

ICOH-IEA-IOHA 300 Word Statement (Text is 293 words)

Agenda Item EB127/5 Child Injury Prevention

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB127/B127_5-en.pdf

22 May 2010 127th Meeting of World Health Assembly Executive Board

The International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), the International Ergonomics Association (IEA), and the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) strongly encourage placing an emphasis in the Child Injury Prevention Resolution on reducing the injuries and deaths occurring to the 215 million children under 18 years of age who are engaged in child labour worldwide, and especially to the staggering 115 million children subject to the worst forms, including slavery, sexual exploitation and illicit activities. 60% of child labourers work in agriculture in family settings, both in developing and highly developed nations.¹

As noted in the WHO 2008 World Report on Child Injury Prevention², globalization, poverty and economic pressures contribute to child labour. Many parents, health practitioners, employers, educators, and policy-makers do not realize that certain forms of work pose risks to children under the age of 18. Policies, enforcement of policies, and services geared to this age group are limited. A series of good practices in countries worldwide is published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)³. ICOH, IEA, and IOHA also provide guidance⁴. These include practices for specific types of workplaces, for schools, for educating parents, and for engaging the public health sector in addressing risks to working children.

We also note that World Health Assembly Resolutions A62.8 on Primary Health Care (2009)⁵ and 60.26 Global Plan of Action for Workers' Health (2007)⁶ call for integrating

¹ International Programme to Eliminate Child Labour (IPEC)/ILO Facts on Child Labour 2010
http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_126685.pdf

² WHO UNICEF 2008 World Report on Child Injury Prevention
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241563574_eng.pdf

³ Good Practices on Child Labour 2010 <http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=13359>
released at The Hague Global Child Labour Conference, 10-11 May 2010
<http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/GlobalChildLabourConference/lang--en/index.htm>

⁴ Ergonomics Guidelines for Occupational Health Practice in Industrially Developing Countries. ISBN 978-3-935089-16-3 International Ergonomics Association (<http://www.iea.cc>) and International Commission on Occupational Health (<http://www.icohweb.org>). International Occupational Hygiene Association (<http://www.ioha.net/>)

⁵ WHA Resolution A62/8 May 2009 Primary health care, including health system strengthening.
<http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/rdonlyres/A14645A1-BF7D-4EF6-A6B5-58D2D75A99DF/0/WHARes6212.pdf>

attention to child injuries, *including those due to hazards at work*, into primary health care. We encourage WHO to help countries with this implementation.

ICOH, IEA, and IOHA offer to assist WHO and ILO to develop guidance, and to share, implement and evaluate practices to reduce injuries for working children under the age of 18, while all countries also work to eliminate the worst forms of child labour⁷.

⁶ WHA Resolution 60/26 May 2007 Global Plan of Action for Workers' Health 2012-2018

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA60/A60_R26-en.pdf

⁷ Roadmap for achieving the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016. Adopted at The Hague Global Child Labour Conference on 11 May 2010. http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/lang-en/docName--WCMS_127018/index.htm