



ICLS/20/2018/Resolution IV

20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians
Geneva, 10-19 October 2018

Resolution: **IV**

**Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS
Resolution concerning statistics
of child labour**

Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of child labour

The 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office and having met from 10 to 19 October 2018, Taking into consideration the relevant parts of the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2013,

Recognizing the need to harmonize the international statistical standards for the identification and classification of children in productive activities and child labour adopted by the 18th ICLS with those on work and employment adopted by the 19th ICLS,

Adopts this 19th day of October 2018 the following amendments to the Resolution concerning statistics of child labour, adopted by the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008.

Objectives and scope

1. This resolution aims to set standards for the collection, compilation and analysis of national child labour statistics, to guide countries in updating their existing statistical system in this field, or to establish such a system. The standards should also help to facilitate the international comparability of child labour statistics by minimizing methodological differences across countries.
2. Countries should, depending on national circumstances, develop an adequate system of child labour statistics as an integral part of their statistical programmes.
3. The principal objective of child labour statistics is to provide reliable, comprehensive and timely data to serve as a basis for determining priorities for national action for the elimination of child labour, in particular its worst forms. Statistical information on child labour should also serve as a basis for increasing public awareness of the problem, and supporting the development of regulatory frameworks, policies, and programmes on child labour.
4. To fulfil the above objectives, child labour statistics should, in principle, cover all work activities in which children are engaged, distinguishing among those activities that are permissible and those that fall within the different categories of child labour. Child labour statistics should be developed to the fullest extent possible in harmony with other economic and social statistics.

Concepts and definitions

5. National concepts and definitions of child labour for statistical measurement should take due account of country needs and circumstances. National legislation, where available, and guidelines provided by international labour standards, international statistical standards and other international instruments should be used as the starting point for developing statistical concepts and definitions of child labour. This approach would make the resulting

statistical concepts and definitions as close as possible to, and as coherent as possible with, national legislation and international labour standards.

6. International labour standards on child labour allow for exceptions to general prohibitions and provide flexibility for countries in their application. There can therefore be no uniform legal definition of child labour for universal application. Given that national statistical offices are encouraged to align statistical concepts and definitions related to child labour as closely as possible with the prevailing national laws and regulations, the data collected should be comprehensive and their compilation sufficiently detailed, to facilitate international comparability based on the concepts and definitions provided in this resolution.
7. The statistical measurement framework for child labour is structured around two main elements, namely: (i) the *age* of the child; and (ii) the *work activities* by the child including their nature and the conditions under which these are performed, and the duration of engagement by the child in such activities. For statistical purposes, each of these elements should be defined in a broad sense, so that the framework can be used to measure different subsets for different purposes.

Age of a child

8. In accordance with the ILO's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child should be defined as an individual under the age of 18 years.
9. The target population for measuring child labour for the purpose of the present resolution comprises all persons in the age group from 5 to 17 years, where age is measured as the number of completed years at the child's last birthday.
10. National statistical offices may, however, in consultation with the responsible government offices for education, protection and welfare of children and adolescents, set the lower age threshold below 5 years if that is considered useful in the light of national circumstances. The lower age threshold should never be higher than the official age for entry into compulsory schooling.

Working children

11. The broadest concept relating to the measurement of child labour is *working children*, that is, children engaged in any activity falling within the general production boundary as defined in the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) (henceforth, referred to in this resolution as the "general production boundary"). This comprises *all children below 18 years of age engaged in any activity to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use*.
12. Different forms of work by children are distinguished as follows:
 - a) *Own-use production work by children*, comprising production of goods and services for own final use;
 - b) *Employment work by children*, comprising work performed for others in exchange for pay or profit;
 - c) *Unpaid trainee work by children*, comprising work performed for others without pay to acquire workplace experience or skills;
 - d) *Volunteer work by children*, comprising non-compulsory work performed for others without pay;

- e) *Other work activities by children*, not presently defined but including activities such as unpaid community services and unpaid work by prisoners, when ordered by a court or similar authority.
13. Own-use production of goods, employment, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work in market and non-market units (i.e. government and non-profit institutions serving households) and volunteer work in households producing goods are forms of work within the SNA production boundary. Own-use provision of services and volunteer work in households producing services are forms of work outside the SNA production boundary but within the general production boundary. The various forms of work by children should be measured with respect to a specified reference period. A child is considered to have engaged in a given form of work when performing such form of work for at least one hour during the relevant, specified reference period.

Child labour

14. The term *child labour* reflects the engagement of children in prohibited work and, more generally, in types of work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable as guided by national legislation, the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), as well as their respective supplementing Recommendations (Nos 146 and 190). Child labour may be measured in terms of the engagement of children in work activities either on the basis of the general production boundary, or on the basis of the SNA production boundary, in line with the concepts and definitions specified in the 19th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, 2013. The underlying measurement framework should be clearly specified.
15. For the purpose of statistical measurement, children engaged in child labour include all persons aged 5 to 17 years who, during a specified time period, were engaged in one or more of the following categories of activities:
- (a) *worst forms of child labour*, as described in paragraphs 17–30;
 - (b) *work within the SNA production boundary performed by children below the minimum age*, as described in amended paragraph 32 and paragraphs 33 to 35; and
 - (c) *hazardous unpaid household services*, as described in amended paragraphs 36 and 37.

A schematic presentation of the statistical identification procedure for child labour is provided in the Annex.

16. When child labour is measured on the basis of the general production boundary, a child may be considered to be in child labour when the total number of hours worked in SNA and non-SNA production exceeds the thresholds that may be set for national statistical purposes. In order to facilitate comparison of child labour data across countries, when the general production boundary is applied for child labour measurement purposes, the estimates of child labour in terms of the SNA production boundary should also be provided.

Worst forms of child labour

17. According to Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182, the worst forms of child labour comprise:

- (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, as well as forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
 - (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
 - (c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in relevant international treaties; and
 - (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.
18. Based on national circumstances, countries may also wish to collect data on activities by children which are outside the general production boundary, such as begging and stealing, and which may need to be considered in the context of the worst forms of child labour.

Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work

19. Activities covered under subparagraphs 17(a)–17(c) are referred to as the “worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work”, and often also termed “unconditional worst forms of child labour”. Standardized statistical concepts and definitions for these forms of child labour are not fully developed. Statistical measurement methods are at an experimental stage. Guidelines for the measurement of forced labour, including forced labour of children adopted by the 20th ICLS, constitute one important area of progress in this regard.

Hazardous work by children

20. Activities under subparagraph 17(d) are referred to as “hazardous work”. According to ILO Recommendation No. 190, the following criteria should be taken into account when determining hazardous work conditions of children at the national level:
- (a) work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
 - (b) work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
 - (c) work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
 - (d) work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
 - (e) work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.
21. For the purpose of the present resolution, hazardous work by children is statistically defined in terms of the engagement of children in activities of a hazardous nature (designated hazardous industries and occupations) as reflected in subparagraphs 20(a)–20(d), or as work under hazardous conditions, for example, long hours of work in tasks and duties which by themselves may or may not be of a hazardous nature for children (hazardous work conditions) as reflected in subparagraph 20(e).
22. The criteria in paragraph 20 above can be used as a base for constructing statistical variables for the measurement of hazardous work by children. Each criterion provides information

that will inform the design of survey questions and response categories to be administered in child labour surveys.

23. For hazardous work reflected by subparagraphs 20(a)–20(d), such hazardous work by children may be directly identified by existing survey questions on industry and occupation, and their classification according to paragraphs 25–27 below; for others new questions would have to be designed.
24. Under hazardous work conditions described in subparagraph 20(e), long hours and night work are conditions subject to objective measurement, while other work conditions can be measured approximately by including relevant questions in child labour surveys. Hazardous work in terms of work for long hours and night work may be defined for statistical purposes as described in paragraphs 28–30 below.

Designated hazardous occupations and industries for children

25. Hazardous occupations for children shall be designated on the basis of national laws or regulations, where they exist. In addition to the list of occupations prohibited by legislation, designated hazardous occupations for children may be identified on the basis of recommendations from competent consultative bodies, or detailed analysis of the hazard content of occupations, for example, by examining the rate of occupational injuries and diseases among children below 18 years of age or by conducting specially designed surveys on the hazard content of occupations of children.
26. Designated hazardous occupations for children should be defined in a manner consistent with the national standard classification of occupations, where such a classification exists and, to the extent possible, with the latest version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations. To facilitate the identification of children engaged in designated hazardous occupations for children, occupational data should be coded to the most detailed level of the national occupational classification supported by the data.
27. Some forms of hazardous work for children may be measured in terms of designated hazardous industries for children in countries that have prohibited the engagement of children in specific designated industries, for example, construction, and mining and quarrying. Efforts should be made to gather as much information as possible on the actual tasks performed by the child in order to determine whether or not the work is hazardous.

Long hours of work and night work

28. A child is considered to be working *long hours of work* if the number of hours actually worked at all jobs and work activities within the SNA production boundary during the reference period is above a specified threshold. The threshold may be determined in terms of the maximum number of hours of work that the national law or regulation sets for children who have reached the minimum working age. In the absence of such a specific limit for children, the threshold may be decided taking account of the regulation on the adult workers' normal working time. Hours actually worked should be defined in accordance with the latest international standards on the topic.
29. *Long hours of work* may also be defined in terms of usual hours of work per week. The use of this concept would include in child labour, any children who usually work long hours but during the reference period were temporarily absent from work owing to illness, holidays or, for other reasons, worked fewer hours than usual.
30. A child is considered to be *working at night* if the work schedule includes hours of work defined as night work prohibited for children under national legislation, where it exists. In the case of children, the period of time spent commuting between work and home should

be considered as part of the work schedule. Alternative statistical definitions of night work for children may be formulated on the basis of the ILO Night Work Convention No. 171 (1990), particularly Article 1(a) and (b). Where there is no legal prohibition of night work of children, national legislation and prevailing collective agreements, if any, on night work of adult workers could be used as the basis for determining night work of children.

Exceptions for children aged 16 to 17 years

31. According to Article 3(3) of ILO Convention No. 138, countries may exceptionally authorize employment or work in what may be designated as hazardous work, as from the age of 16 years, on condition that the health, safety and morals of the young persons concerned are fully protected and that the young persons have received adequate specific instruction or vocational training in the relevant branch of activity.

Work within SNA production boundary below the minimum age

32. The concept of work within the SNA production boundary below the minimum age refers to any work that contributes to the production of goods or services within the SNA production boundary as specified in the latest version of the SNA, and is carried out by a child who is below the *minimum age* specified for the kind of work performed. Article 2 of ILO Convention No. 138 stipulates that the minimum age for admission to employment or work should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, not less than 15 years, or a lower minimum age for light work activities as specified under Article 7 of ILO Convention No. 138. Countries where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed are allowed, after consultation with organizations of employers and workers concerned, where such exist, to initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. Children in the age group 15 (or the national minimum age for employment, if different) to 17 years are, in principle, allowed to work, unless they are in “any type of work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons” (Article 3(1) of ILO Convention No. 138), or are engaged in one of the activities prohibited for children by ILO Convention No. 182 as cited in paragraph 17 above.
33. Where children in particular age groups are permitted to engage in “light work” under national legislation in accordance with Article 7 of ILO Convention No. 138, such work should be excluded from the definition of child labour. According to Article 7 of ILO Convention No. 138, national laws or regulations may permit the work of persons as from 13 years of age (or 12 years in countries that have specified the general minimum working age of 14 years) in *light work* which is: (a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and (b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority, or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received. While a restriction on weekly hours of work is required for this age group, the determination of the maximum number of hours is left to the competent national authorities.
34. In determining the hours threshold for *permissible light work*, national statistical offices should take into consideration the stipulations set forth in national legislation or, in their absence, use a cut-off point of 14 hours during the reference week, below which work can be considered permissible light work.
35. In addition to the hours threshold, the definition of *permissible light work* may involve other criteria in line with the conditions for light work set under national laws or regulations. It may, for instance, limit its scope to the industries or occupations in which light work is permitted. In any case, permissible light work should exclude all activities considered to be hazardous work for children.

Hazardous unpaid household services by children

36. The concept of *unpaid household services* is applicable where the general production boundary is used as the framework for measuring child labour. It encompasses own-use production of services, or equivalently, production of domestic and personal services within the general production boundary by a household member for consumption within their own household, commonly called “household chores”, as well as volunteer work in households producing services for others.
37. *Hazardous unpaid household services* by children are those performed in the child’s own household under conditions corresponding to those defined in paragraph 20 above, that is, unpaid household services performed (a) for long hours, (b) in an unhealthy environment, involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads, (c) in dangerous locations, and so on. The definition of long hours in unpaid household services of children, relative to their age, may differ from the one applied in respect to work within the SNA production boundary. The effect on a child’s education should also be considered when determining what constitutes long hours.

Data collection

Data collection methods

38. Child labour data collection methods can be quantitative, qualitative or a combination of both. The choice of which method(s) to apply will depend on the objectives of the inquiry, the type and level of child labour to be investigated, the levels of accuracy and reporting details required, and the availability of time, technical and financial resources. The kind of information to be gathered (quantitative data for estimating the prevalence of child labour and its distribution by relevant characteristics, or qualitative information for understanding the nature, causes and consequences of child labour) should also be taken into consideration. Where the target population of children is sufficiently large, and the social context does not constrain reporting on children in work activities, the principal methods for collecting reliable statistics on child labour are household-based surveys and establishment-based surveys. Baseline surveys and rapid assessment studies also provide useful quantitative and qualitative information on child labour.

Household and establishment surveys

39. With the exception of special categories of child labour (such as children who live on the street, or those in the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work), *household-based surveys* provide an effective tool for collecting a wide range of statistics on child labour and estimating its prevalence. A household-based national child labour survey may be designed either in a stand-alone way or as a module attached to another household-based survey. With regard to the latter, a labour force survey should be preferred, since similar concepts are applied and similar topics covered. The advantage of a household-based child labour survey is that the household is the most appropriate unit for identifying children and their families, measuring their socio-economic and demographic characteristics and housing conditions, obtaining information on the child’s educational and work status, including engagement in hazardous work, and assessing the determinants and consequences of children’s work. Time use surveys may also be appropriate for child labour measurement, particularly where child labour is measured in the different forms of work.
40. Two important issues in household-based surveys on child labour are the objective of the survey and the choice of respondents for interview. Child labour surveys may have either, or

both, of the following two objectives: (i) measurement of the prevalence of child labour, and of variations in this prevalence by geographical location, household type and characteristics, children's school attendance status, gender, age group, and similar factors; and (ii) investigation of the circumstances, characteristics and consequences of child labour, such as the types of children engaged in work-related activities, the types of work children do, conditions at work, and the impact of work on children's education, health, and so on. To measure the prevalence of child labour, the appropriate survey structure is a child labour survey, which normally requires a simple and short questionnaire with a sample drawn from the general population. To provide measures relevant to the circumstances, characteristics and consequences of child labour, the preferred survey structure involves more intensive data collection using a sample selected mainly from the population of children in employment. Where both objectives are targeted, the two survey structures should be linked. With regard to respondents, the general practice is to address survey questions to the most knowledgeable adult member of the household (or sometimes the head of household, who is often also the parent or guardian of the working child). However, sections of the questionnaire may be addressed to the children themselves, particularly on hazards at the workplace, and the main underlying reason for working.

41. *Establishment surveys* administered at the children's workplaces (which may include home-based production units) seek to obtain data on the particulars of the production unit and the characteristics of its workforce, with a special focus on children in employment. Information is sought on children's wages, hours of work, other working conditions and employment benefits, and injuries and illnesses at work, as compared with those of adult workers. The perceptions of the employer regarding motives for hiring children, and the methods of recruitment, may also be explored.
42. In countries where child labour is a rare phenomenon or societal perceptions make it difficult to obtain reliable data, specific measurement tools are needed to identify areas and groups of children at risk. Household-based surveys that rely on the general population and establishment-based surveys may not be adequate tools in this regard. In these cases, a mix of methods and different data sources may need to be taken into consideration in order to obtain indirect estimates. This includes retrospective surveys on child labour.

Baseline survey

43. Another important data collection vehicle for child labour statistics is the *baseline survey or study* which aims to identify the characteristics and consequences of child labour in specific industries and/or areas at different points in time. It is usually linked to intervention programmes to combat child labour, and assists in the identification of project beneficiaries and in monitoring their withdrawal from work over time. A baseline survey/study generates both quantitative and qualitative data, applying a mix of sample survey and participatory approaches. If a suitable sample frame can be developed, the findings may be extrapolated to the whole industry and/or area surveyed.

Rapid assessment

44. For collecting information on children in hidden forms of child labour, *rapid assessment studies* are useful. Their output is mainly qualitative and descriptive and limited to a small geographical area. The method is not applicable if the aim is to estimate the number of children in employment. Nonetheless, it can provide relevant data on the causes, consequences and characteristics of the form of child labour being investigated, relatively quickly and inexpensively for many uses, for example, awareness creation and project formulation. Its participatory approach, based on observations, discussions and interviews with a variety of key respondents, is ideal for obtaining detailed knowledge of the working

and living conditions of children involved in activities or occupations that are otherwise difficult to identify and characterize. Rapid assessments are therefore more relevant to research institutes and organizations, and for supplementing surveys carried out by national statistical offices.

45. A special rapid assessment form relevant to child labour is a *street children survey*. Street children fall mainly into two categories, namely: (a) those who live and work on the streets and by definition do not have any other place of residence; and (b) those who work on the streets but normally reside with their parents or guardians. Statistics on the activities of the second category may be collected through a household-based survey. Different survey methods are required for the first category, for which a commonly applied approach is a street children survey in which a sample of purposively selected street children and, if possible, their employers and/or clients are interviewed.

Supplementary data sources

46. A complementary approach includes the review of data relevant to child labour contained in existing censuses and socio-economic surveys. Data analysis based on these sources is an option for countries wishing to compile basic data on children in work activities at periodic intervals in situations where human and financial resources do not permit specific or modular child labour surveys to be conducted. An additional approach may involve the modification of existing data collection tools, for example, lowering the age threshold for collecting information on employment.
47. School attendance rates reflect the engagement of children in what should be their main activity. Absence from school does not necessarily imply that a child is working and children who attend school may also be engaged in child labour. Nevertheless, where there are no adequate child labour data collection systems, data on children out of school can provide useful information on children who may be engaged in child labour.
48. In accordance with ILO Recommendation No. 190 (Paragraph 5(3)), relevant data concerning violations of national provisions for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour should be compiled and kept up to date. In this regard, administrative records on: violations of child labour legislation in the form of cases brought to court and other relevant official authorities, and convictions thereof; criminal prosecution of child traffickers and those engaged in the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and child rights abuses leading to revelations of forced or bonded child labour, may serve as useful sources of information that should be compiled to supplement national child labour statistics. Labour inspection reports might also provide useful supplementary information, to the extent that they provide information on under-age workers and hazardous working conditions. In addition, administrative records about recipient households in income transfer and other social welfare programmes may contain important data on child labour.

Ethical considerations

49. Respecting ethical standards during the data collection process is essential in child labour surveys. According to Paragraph 6 of ILO Recommendation No. 190, compilation and processing of information and data on child labour should be carried out with due regard for the right to privacy. National statistical authorities wishing to measure child labour should establish a set of ethical guidelines for child labour data collection, keeping in mind Article 2, paragraph 2, and Article 13, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a minimum requirement, care should be taken to ensure that the children in employment, especially those who are respondents, are not harmed as a consequence of the survey. Also, as for all statistical surveys, the respondent should be assured that the

confidentiality of the information provided will be respected, as well as his or her anonymity.

50. It should be ensured that survey participation by child respondents is voluntary and that enumerators do not face any risks during data collection. The field enumerators should in turn respect the cultural traditions, knowledge and customs of the respondents. In addition, when interviewing children, enumerators should be sensitive to children's ways of behaving and thinking and avoid raising unrealistic expectations. Child labour data collection should be undertaken by persons specially trained for the type of survey being conducted.

Items of data collection

51. According to ILO Recommendation No. 190 (Paragraph 5(1)), detailed information and statistical data on the nature and extent of child labour should be compiled and kept up to date to serve as a basis for determining priorities for national action for the abolition of child labour, in particular for the prohibition and elimination of its worst forms as a matter of urgency. Moreover, according to Paragraph 5(2), as far as possible, such information and statistical data should include data disaggregated by sex, age group, occupation, branch of economic activity, status in employment, school attendance and geographical location.
52. Important items of data collection for the purposes of an informed statistics-based analysis of child labour include: (i) age and sex; (ii) geographical distribution by major administrative divisions; (iii) school attendance status; (iv) engagement in unpaid household services; (v) time spent in activities falling within the SNA production boundary; (vi) location of workplace; (vii) kind of economic activity (industry); (viii) occupation; (ix) working conditions including impact on children's health and education; and (x) socio-economic characteristics of the child's household.
53. Statistics on working children should distinguish between the categories of children in economic production, children engaged in unpaid household services, and children in other work activities. Children who fall into two or more categories should be classified by each activity of their engagement. National statistical systems are also encouraged to develop methodologies for measuring child labour with respect to each form of work, distinguishing at least between child labour in employment, child labour in own-use production of goods, and, where applicable, child labour in own-use provision of services; and classifying by form of work the overall child labour measured with respect to the SNA production boundary or the general production boundary.
54. Children who are not engaged in any market-oriented productive activity but who are actively or passively seeking such work are potentially exposed to the risk of falling into the category of child labour. Children neither in school nor in employment, referred to in some countries as "idle children", may also be at risk of falling into child labour. National statistical systems are encouraged to collect data on these children.
55. Child activity surveys have shown that unpaid household services may absorb a considerable amount of children's time. Countries are therefore encouraged to gather data on unpaid household services by children, in terms of the time spent in such activities and the major tasks performed. Such statistics should be collected irrespective of whether or not the general production boundary is applied in terms of child labour concepts and definitions.
56. For a comprehensive analysis of the national child labour situation, statistics on children's activities should be collected so as to facilitate classification of children by: (a) attending school; and (b) not attending school groups. Each group may be further subdivided into those engaged in: (i) only activities included in the SNA production boundary; (ii) only unpaid household services; (iii) both activities included in the SNA production boundary and unpaid household services; and (iv) neither activities included in the SNA production boundary nor unpaid household services.

57. It would be useful for national policy-makers and other users to have the necessary child labour statistics in sufficient detail to allow data to be classified by urban/rural residency and, if possible, by the lower level administrative units of the country at which policy and programme interventions can be effective.
58. Child labour data collection in sufficient detail at regular intervals (as determined in the light of national data needs and resource availabilities) helps in monitoring child labour trends, and should also facilitate assessment of the effectiveness of policies and programmes implemented to combat child labour. Sustainability of child labour data collection may be achieved most easily by identifying a few key child labour variables on which data are collected with assured regularity in an appropriate national household-based survey, preferably a labour force survey.

Global estimation

59. The progressive abolition of child labour has become a major concern of the international community in its own right and as a core element of the Decent Work Agenda. The achievement of that goal should be measured not only at the national level, but also at regional and global levels. Based on its past experience in global estimation of child labour and on the present international standards, the ILO should develop a standard methodology for estimating child labour at the international level and communicate the methodology as well as respective data needs to governments and national statistical offices.
60. In line with Paragraph 7 of ILO Recommendation No. 190, which stipulates that collected data should be communicated to the International Labour Office on a regular basis, governments and national statistical offices should, in turn, collaborate with the efforts for global estimation of child labour in the world, and its major regions. The collection of national data should be sufficiently disaggregated by age, sex, activity, industry, occupation and other important characteristics in order to allow compilation of statistics for the purposes of global reporting.

Further action

ILO manuals and questionnaires

61. To assist member countries in the task of collecting and analysing statistics on the various aspects of working children and child labour, the ILO should update its manuals and model questionnaires on child labour statistics when necessary and possible, and develop new reporting templates and mechanisms to facilitate the analysis and reporting of child labour survey results. The ILO should also develop appropriate guidelines for the measurement of child labour and, in particular, hazardous work of children by form of work.

Conceptual and methodological development

62. The ILO and its partners should engage in the development of appropriate statistical methodologies for generating reliable estimates of children in the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work, and special groups such as children living independently or on the streets.
63. The ILO should: (i) give particular attention to the development of concepts and definitions for the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work as described in paragraphs 17(a)–17(c) of this resolution; and (ii) develop guidelines on the treatment of long hours by children in unpaid household services with respect to age and hours thresholds as referred to in paragraphs 16 and 37.

ILO technical assistance

64. The ILO should expand its technical assistance programme on child labour statistics to support implementation of this resolution by member countries. Such technical assistance should include provision for technical advice and training targeted to enhance national capacities where required, and financial support to countries for child labour data collection and analysis, to the extent possible.

Annex

Framework for statistical identification of child labour

Age group	General production boundary					
	SNA production				Non-SNA production	
	(1a) Light work in SNA production ¹	(1b) Regular work in SNA production ¹	Worst forms of child labour		(3a) Hazardous unpaid household services ²	(3b) Other work in non-SNA production
(2a) Hazardous work in SNA production ¹			(2b) Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work			
Children below the minimum age specified for light work (for example, 5-11 years) ³	Work in SNA production below the minimum age for light work	Work in SNA production below the general minimum working age	Work in industries and occupations designated as hazardous, or work for long hours ⁴ and/or at night in industries and occupations not designated as hazardous	Children trafficked for work; forced and bonded child labour; commercial sexual exploitation of children; use of children for illicit activities and armed conflict	Own-use production of services or volunteer work in household producing services for long hours ⁵ ; involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads; in dangerous locations; etc.	
Children within the age range specified for light work (for example, 12-14 years) ³						
Children at or above the general minimum working age (for example, 15-17 years) ³						


¹ Work within SNA production boundary includes employment work, own-use production of goods, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work in market and non-market units and volunteer work in household producing of goods, in line with 19th ICLS *Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization*, 2013.


² Category (3a) is applicable where the general production boundary is used as the measurement framework for child labour.

³ Age-group limits may differ across countries depending upon the national circumstances.

⁴ The threshold for long hours of work in SNA production should take into account the age of the child and the cumulative hours worked at employment and at other forms of work in SNA production.

⁵ The threshold for long hours of work at unpaid household services should take into account the age of the child and the cumulative hours worked at employment and at other forms of work in SNA and non-SNA production.

 Denotes child labour as defined by the amended resolution

 Denotes activities not considered child labour