

Commission : International Labor Organisation

Question : Does technology help or hinder the working condition

Author : The United States of America (Employers)

Technological change affects more than productivity, employment, and income inequality. It also creates opportunities for changes in the nature of work itself. A variety of new technologies have altered the way work is performed, the roles that workers play and the structure of organizations. Technology's impact is irrefutable, and prosper for the world's economy.

The United States of America promotes innovation in directions that will benefit the nation. A new focus on rebuilding leadership in the development of new AI (artificial intelligence)-related technologies and their participation in labor activity complements workers, boosts productivity, and strengthens the economic foundation for shared prosperity. The same logic is applied on other fields: from an industrial and agricultural stand-point, the U.S points out that, as robots gain flexibility and situational adaptability, they will certainly take over a larger set of tasks such as lifting, stocking, harvesting, as well as awkward physical tasks that require stooping, or crouching which deteriorate the working condition. Such advances in robotics will displace relatively low-paid human tasks and boost the productivity of workers, whose attention will be freed to focus on higher-value-added work.

In order to maintain a safe work environment, the United States helped fund in 2002 The Centers of Occupational Health & Education (COHE). A program was established as a community-based healthcare strategy to improve outcomes for injured workers and reduce their long-term disability. The COHE model uses telemedicine developed by the IOM (international organization of medicine) in order to prevent periods of unemployment and increase work efficiency. On this same healthcare spectrum, the partnership of employment of accessible technology with ODEP (office of disability employment policy) was set in motion to foster collaboration and action on accessible technology in the workplace therefore expanding work within reach of the disabled. The country asks for a worldwide responsibility on such matters and the corresponding support.

Unemployment has long been an international concern. As a solution, the United States offers official training programs and courses through online platforms attainable from the DOL website in means to prepare for accidents, injuries, and illnesses in various industries, such as the mining industry (MSHA program). These programs have emerged from the Safety and Health in Mines Convention of 1995 unfolded at the ILO. The imitation of some of these programs is encouraged in view of creating a more qualified active population. The DOL stresses the importance of acquiring networking and communication skills such as e-mail managing, web navigation, database and copyright knowledge among others. These skills are essential for contemporary interaction.

With the decline of unionization and the prevalence of contingent work, new institutions, such as BigTech, offer workers a greater voice in their workplace, becoming increasingly important for worker fairness and equality. These employees represent a total of 6% of the active U.S.A population. As employers, giving workers the recognition deserved via technological platforms and the freedom to speak up is paramount in the respect of human decency.

The United States's implication in elaborating new technology and implementing it on larger scales inside a work or work-related environment is a key action for the sustainability of economic growth and well-being of the active population worldwide. We therefore solicit a more action-oriented approach on the fabrication of advanced technologies and with the coordination of all members, a tailored tax policy and funding for helpful programs and security.