



60th session of the Human Rights Council  
Item 3

*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including  
its causes and consequences*

*12 September 2025*

Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Benelux countries, aligned with the EU statement. We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report.

We are appalled by the fact that millions of children remain trapped in hazardous work, exploitation, and abuse, despite the global pledge to end child labour by 2025 under SDG 8.7. Children belong in schools and we must all uphold our commitment under SDG 4.1 to ensure free and quality education for every child.

The number of children recruited and used in armed conflict is unacceptable, and some are even recruited online, beyond conflict zones. States must criminalize these abuses, and treat affected children primarily as victims. Regulating the digital environment, used to recruit, traffic and exploit children, is also essential.

We urge States to implement all relevant human rights, humanitarian and labour standards, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the child and its Optional Protocols.

Protecting children from labour is not optional. It demands collective and urgent actions to bring it to an end now, not in 5 years.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

*What are the most immediate and impactful steps this Council should take to eliminate  
child labour ?*