Office, and the Government of the State of Mexico, the purpose of the 4th Meeting was to contribute to the Third Global Conference on Child Labour “Strategies to Accelerate the Pace of Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour” that will be held during the month of October 2013 in Brazil. Global March was represented by its Chairperson, Kailash Satyarthi who was also a keynote speaker on the theme of ‘Human Rights and Child Labour’, and a series of media and PR activities were organised around it, including a TEDTalk.

South Asia Regional Consultation, Kathmandu, May 1-3, 2013

A South Asia regional consultation was held on May 1-3, 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal by CRIN. On the side of this consultation, a rigorous workshop was undertaken of the Global March members in the region. This workshop contributed in invigorating the movement against child labour and child exploitation in the region. Over the 3 days, partners from the region along with Global March International Secretariat through discussions identified strengths, gaps and opportunities across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan for tackling child labour. Based on an analysis of these, collective priorities and strategies were chalked out which further supporting in developing country and regional action plans. Action plans for the short-term, medium-term and long-term were developed.

III Global Conference on Child Labour, Brasilia-October 8-10, 2013

The III Global Conference on Child Labour was held in Brasilia from October 8 to 10 2013 with the objective of taking stock of all the actions taken in the fight against child labour and to exchange and share experiences of good practices and interventions across all countries and regions to accelerate progress in ending child labour.
event witnessed the participation of 1300 participants from over 150 countries from various governments, employers’ organisations, workers’ organisations, regional/international organisations and civil society organizations along with prominent dignitaries like Guy Ryder, Director General of International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Dilma Rousseff, President of Federative Republic of Brazil amongst others.

The host government had invited Mr Satyarthi, Chairperson of Global March to represent the civil society fraternity at the opening and closing sessions of the conference. Mr Satyarthi called for an active co-ordination between inter-governmental agencies for the mobilisation of political will and resources in fighting the scourge of child labour.

In the preparation for the III GCCL, the International Secretariat of Global March played an important role in facilitating the Child Labour Dialogues online which entailed discussions on pertinent themes like social protection, education and training, national legislation and enforcement and labour market policy with a varied range of stakeholders from across the world. Three rooms – social protection, education and labour market were co-facilitated and moderated by the Global March staff, who were also invited to the III GCCL.

Global March with ILO, Telefonica Foundation, Government of Brazil launched the Virtual March “For a free world form child labour”, an application that allowed Facebook users to protest against child labour. The initiative introduced several innovations of communication, increasing awareness and mobilisation to encourage global participation towards child labour elimination. President Dilma Rouseff of Brazil was the first to lend her Facebook ‘avatar’ to the Virtual March. The campaign mobilised 11,328 people through its facebook Page

Advocacy meetings were also organised with the national delegations of several countries towards the key campaigns of the Global March focusing on child slavery and trafficking, child labour in agriculture, child domestic labour, child labour in supply chains and promoting multi stakeholder dialogue for enhancing interventions against child labour. Global March strongly upheld its stand that the issue of child labour cannot be looked in isolation and should be viewed with the lens of overarching cross cutting issues like denial of
fundamental and universal rights like right to education and decent working conditions for the adults.

Global March’s key constituent International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Education International were integral part of the drafting committee for the Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour. Global March liaised with the drafting committee for shaping the final declaration to echo the voice and demands of its members and partners at the grassroots. Most of the key concerns of Global March were included in the outcome document.

**Follow-up of the Brasilia Declaration**

The Chairperson of Global March in the follow up of Brasilia Declaration that was adopted at the end of III GCCL recently undertook a visit to Brazil for further streamlining worldwide action against child labour in conjunction with the Host Government. The Chair of Global March met key stakeholders including Minister of Social Development & Hunger Alleviation of Brazil, Ms. Tereza Campello; Special Advisor to President Dilma Rousseff, and former President Lula for intensifying action to prioritise child labour elimination in the regional, national and international agendas. Kailash Satyarthi also met the trade unions, civil society organisations and ILO officers in Brasilia for securing their re-energised commitment in the collective fight to eliminate child labour so that all stakeholders could surge ahead on the path chalked out in the Brasilia Declaration.

**IBSA Forum**

IBSA (India – Brazil – South Africa) is one of the most powerful regional platforms on developmental issues that has significant bearing on the G-20 agenda. The Government of Brazil is also looking at institutionalising dialogue and cooperation between IBSA (India- Brazil- South Africa) countries on child labour. Global March is already in advanced dialogue with Governments of South Africa and India on this subject. However in view of the upcoming elections in both the countries the IBSA workshop against child labour has been delayed and is expected to be held in second half of 2014.
Central America: Global March’s partner organisation in Costa Rica, Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional (DNI) prepared a document on the situation of child labour in Central America and elaborated on proposals that were mobilised during the preparatory process for the III GCCL. DNI also circulated the Brasilia Declaration Conference to its constituents and prepared associated press releases.

South America: Regional Coordinator of the Global March in South America, “Centro de Estudios Sociales y Publicaciones” (CESIP) in Lima (Peru), has been very active in the fight against child labour throughout 2013. Particularly significant has been the organisation of National Meeting of Children and Adolescents commemorating the 24th Anniversary of United Nations on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. The activity jointly organised by the Municipality of La Victoria, the CESIP and other organisations facilitated the participants to identify common goals to focus upon. These goals stem from the proposed new Code of Children and Adolescents in protection of the rights of children and adolescents particularly their freedom from exploitation like child labour and slavery. This also led to the adoption of the Lima Declaration.

In yet other congregation, a forum “Progress against Child Labour” was convened in Peru in November 2013. This was organised by the Congress of the Republic, the National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor (CPETI), the Municipality of Carabayllo and CESIP with the support of Terre des Hommes Netherlands, to assess the progress in the fight against child labour and exploitation in the district of Carabayllo. CESIP commemorated World Day against Child Labour carrying out various actions, at national, regional and local level in conjunction with allied public and private institutions. The activities were especially designed to draw the attention on the serious situation in which child labourers are engaged in hazardous work and activities, raising a loud voice against Child Domestic Labour.

Africa: Togo: As part of the continuation of activities to raise public awareness on the protection of children against trafficking, the Study Committee on Child Domestic Labour and Global March’s partner organisation, WAO-Afrique in collaboration with the Union des Syndicats des Conducteurs Routiers du Togo (USYCORT) launched three traffic stations in Lomé Agbalédédogan, Kodomé and Akodesewa. On the 30 August 2013 WAO-Afrique launched the report ‘Violation of Rights of the Child: harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion and superstition. This report takes into account the concerns of NGOs fighting for the protection of children across different countries.

South East Asia: Indonesia: In its efforts to ratify Convention 189 by Indonesia, JARAK, Global March’s partner organisation in Indonesia commemorated last year’s World Day Against Child Labour, the theme of which was “No to child labour in domestic work” with ILO Jakarta and JALA-PRT (National Network of the Protection of Domestic Workers) by running a public awareness raising campaign attended by Vice Director of ILO, General Director of PNKPA-Ministry of Labour and Transmigration (The Monitoring Division of Women and Children Working Norm), Deputy Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Trade Union Confederation, members of JARAK network, child domestic labourers and street children.

South Asia: Pakistan: In the wake of rising number of cases of abuse of children in domestic work, Grassroot Organisation for Human Development (GODH), one of the partner organisations of Global March in Pakistan organised a 1-day awareness conference on the issue of child domestic labour. A significant progress towards the cause of child rights in Pakistan has been the formation of the Child Rights Movement (CRM), a network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) striving to create an enabling environment for the protection and promotion of child rights in Pakistan through collective advocacy. GODH at present is hosting the Child Rights Movement’s Secretariat for the Punjab province.
Global March understands that capacity building is the key to maximising the potential of any organisation. It not only helps in enhancing the effectiveness of individuals and teams but also furthers the organisation's goal of achieving its full potential.

In August 2013, Global March conducted a Development Workshop for its employees facilitated by life coach Nina Leutz with the objectives of:

- Develop better understanding of staff development priorities
- Identify strengths and areas of improvement of team members
- Align staff needs with the overall goals of the organisation
- Facilitate better working relationships amongst team members

The workshop consisted of individual and group sessions through both telephonic and face-to-face discussions spread over a period of one month. An interesting highlight of the workshop was the ‘Feed-forward’ mechanism through which the life coach collected team members' perceptions about each other before the workshop began. The exercise resulted in the team members in identifying not just areas of self-improvement but also focus on professional development needs in order to enable effective and optimum productivity in their respective roles.

Following the end of the DFID RAGS Challenge Fund support Not Made by Children project and the departure of Abha Khanna, Rohit Sharma, Project Coordinator was re-assigned as the Campaigns and Communication Coordinator. The campaigns and communications team was additionally supported by Sreejita Basu, as the Communication and Operations Officer. Purva Gupta, Project Officer of the IPEC supported global advocacy campaign on child domestic labour was given the additional responsibility as the Policy Advocacy Officer.

The Global March also receives interns and volunteers every year from both India and overseas. The internship is open to both experienced professionals and exceptional post-graduate students exposing them to the workings of policy advocacy and direct action at the grassroots level. This year, Global March had two interns, Ms. Fatima Husain from Bain & Company, New York and Ms. Jana Nikolin from London School of Economics (LSE).

Application to UN ECOSOC for NGO Consultative Status

In order to further its goal of elimination of child labour and promoting education for all, Global March Against Child Labour submitted an application for a consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) for an NGO Consultative Status. The application status is still pending at the ECOSOC.
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