

**Committee:** International Labour Organization

**Question:** Does technology help or hinder the working conditions?

**Submitter:** Government of Singapore

In the recent years, but also thanks to the recent SARS-CoV-2 global pandemic, we have been able to observe how technological advancements influence working life and conditions. While these effects can be positive or negative, we surely cannot deny that our working life is going through a new technological revolution of sorts. From machine aided work to long distance conferences, the working life is not the same as what you would expect if you walked into an industrial warehouse 20 years ago. The country of Singapore is beneficiary of a highly skilled and diverse workforce which it seeks to preserve for international benefits. Following these ideals we must discuss the effects that this new technological revolution will have on our workforce and our capability to operate as an international trading port, as the gateway from Europe to Asian international trade, and a major financial and multinational center in Asia. These discussions are needed to ensure the wellbeing of our economy and the security of the workers of Singapore.

Singapore, which is already close to the frontier of technological progress, has an exceptional enabling environment for innovation and digital transformation, as well as a small geographical area, and modern and upgradeable infrastructure. This means that businesses can take advantage of innovations as they become available. The highly skilled workforce is threatened by this technological advancement. The new study by technology company Cisco and economic forecasting agency Oxford Economics also found that Singapore will have almost a fifth of its workforce displaced due to the integration of AI into the job market. Almost 500.000 people are said to be victims of the technological revolution in Singapore by 2028, while still behind Indonesia and Vietnam in the Asian stage, the percent of the workforce displaced is one of the highest in Asia. Due to Singapore's highly skilled workforce the displacement and reskilling of the employees is to take the biggest hit in Asia: in a scale of 100, the predicted skill loss gap is 14.3. The technological revolution in Singapore is set to take place at a faster rate than any other Asian country, and thanks to its already advanced technology in the working environment, less skilled jobs are going to be very much less affected by the advancements in technology. This leads to the possibility of safeguarding a very large number of jobs but the economic impact of this loss of skilled workforce is very likely to outweigh the economic benefits of a more technologically advanced and efficient higher skill workforce.

Following these points, the Republic Of Singapore is willing to put forward a collaboration deal to reduce the economic impact of the reskilling and benefit the greater international community with the preservation of our country as a major trading center in the Asian sphere of influence. To ensure stability and preservation of a competitive workforce we must put efforts into morphing the higher level education that fits the needs to a more technologically advanced job market, where lower skilled jobs offer more positions and shall be put under the social spotlight.

We believe that these measures are at the basis of The Republic of Singapore's survival through this new technological revolution. We will develop on these bases to ensure that the economic gateway to Asia will keep its status and international relevance.