

Economic and Social Council

Topic B:

Implementing measures to mitigate the impact of AI and/or mechanization on employment



I. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and mechanization are rapidly transforming global labor markets, reshaping industries such as manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, and finance. While technological advancement has historically driven economic growth and productivity, the accelerated adoption of AI-driven systems and automation has raised serious concerns regarding job displacement, wage inequality, and workforce polarization. According to the International Labour Organization, millions of jobs worldwide are at risk of automation, particularly those involving routine and repetitive tasks.

(United Nations) (International Labour Organization)

Developed economies face challenges related to workforce reskilling and job transitions, while developing countries risk losing labor-intensive industries that have traditionally supported economic growth. If left unaddressed, the uneven impact of AI and mechanization may deepen socioeconomic inequalities both within and between nations. Therefore, international cooperation is essential to ensure that technological progress supports inclusive and sustainable development rather than undermining employment stability. (United Nations) (International Labour Organization)

II. Definition of Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Computer systems capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as decision-making, pattern recognition, and language processing.

Mechanization: The replacement of human labor with machines to perform physical or cognitive tasks more efficiently.

Automation: The use of technology to carry out processes with minimal or no human intervention.

Job displacement: The loss of employment due to technological change, economic shifts, or automation.

Reskilling and upskilling: Training processes that equip workers with new or enhanced skills to adapt to changing labor market demands.

Digital divide: The gap between individuals or countries that have access to modern technologies and those that do not.

III. Major Countries Involved

Developed economies (e.g. United States, European Union member states, Japan):

These countries are leaders in AI innovation and automation. While productivity gains are significant, concerns remain over job polarization, the decline of middle-skill jobs, and the need for large-scale reskilling initiatives. (Li)

Developing economies:

Many developing nations rely heavily on labor-intensive industries such as manufacturing and agriculture. Increased automation threatens employment opportunities and economic growth if technological adoption outpaces workforce adaptation. (Kenton)

International Labour Organization (ILO):

The ILO plays a key role in researching the impact of automation on labor markets and promoting policies that ensure decent work in the digital age.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

UNDP supports inclusive growth strategies and assists countries in integrating technology while safeguarding employment and social protection systems. (UNDP)

Private sector and technology companies:

Companies that develop AI strongly affect jobs and must use technology responsibly while helping workers adapt.

IV. Possible Solutions

- Expanding reskilling and education programs to help workers gain new skills needed in an AI-driven economy.
- Encouraging cooperation between governments and companies to fund training and help workers move into new jobs.
- Improving social protection systems, such as unemployment benefits, to support workers affected by automation.
- Promoting fair and responsible use of AI to protect workers' rights and prevent misuse of technology.
- Strengthening international cooperation through ECOSOC to share knowledge and help developing countries adapt to technological change.

V. Bibliography

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