First Speaker: Charlotte Ponticelli, U.S. Department of Labor

- Child Labor is an important issue that receives inter-agency attention in the U.S. federal government. It must be looked at from several angles: human rights, governance, economic, etc.
- UAM’s are at high risk for labor exploitation. Orphans in particular, are at risk for ending up in domestic servitude with the assumption that compensation will be received.
- ILO has reported that labor exploitation is on the decline (11% since 2000 as well as 26% in children involved in hazardous labor.)
- The ILO Convention 182 focuses on hazardous work, child soldiers, drug couriers, sexual exploitation and some of the more egregious forms of child labor and exploitation.
- Child labor disrupts education and childhood, while child work does not. There is still much work to be done.
- Child labor is a crosscutting issue at DOL. Multiple offices address elements of the problem and several publications have been issued.
- Trade Development Act of 2000 – Mandates the documentation of child labor situations in 140 countries.
- Under TVPRA 2005 – a new mandate required to develop a list of goods made in countries using forced labor – so that companies have control of what is in their supply chain.
- “Ratification without implementation is meaningless.”
- In the last 7 to 8 years, 1 and a quarter million children have been rescued from child labor through educational provisions. Investing in children’s education gives a 7 to 1 benefit to cost ratio. Through diplomacy we need to work on capacity building – to convince others in the importance in investment in education as an investment in the workforce. No nation can afford to neglect the education of its children.

Overall points:
1) We need to use all of the tools in our toolkit.
2) Region cooperation is essential.
3) We need to raise awareness at the community level to change attitudes.
4) We need more supporting research and data and to share that data.
5) Capacity building is critical.
6) Microcredit programs and private partnerships are necessary.
Second Speaker: Hans-Petter Boe, International Organization for Migration

- South Africa has one of the largest populations of misplaced persons in the world. Ten percent of the population is part of the “second economy” living in less than permanent arrangements, while four million children are suffering from PTSD from having witnessed severe forms of violence.
- Data on child migration is scarce and difficult to collect.
- What is in the laws and agreements does not always get implemented.
- Children cannot be voluntarily trafficked – even if their parents give consent. The way a child is transferred or harbored can mean that they have been trafficked.
- Often unpaid debt binds a child to an exploitative labor situation.
- A South African study on trafficking discovered girls who escape from domestic servitude are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.
- IOM works with children deported from South Africa back to Zimbabwe at a Zimbabwe reception center across the South African border.
- Greater coordination among governments and large organizations would be helpful in areas such as capacity building.

Third Speaker: Armand Pereira, International Labor Organization

- It is suggested that a broader framework of education, labor administration, transitional programs, and community involvement is needed.
- It was also emphasized that looking at the ways laws are enforced might be more helpful then looking at the laws themselves.
- An amalgamation of several different types of initiatives was suggested as being essential. This was seen as needing to occur while the issue of the supply chain and the involvement of corporations are critical and emerging.
- The importance of focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable, while continuing to broaden our efforts, was noted.
- Is has been suggested that a “tripod” of policies including: Education, Labor Administration and Income Assistance be implemented with media, academia, and NGO’s playing an important role in this initiative.
- Determining what the proper diagnosis of the problem was stated as a critical necessity since often these issues are cyclical. In targeting the correct cause a full resolution may be found.