



Organization's name: Action against Child Exploitation (ACE)

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Organization's

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We would like to thank you for providing us this opportunity to submit input to the Pact for the Future.

Action against Child Exploitation (ACE) is a non-governmental organization based in Tokyo, Japan, and is a board member of the Global March against Child Labour and the secretariat of the Stop Child Labour Network in Japan.

Our organization has been working for the elimination of child labour since 1997. It has conducted projects in the cocoa production areas in Ghana and the cotton production areas in India. When ending of all forms of child labour was included in SDG 8.7, we started tackling child labour in Japan, and broadly promoting children's rights as the secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Campaign in Japan.

Based on our experience, we propose two issues to be included in the Pact for the Future, focusing on child labour and children's rights.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

## ----- Input to the Pact for the Future -----

### **Chapeau**

Protecting children's rights, Eliminating child labour

### **Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development and/or**

### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

Child labour is a cause and a consequence of poverty, and it deprives children of their rights and their futures. Though SDG 8.7 aims to end all forms of child labour by 2025, 160 million were estimated to still be engaged in child labour as of 2020, so we have no time to lose to achieve the target.

An integrated area-based approach, guided by local needs and solutions built together through dialogue with grassroots stakeholders, including children, will lead to concrete change and sustainable development. This approach, which is included in the Durban Call to Action, the outcome document of the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, is effective, in particular, in agriculture-based rural areas, where child labour is prevalent. As successful examples of implementing this approach have been found in African countries, it is essential to scale-up and speed-up the process, as well as to increase financing for its implementation.

### **Chapter II. International peace and security**

The world is witnessing unprecedented humanitarian crises caused by conflicts between and within countries. In such conflicts, the weakest and most vulnerable, such as children and women, are most severely affected. Children are deprived of the right to life, health, education, play, and so on, and are exposed to the risks of child labour, including being employed as soldiers, human trafficking, and displacement. Trauma caused by conflict continues for a long time afterward.

It is necessary to devise preventive measures to keep children safe at all times and in all situations, and to make an immediate and decisive response to protect children who are affected by conflicts.