

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Agenda Item: Regulating the Economic Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Global Labor Markets

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1. Letters From Chairs

Most esteemed MUN Participants;

It's my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to the BTUMUN'26 conference. My name is Deniz Özalp and I will be hosting you as the president chair of ECOSOC committee. I have been attending MUN conferences since 2024 and this is my first time attending BTUMUN which makes this experience more exciting for me. I could not be prouder to be part of this team and outstanding team and to have the opportunity to guide such a talented group of delegates.

I am confident that, together with our co-chair and all of you, we will have a highly productive and rewarding conference. I encourage each of you to engage actively, speak with confidence, and respect the diverse perspectives that make this committee truly dynamic. Together, we can ensure that our discussions are not only productive but also enriching and inspiring for everyone involved.

Best regards,

President Chair, Deniz ÖZALP

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Distinguished delegates,

My name is Asya Layla Yılmaz and I will be your co-chair for the ECOSOC committee throughout BTUMUN'26. I am currently studying at Ted Bodrum College in 10th grade. This will be my first co-chairing experience in this conference, but don't worry I will do my best!

My MUN journey started in 9th grade thanks to my English teacher and now it is a valuable experience where I can actively contribute and expand my perspective. As a previous delegate I understand that you're all anxious to deliver your speeches, but please don't hesitate to give speeches and make moves!

If you have any concerns, please feel free to ask me or my dear chair! We will gladly answer all your questions. I am looking forward to BTUMUN '26! Good luck delegates!

Best regards,

Co-chair, Asya Layla YILMAZ

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2. Preface

Dear Delegates,

This study guide is designed to help delegates understand one of the most important and fast changing issues in the modern world the impact of artificial intelligence on global labour markets. Technology is developing quickly and is already changing how people work, the types of jobs that exist and the skills needed to succeed. While these changes can bring new opportunities, they also create uncertainty for workers and governments trying to keep up.

The aim of this guide is to break down complex ideas into simple and clear explanations so that every delegate can confidently take part in discussion and debate. It introduces key concepts, explores different perspective and highlights the role of international cooperation through bodies such as the economic and social council. The topic is not only about technology but also about fairness, equality and ensuring that economic progress benefits everyone.

By reading this guide, delegates should gain a better understanding of both the challenges and opportunities created by artificial intelligence. It encourages critical thinking about how countries can work together to protect workers, support innovation and build a future where economic growth and social wellbeing go hand in hand.

3. About ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and plays a central role in advancing international economic, social, and environmental cooperation.

Established in 1945 under the UN, ECOSOC serves as a key platform for discussing global issues related to sustainable development, poverty reduction, human rights, education, health, and social progress.

ECOSOC consists of 54 member states elected by the UN General Assembly for overlapping three year terms. Participation of countries from Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe, and Eastern Europe. Each year, the council elects a President who coordinates its work and leads high level meetings.

The main function of ECOSOC is to serve as a central forum for policy dialogue, coordination, and recommendations on international economic and social issues. It works closely with specialized UN agencies such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Bank, as well as various non governmental organizations. Through these partnerships ECOSOC helps align global efforts toward the UN sustainable development goals.

ECOSOC also organizes major events such as the high level political forum on sustainable development, where countries review progress on the SDGs. In addition, it provides a space for NGOs to contribute to global discussions, making it one of the most inclusive UN bodies.

In summary, ECOSOC is essential for promoting global cooperation on issues that affect daily life worldwide. It connects governments, international organizations, and civil society to create solutions for economic stability, social development, and environmental sustainability.

4. Key terms and Definition

Artificial Intelligence

Machines or computer systems that can perform tasks that normally require human thinking skills like learning, problem solving or decision making.

Automation

When machines or technology are used to do tasks instead of humans, often to make work faster and more efficient.

Labor market

The system where workers look for jobs and employers look for people to hire.

Job displacement

What happens when workers lose their jobs because machines or technology replace the work they used to do.

Reskilling

Teaching workers new skills so they can move into different jobs when their old ones are no longer needed.

Upskilling

When workers improve their existing skills to keep up with changes in their job or industry.

Digital divide

The gap between people or countries that have access to modern technology and those that do not.

Gig economy

A way of working where people take short term jobs or freelance work instead of having permanent employment.

Productivity

How much work or output is produced in a certain amount of time.

Economic inequality

The difference in income and wealth between different groups of people.

Decent work

A concept promoted by the International Labour Organization that means having a job that is fair, safe and provides a reasonable income.

Sustainable development

Improving living conditions without harming future generations often linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Introduction to The Topic

Artificial intelligence is no longer something distant or theoretical. It has become part of everyday life shaping how people work, communicate and earn a living. From automated customer service to advanced data analysis, AI is changing not only the kinds of jobs available but also the skills people need to succeed. For many countries this creates both opportunity and uncertainty. AI can drive economic growth and improve productivity but it can also lead to job losses and increase inequality if it is not managed carefully.

This issue is especially relevant within the work of the economic and social council, which focuses on promoting higher living standards and sustainable development around the world. The impact of AI is not the same everywhere. More developed economies may benefit from innovation and new industries while developing countries that rely on labour intensive sectors may face greater disruption. Workers in manufacturing, transport and services are already seeing changes as automation becomes more common.

At the same time artificial intelligence also creates new opportunities. It opens the door to jobs in technology, digital services and other emerging fields. The International Labour Organization has highlighted that the future of work will depend on how governments respond especially in areas like education, retraining and worker protection. Without proper planning, the advantages of AI could be concentrated in a small number of countries or companies, making global inequality worse.

For this reason regulating the economic impact of AI on global labour markets has become an important issue for the international community. It requires careful cooperation between countries to make sure that innovation benefits everyone. Through efforts connected to the sustainable development goals, especially those focused on decent work, economic growth and reducing inequality there is a growing recognition that technological progress must go hand in hand with social responsibility. This topic is not just about technology but about ensuring a fair and stable future for workers across the world.

6. Background Information

In recent years artificial intelligence has developed really fast and started to be used in many sectors. From manufacturing to services, finance and healthcare, AI systems are changing how work is done by making many processes more automated and efficient. Because of this, important economic and social changes are happening in global labor markets.

Technological progress has always affected jobs in history. During the industrial revolution machines replaced many manual jobs, and later digital technologies changed many jobs into computer based work. AI is seen as the next step of this process because it can now do not only physical tasks but also some cognitive and analytical tasks. One of the main issues is job displacement. Many routine and repetitive jobs, especially in areas like customer service, manufacturing and administration, are at risk of being automated. At the same time, new job areas are being created such as AI development and data related jobs. However these new jobs usually need higher skills and education, which makes adaptation difficult for some workers.

Another important point is inequality between countries. Developed countries have more access to technology and education so they benefit more from AI, while developing countries may fall behind. This can increase global economic differences if no action is taken.

Overall this agenda item is not about stopping AI development but about managing its effects in a fair way. Countries are expected to discuss how to support workers, improve education systems and create policies that help societies adapt to changes in the labor market.

7. United Nations Previous Involvements

The United Nations has increasingly focused on how artificial intelligence is reshaping global labor markets, especially through the work of economic and social council. It has encouraged discussions on balancing technological innovation with fair economic outcomes making sure that growth remains inclusive. Organizations such as the International Labour Organization have studied how AI could both replace and create jobs, stressing the importance of worker protection, reskilling and social safety nets. At the same time the United Nations Development Programme has worked with countries to strengthen digital skills and reduce inequalities linked to automation. Broader UN efforts, including reports by the secretary general and discussions at global forums often connect AI governance to the sustainable development goals, especially those focused on decent work and economic growth. Overall the UNs involvement shows an effort to guide AI development in a way that supports workers while still allowing economies to benefit from new technologies.

8. Major Countries Involved

United States of America

The United States is one of the leading countries in artificial intelligence development. It hosts major tech companies such as Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI. Because of this, it plays a central role in shaping how AI affects global labor markets

China

China is rapidly advancing in AI through strong government support and large investments. AI is widely used in surveillance systems, and automation, making it one of the most influential actors in this field.

European Union

The European Union focuses strongly on regulating AI and ensuring ethical use. Countries like Germany and France emphasize data protection, workers' rights, and responsible technological development.

India

India has a large workforce and a strong “it” sector, making it both highly affected by and highly involved in AI transformation. It is especially important in outsourcing, software services, and digital labor markets.

Japan

Japan invests heavily in robotics and automation due to its aging population. AI is seen as a solution to labor shortages and increasing productivity.

South Korea

South Korea has a highly developed technological infrastructure and is one of the most advanced countries in AI adoption, especially in industry and consumer technology.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is active in AI research and financial technology applications. It also plays an important role in discussions about AI regulation and governance.

Türkiye

Türkiye is increasingly investing in digital transformation and artificial intelligence, especially in public services, defense industry, and education technologies. However, like many developing economies, it faces challenges such as adapting its workforce and improving digital skills to keep up with AI-driven changes in the labor market.

Developing Countries Affected by Resource Stress

Some developing countries, particularly in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, are indirectly affected by AI-driven industrial growth through increased energy and water consumption of data centers. AI technologies require large scale computing infrastructure, which can increase pressure on limited water and energy resources in already vulnerable regions. This can worsen existing challenges such as water scarcity and environmental stress, especially in countries with limited infrastructure.

9. QARMA

1. What international regulations or frameworks are needed to ensure that AI is used in a way that protects workers' rights and prevents unfair job displacement?
2. How can governments balance economic growth driven by AI with the need to protect employment and reduce unemployment risks?
3. What policies can be implemented to ensure that workers affected by AI automation are retrained and reintegrated into the labor market?
4. How can international organizations like ECOSOC support developing countries in adapting to AI-driven changes in global labor markets?
5. What role should education systems play in preparing future generations for an AI-dominated workforce?
6. How can international cooperation reduce the economic gap between developed and developing countries caused by unequal access to AI technologies?
7. What measures can be taken to ensure that AI development does not increase income inequality within countries?

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