Terre des Hommes and Kindernothilfe welcome the participation of working children at the ILO World Conference 2022

**Durban, 19 May 2022** - Last Sunday, the Fifth World Conference on Child Labour officially opened in Durban, South Africa, organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the South African Government. For the first time, the programme included a children's forum allowing working children to discuss their views and recommendations with decision-makers.

As part of the Dialogue Works campaign, Kindernothilfe and Terre des Hommes have been working together to ensure that the rights of working children to participate in political dialogues are realised.

"We have been in dialogue with the ILO for years about the need not only to talk about working children but to give them a voice at events like this conference. We are all the more pleased that for the first time, five children from our children's committees in Zambia, Kenya and Guatemala are now taking part in the discussion in Durban. It was time that those who have the most to say as working children finally have their say. They will speak from their own experiences and bring a sense of their reality and a differentiated view of their work into politics," says Antje Ruhmann, children's rights officer at Terre des Hommes and co-coordinator of the campaign.

For many working children, it is particularly important to distinguish between exploitation and child labour. On one hand, light activities often make it possible to cover the costs of schooling. While on the other hand, there is agreement that any form of exploitation must be ended as soon as possible, as it harms the development of children and prevents them from attending school.

The conference is addressing important topics on the agenda such as education, social security, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and child labour in supply chains.

"The Children's Forum is an important first step towards translating these topics into practical policy measures from the children's point of view. With a view of the future, we consider a permanent and institutionally anchored participation of children to be indispensable to achieve more impact in the long term," says Lea Kulakow, Advocacy Officer of Kindernothilfe and co-coordinator of Dialogue Works.

Today at the Children's Forum, a young advocate from Zambia will campaign for the wishes of working children - "Children have the same dreams, but not the same conditions to realize them," explains Lupupa. "We need more opportunities to participate in political events."

Follow the Forum via livestream from 2 PM- 4 PM CET.

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About Dialogue Works (2020-2024)

Dialogue Works is a campaign by Kindernothilfe and Terre des Hommes which supports working children from 15 countries to participate in policy dialogues from local to global levels. In the previous project Time to Talk!, almost 2,000 working children from 36 countries were asked about their views on their work. This formed the basis for the subsequent policy dialogues. This work is financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Link to the conference website: https://www.5thchildlabourconf.org/en

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