

Commission : International Labour Organization

Subject : Does technology help or hinder working conditions ?

Author : Morocco

Representative of : Employers

Honorable Chair, dear delegates,

The delegation of Morocco is delighted to take part in this online MUNUCCLE conference, and hopes that debates will be rich and fruitful.

The impact of technology on working conditions is a very important subject to the delegation of Morocco. We strongly support the use of technology as a tool for creating jobs. Technology may sometimes result in short-term job destruction, but in the long term, it is necessary to prevent the labour market from being paralysed. The Moroccan labour market nowadays experiences a slow job growth, as job creation is insufficient to meet the growing working-age population. Besides, the Covid-19 pandemic officially led to almost 2 million job losses, and so more in the informal sector. This could be partly solved by expanding the use of new technologies, which may create many qualified and productive jobs and allow employees to work remotely. It may also result in higher wages (which range from 550\$ a month to 9,300\$ in Morocco, with an average of 2,000\$) and shorter working time (on average 45 weekly hours worked per employed person, with 42% employed working more than 48 hours a week).

Therefore, the delegation of Morocco recommends to increase digital literacy. We encourage the teaching of basic and advanced computer skills, as those may be valuable for workers. This teaching should be provided at school, but also to adults who lack elementary computer skills. The strategy "Morocco Digital 2020" launched by the Moroccan government in 2016 is a good starting point. Its aims were mainly to reduce the digital divide of 50% and strengthen Morocco's place as a regional digital hub. As a result, in 2020, the number of Internet users in Morocco increased by 2.9 million (+13%). The crisis due to Covid-19 also accelerated Morocco's digital transformation, as many sectors such as education, media, and other services went digital to keep functioning during the pandemic.

We also encourage international partnerships between universities, so that young people have the opportunity to study science and technology in foreign countries. These students should be encouraged to come back in their homeland, so that they re import knowledge and skills and benefit their country.

Finally, we suggest implementing key policies using technology to ease entrepreneurship. Larger and older firms are often privileged, and small and middle-sized companies experience financial difficulties : for 80% Moroccan entrepreneurs, the access to fundings is a major difficulty. Our delegation believes that reaching financial inclusion should be an important step to be taken. The delegation of Morocco is convinced that improving access to digital financial services should help small and middle-sized businesses developing.

Thank you for your attention.