

**Committee:** International Labor Organization

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**Author:** Russia

We, as the Russian Federation, recognize the transformative potential of AI and automation, not just as inevitable future developments, but as critical tools for addressing the nation's current economic challenges as well as its labor market challenges. As we face the pressure of an economic downturn, a declining workforce and significant regional disparities, AI and automation are no longer luxuries that we can bask in but necessities to lock in national economic survival and growth. Given the nature of Russia's economy, with a large reliance on the extraction industry, integrating AI in resource management, mining, and energy sectors will help increase production rates, reduce costs, and maintain our competitiveness on the global stage.

We believe that AI should be harnessed and quickly integrated into multiple of our industries, such as manufacturing, logistics, and most importantly, resource extraction, where our economy is primarily based upon. Automation is of the utmost importance for revitalizing sectors where human labor shortages now exist due to our economic status, and the efficiency gains are indispensable for improving productivity. Furthermore, Russia's leadership in certain technological fields such as space exploration and cybersecurity position it to fully use and establish AI innovations. The Russian Federation will fully support international agreements and regulatory workarounds that promote the responsible deployment of AI while also guarding national security and ensuring technological sovereignty. We will prioritize cooperation with countries like China and India who actively share similar ambitions for AI and technological integration and who also value national sovereignty over global technological dependency. Our commitment to sovereignty is essential, ensuring that Russia remains in control of its own technological infrastructure and resources without foreign interference or disruption.

Past successes such as Russia's contributions to space exploration and cybersecurity, showcase the importance of competitiveness in AI technologies on a global scale. In today's landscape, AI and technology are new areas for national power and influence and we aim to be at the forefront of this evolution.

On the issue of Universal Basic Income (UBI), Russia remains skeptical of its large-scale implementation as a solution for automation induced job displacement. While the Federation acknowledges the global debate on UBI, our government takes a more conservative stance due to our historical experiences with centralized income distribution during our existence as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, we seek to move away from any policy that could echo any previous communist practices of dependency on state provisions and resources. We instead prioritize job creation through AI-driven industries, which we believe can provide high-skill employment opportunities for workers moved by automation. The emphasis will be on reskilling and upskilling workers which will enable them to thrive in the ever-changing evolving job market.

While mental health is an important matter, it is not currently Russia's primary focus within the scope of labor market reform. The challenges posed by AI-driven transformations demand more immediate attention to economic structures and technological adaptation. However, we do recognize the need to ensure social stability as these changes take place. We will therefore continue to support initiatives that address the well-being of workers, but without prioritizing Western-style mental health actions. Instead, we will focus on ensuring economic stability and the physical health of workers, ensuring they are well-prepared for the changing landscape of work. The Russian government believes that strengthening morale through national solidarity and fostering a sense of purpose in the workforce are more appropriate responses to these challenges which we are sure will succeed without fail.

Russia fully supports the advancement of AI and automation as essential for its national development and urges the international community to prioritize technological integration. The Russian Federation speaks out for targeted solutions like reskilling programs to manage the workforce transition and change. Though UBI may be part of the broader global debate it is not currently a priority for Russia.

Our focus remains on driving growth through innovation and worker empowerment with a clear commitment to sovereignty in our technological pursuits.

We sincerely hope for a fruitful debate since our main aim is centered around united collaboration to find practical solutions, overcome challenges and advance global development, while also guarding our national interests. Together, we must ensure that AI not only fuels economic growth but also serves as a tool to reinforce sovereignty and self-reliance in the ever-changing global landscape.