



## General Assembly Second Committee

### Committee Mandate

Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter empowered the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to create subsidiary organs to further its founding principles of peace and security, human rights; and development.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, in 1946, the UNGA established six subsidiary committees to deliberate on pressing issues in specialized settings.<sup>2</sup>

The Second Committee of the UNGA, also known as the Economic and Financial Committee, was established for Member States to cooperate on global economic and development issues.<sup>3</sup> The 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA Second Committee has various priorities it will consider.<sup>4</sup> These include macroeconomic policy, financing for development, sustainable development, globalization, and interdependence; eradication of poverty, operational activities for development agricultural development, food security and nutrition; information and communications technologies for development; and implementation of the New Urban Agenda.<sup>5</sup> The array of topics represents the issues the body has determined need further debate in a comprehensive and, ideally, unanimous manner. The topics also provide opportunities for interorganizational and interstate cooperation.

### Membership

Every UN Member State, as well as each Observer State, has a seat within the UNGA Second Committee.<sup>6</sup> Since the beginning of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session, which began on 13 September 2022, the body has been chaired by Her Excellency Lachezara Stoeva of Bulgaria, who will hold the gavel until the 78<sup>th</sup> session. The Vice-Chairs of the body include Ahmed Magdy of Egypt, Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Al-Thani of Qatar, and Vladimir Budhu of Trinidad and Tobago.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, Member States may assign advisers, technical advisers, experts or persons of similar status to these committees in accordance with Rule 100 of the Rules and Procedures of the General Assembly.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations. "Charter of the United Nations". 1945

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. "Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during the 1st part of its 1st session from 10 January to 14 February 1946," 1946

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. "Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)." 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> United Nations. "Membership of the Main Committees of the General Assembly." 2022. A/INF/77/2/Rev.1

<sup>7</sup> United Nations. "Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee)." 2022.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations. "Main Committees." 2022

## Reporting

The UNGA Second Committee has five bodies that report to it on an annual basis. These include the UN Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme, the three Governing Councils of the three Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Desertification), and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) report to the UNGA through the Second Committee.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, the Second Committee produces and submits reports to the General Assembly to review during its plenary session for the various agenda items assigned to it. Reports to the UNGA include which meeting the agenda item was considered, summarize the committee's consideration of the item, report the Member States' votes, if applicable, on draft texts, and transmit the final version of the draft resolutions or decisions recommended to the UNGA plenary for adoption.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. "The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly. 2017

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

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## **General Assembly Second Committee**

### **Informal Economies in Developing Nations**

#### **Introduction**

The United Nations (UN) has long been at the forefront of global efforts to address the complex challenges posed by informal economies, particularly in developing nations. While it is common to think of economic activity in terms of “conventional” labour – go to work, receive a wage, pay taxes – many workers operate outside these formalized structures. Informal economies encompass economic activities and employment that operate outside the boundaries of formal regulations and structures.<sup>11</sup> They are often characterized by limited access to labor rights, social protection, and financial services, creating vulnerabilities for those engaged in these activities.<sup>12</sup> However, simply transitioning to formal economies is not so straightforward of a proposition. In developing nations, informal economies are a pervasive and intricate phenomenon that requires comprehensive strategies for understanding, managing, and ultimately integrating them into the formal economy.<sup>13</sup> As of 2018, upwards of 60% of the employed population labored in informal economies, with that number rising to as much as 85.8% in Africa.<sup>14</sup> Even in relatively developed regions, the percentage of workers employed reached a quarter of all employed people.<sup>15</sup>

Addressing informal economies represents one aspect of the UN’s broader approach to development. For many workers engaged in informal economies, UN efforts to improve broader markers of development provide them better opportunities to move into formalized markets with better protections and outcomes than informal labor.<sup>16</sup> At the same time, informal economies play an important role in allowing communities to provide for themselves and international bodies recognize that as they engage in development.<sup>17</sup> Informal economies tie urban communities to rural communities and are a major market for small, individual artisans and craftspeople.<sup>18</sup> While the UN often focuses on formalizing labor, it can also take efforts to improve best practices and empower laborers who remain in informal economies.

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<sup>11</sup> Deléchat, Corrine et al. “What is the Informal Economy?” International Monetary Fund. 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> “More than 60 percent of the world’s employed population are in the informal economy.” International Labour Organization. 2018

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Deléchat, Corrine et al. “What is the Informal Economy?” International Monetary Fund. 2020.

<sup>17</sup> “The informal economy and sustainable development.” International Institute for Environment and Development.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

## **Background**

Informal economies in developing nations have historical roots deeply embedded in the socio-economic fabric of these countries.<sup>19</sup> These economies are often driven by factors such as poverty, lack of formal job opportunities, limited education and skills, and the absence of supportive government policies.<sup>20</sup> The UN's involvement in addressing this issue can be traced back to its fundamental mission of promoting sustainable development, reducing poverty, and ensuring the protection of human rights, principles enshrined in its Charter.<sup>21</sup>

The UN has recognized that informal economies, though often unregulated and overlooked, play a critical role in the livelihoods of millions of people in developing nations, frequently through its specialized bodies.<sup>22</sup> These economies contribute to economic growth and employment opportunities, but they also present considerable challenges.<sup>23</sup> For workers in especially rural areas or marginalized populations in urban or developed areas, informal economies present what may be the only opportunity they have to provide for themselves.<sup>24</sup> However, workers in the informal economy are frequently denied access to essential labor protections, fair wages, and social security, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation, a situation that perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality.<sup>25</sup> These complications apply both to wage workers and the self-employed, sometimes referred to as own-account workers.<sup>26</sup>

To address these challenges, the UN has developed a multifaceted approach. One of its core principles is the promotion of decent work for all, regardless of the sector of employment.<sup>27</sup> The International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the UN, has been instrumental in setting labor standards and advocating for the rights of informal workers.<sup>28</sup> The ILO describes its holistic approach to promoting the rights of workers as the “Decent Work Agenda” and incorporates a number of aspects, from social justice to job creation, within that.<sup>29</sup>

The UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, with its focus on inclusive economic growth and social protection, emphasizes the need to bring

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<sup>19</sup> Oviedo, Ana Maria et al. “Economic Informality.” The World Bank. 2009.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations. “Charter of the United Nations.” United Nations. 1945.

<sup>22</sup> International Labour Organization. “Resolution concerning decent work and the informal economy.” International Labour Organization. 2002.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> International Labour Organization. “Mission and impact of the ILO.” International Labour Organization.

<sup>28</sup> International Labour Organization. “Decent work.” International Labour Organization.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

informal economies into the mainstream development agenda.<sup>30</sup> In particular, Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which focuses on decent work and sustainable growth, sits directly across issues of informal and formal economies.<sup>31</sup> Target 8.3 specifically mentions the formalization of varying sizes of small enterprise.<sup>32</sup> Target 8.8 refers to the protection of safe and secure working environments, especially for those in precarious employment which definitively encompasses all informal work.<sup>33</sup>

## **Current Situation**

In recent years, the UN's perspective on informal economies in developing nations has evolved to address the changing dynamics of the global economy. With the rise of the gig economy and digital platforms, new forms of informal work have emerged.<sup>34</sup> The UN recognizes that these changes bring both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, they offer flexible employment options, especially in the tech sector, but on the other, they can exacerbate informality if left unregulated.<sup>35</sup>

The UN continues to work on various fronts to address the current situation. Through forms like the ILO, it advocates for legal reforms and policy changes that simplify registration procedures, reduce bureaucratic barriers, and encourage the formalization of informal businesses.<sup>36</sup> Social protection programs are being extended to informal workers to ensure they have access to healthcare, pensions, and other benefits.<sup>37</sup> The UN also promotes education and skills development as a means of improving the employability and productivity of those in the informal sector.<sup>38</sup>

## **Women in Informal Economies**

Gender equality remains a crucial focus of the UN's efforts, as women are often disproportionately affected by informal economies.<sup>39</sup> Informal economies and

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<sup>30</sup> United Nations. "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." A/RES/70/1. United Nations. 2015.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations. "Sustainable Development Goal 8." United Nations.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> International Monetary Fund. "Five things to know about the informal economy." International Monetary Fund. 2021.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> International Labour Organization. "Mission and impact of the ILO." International Labour Organization.

<sup>37</sup> Stempel, Jonathan. "Uber settles New York state claims related to unemployment benefits for workers." Reuters. 2023.

<sup>38</sup> United Nations Development Programme. "Informality and human development." United Nations Development Programme. 2015.

<sup>39</sup> "More than 60 percent of the world's employed population are in the informal economy." International Labour Organization. 2018

improving economy opportunities for women exist together as an intersection between several Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>40</sup> Some of the UN's work on this intersection develops through UN Women as it works to empower women working in the informal sector and promote policies that address gender-specific challenges.<sup>41</sup> Part of what makes women more susceptible to challenges of the informal economy is the kind of work that often comprises informal labor.<sup>42</sup> In regions where women are socially pressured into homemaking or otherwise more limited in opportunity, labor that can be done in the home may be their most accessible form of work.<sup>43</sup> Domestic labor and subsistence farming are among the most common forms of this work and typically fall within the category of informal labor.<sup>44</sup>

### COVID-19 and informal economies

The Covid-19 pandemic presented especially large challenges for informal economies. Informal work is frequently incompatible with the kinds of measures governments took to reduce viral spread, such as lockdowns.<sup>45</sup> Disruptions to supply chains prevented individual artisan goods from making it to markets. Informal food markets saw access for both sellers and buyers dry up. In addition, precarious laborers in the informal economy also tend to be more vulnerable in other ways, including healthcare needs.<sup>46</sup> The pandemic also affected workers in newer, digitized informal economies. Depending on the sector, workers may have even been positively affected with opportunities and needs for virtual gig work increasing.

### Future Outlook

The United Nations will continue to develop its work on transitioning from informal to formal economy and empowering workers who remain in informal work. In addition, its long-term goals to improve opportunities for marginalized workers and vulnerable populations align with the kind of development required to lift workers into secure, formalized labor. However, echoes of challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as complications from the expansion of informal work through gig economies and digitized labor continue to evolve the landscape of informal work.

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<sup>40</sup> United Nations. "Sustainable Development Goals." United Nations.

<sup>41</sup> UN Women. "Women in informal economy." UN Women.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> UN Women. "Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020." UN Women. 2019.

<sup>44</sup> UN Women. "Women in informal economy." UN Women.

<sup>45</sup> International Labour Organization. "Covid-19 crisis and the informal economy." International Labour Organization. 2020.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

## **Focus Questions**

- How much of your country's economy is derived from informal economic activity?
- What has your country done to participate in UN economic organizations?
- What is the condition of your country's progress towards SDG goals for formalization of work?



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<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf?ref=truth11.com>



## **General Assembly Second Committee**

### **Topic 2: Automation and the Future of Work**

*“Generative AI has enormous potential for good and evil at scale. Its creators themselves have warned that much bigger, potentially catastrophic and existential risks lie ahead. Without action to address these risks, we are derelict in our responsibilities to present and future generations.”*

*- UN Secretary-General António Guterres*

Since the founding of the United Nations (UN) and the creation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1945 with the signing of the *Treaty of Versailles*, the right to decent work has been at the forefront of the work of the UN.<sup>1</sup> Further outlined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in 1948, everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.<sup>2</sup> As technology has advanced greatly since its founding, the UN has created strategies to address mechanization, automation, and digitization of labor in order to protect the rights of workers and to achieve the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.<sup>3</sup>

Mechanization is still largely applicable to the labor force of today and is the replacement of human labor by machine labor. However, it is a term thought to reflect the technological advances of the industrial revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>4</sup> Mechanization has developed over the years into a more intelligent and sophisticated form where a machine can replace an entire process previously completed by humans, and this has been labeled automation.<sup>5</sup> The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates that 14% of jobs are at high risk of automation and that 32% of jobs could be radically transformed through automation.<sup>6</sup> Automation of the work force depends on several different factors including whether consumers and firms ask for products and services made possible by new technologies, whether workers have the right skills to implement the changes, and whether consumers want them.<sup>7</sup>

Technological advancements will change the future of the labor force. Robotics have the potential to transform workplaces into safer, cleaner, and stress-free environments. However, it also has the potential to lower the need for certain jobs

<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organization. “History of the ILO.” International Labour Organization. 2023.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” United Nations. A/RES/217(III). 1948.

<sup>3</sup> High-level Committee on Programmes. “United Nations System Strategy on the Future of Work.” Chief Executives Board for Coordination of the United Nations. CEB/2019/1/Add.2. 2019.

<sup>4</sup> International Labour Organization and the European Union. “Automation and its Employment Effects: A Literature Review of Automotive and Garment Sectors.” International Labour Organization and the European Union. 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. “The Future Of Work.” The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs. “With AI, jobs are changing but no mass unemployment expected - UN labour experts.” UN News Centre. 2023.

and decrease worker autonomy, stunting the development of workers causing a decline in worker satisfaction.<sup>8</sup>

## **Background**

Discussions about global labor rights predates the creation of the United Nations. The International Labour Organization was created to focus on the regulation of working time and labour supply, the prevention of unemployment and the provision of an adequate living wage, social protection of workers, children, young persons and women which are still relevant today.<sup>9</sup> As early as 1920, the International Labour Organization began creating international conventions to address worker's rights and improving working conditions. Some of these early conventions included the 1948 *Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention*, 1948, the 1949 *Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention*, the 1930 *Forced Labour Convention*, the 1973 *Abolition of Forced Labour Convention*, and the 1973 *Minimum Age Convention*.<sup>10</sup> These early documents set the stage for worker's rights along with existing comprehensive body of international human rights law.<sup>11</sup>

The International Labour Organization has been taking action to ensure industries have the tools to adapt to changing work environments due to advancements in technology.<sup>12</sup> The International Labour Conference, which sets international labor standards and the broad policies of the ILO, has had the future of work on their agenda in recent years.<sup>13</sup> They also take action through creating projects to ensure that technological advancements are strategically implemented into industries while mitigating the potential negative affects they could have on the workforce.<sup>14</sup>

In more recent history, automation has been increasingly discussed in a global context by scholars, governments, and other international organizations.<sup>15</sup> There are two main arguments. One is that advancements in technology will decrease work by replacing workers. The other is that these technologies will create more jobs than it will replace and increase the work environments around the industries they create.<sup>16</sup> In the past, it has been documented that the number of jobs eliminated was less than number of jobs technological advancements have created in industries where we have seen large changes due to innovation.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>8</sup> ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work. Working for a Brighter Future. International Labour Office. 2019.

<sup>9</sup> International Labour Organization. "History of the ILO." International Labour Organization. 2023.

<sup>10</sup> International Labour Organization. "Conventions and Recommendations." International Labour Organization. 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> AI For Good. "International Labour Organization." AI For Good. 2023.

<sup>13</sup> International Labour Organization. "How the ILO Works." International Labour Organization. 2023.

<sup>14</sup> AI For Good. "International Labour Organization." AI For Good. 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Irmgard Nubler. "New technologies: A jobless future or golden age of job creation?." International Labour Office. 2016.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Friedrich Soltau. "Automation and artificial intelligence – what could it mean for sustainable development?." United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2016.

However, the future of automation and technology is difficult to predict as future policies, the public's willingness to transition into future technological advancements, and the number of jobs that have the ability to be automated are unknown.<sup>18</sup>

### **Current Situation**

Although the future of the workforce is difficult to predict, companies, nongovernmental organizations, Member States, and intergovernmental organizations are continuing to gather data on how automation may affect certain industries so as to create strategic action plans, programs, and policies to sustainably move toward automation.<sup>19</sup> Member States have been and will continue to be affected differently depending on the types of high-performing industries that exist, their investment level in automation, and their ability to balance the benefits of labor efficiency with the risks of unemployment.<sup>20</sup> Many of these organizations are using this data to create strategic action plans to mitigate issues that automation in key industries would have on their workforce.<sup>21</sup> For example, the UN Global Compact is a body comprised of governments, business, civil society organizations, and other UN stakeholders that reports to the Secretary General on their work to support achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>22</sup> UN Global Compact has created frameworks for sustainable transitions to automation.<sup>23</sup> Organizations such as the UN Global Compact, the International Labour Organization, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and others are constantly working to ensure that workers rights are protected and everyone has access to decent work in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.<sup>24</sup> Current existing inequalities and technological advancements are putting up barriers to adequately address the future of the workforce and how automation will affect it.<sup>25</sup>

### *The Digital Divide*

The digital divide is the gap between those who have access to and use information and communication technologies including internet connectivity, internet-enabled devices and digital literacy skills and those who do not.<sup>26</sup> Access to digital technologies is crucial in implementing efficient automation in order to increase productivity in industries and transform working conditions into safe,

<sup>18</sup> Friedrich Soltau. "Automation and artificial intelligence – what could it mean for sustainable development?." United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2016.

<sup>19</sup> BSR. "Automation: A Framework for a Sustainable Transition." BSR. 2017.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> UN Global Compact. "About the UN Global Compact." UN Global Compact. 2023.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> BSR. "Automation: A Framework for a Sustainable Transition." BSR. 2017.

<sup>24</sup> International Labour Organization. "Relevant SDG Targets related to Labour Standards." International Labour Organization. 2023.

<sup>25</sup> UN Habitat. "Addressing the Digital Divide: Taking Action Toward Digital Inclusion." UN Habitat. 2021.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

satisfying environments.<sup>27</sup> Closing the digital divide will push progress on the Sustainable Development Goals further as access to technology has a positive affect on many of the areas these goals are trying to achieve including decent work, education, healthcare, and more.<sup>28</sup> Developing nations and vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by the digital divide.<sup>29</sup> While automation is currently being highlighted in developed nations, closing the digital divide will increase access for developing nations to reap the benefits that will come with advanced technologies, process automation, and cutting-edge innovation such as artificial intelligence.<sup>30</sup> However, as there is the risk that automation will eliminate a large number of jobs, it is crucial that automation is implemented strategically in order to mitigate the loss of jobs and industries. Ensuring equal access to technology will be a critical part of these strategies.<sup>31</sup> Improving access to technologies can also positively affect sectors such as education and healthcare, leading to a happy, healthier workforce.<sup>32</sup>

### *Artificial Intelligence*

Artificial Intelligence is defined by the Organization for Economic Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the ability of machines and systems to acquire and apply knowledge, and to carry out intelligent behavior.<sup>33</sup> Like automation of labor, artificial intelligence is a divisive topic when it comes to addressing the risks and benefits.<sup>34</sup> One approach is focused on self-regulation and self-assessment from developers instead of the creation of policy and risk-based assessments placing a lot of responsibility on the private sector. Alternatively, others approach artificial intelligence by pushing for risk-based assessments, data collection, policy, and strategic deployment. In other words, there is a push for increased regulation on these kinds of unprecedented technologies.<sup>35</sup> Because we have never had this level of technological advancements, predicting how it will affect economics, industries, and individuals is impossible. The United Nations has acted in recent years to attempt to mitigate some potential issues the world could face when artificial intelligence becomes more widely available.<sup>36</sup> In July 2022, the High-level Committee on Programmes developed the *Principles for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in the United*

<sup>27</sup> Cristian Alonso, Siddharth Kothari, Sidra Rehman. "How Artificial Intelligence Could Widen the Gap Between Rich and Poor Nations." International Monetary Fund. 2020.

<sup>28</sup> UN Habitat. "Addressing the Digital Divide: Taking Action Toward Digital Inclusion." UN Habitat. 2021.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> The International Telecommunication Union . "Bridging the digital divide by 2030." The International Telecommunication Union . 2021.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Development Programme. "United Nations Development Programme: Digital Strategy 2022-2025." United Nations Development Programme. 2022.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Shamshad Akhtar. "Artificial Intelligence in Asia and the Pacific." The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. 2022.

<sup>34</sup> Volker Türk. "Artificial intelligence must be grounded in human rights, says High Commissioner." UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 2023.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination. "Principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system." United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination. CEB/2022/2/Add.1. 2022.

*Nations System*.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, as part of the *Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (A/74/821)*, the multi-stakeholder High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence is currently being assembled to handle analysis and put forth recommendations for the international governance of artificial intelligence.<sup>38</sup> While artificial intelligence could come with plentiful benefits to mankind, it also raises ethical issues such as privacy and data confidentiality, freedom of choice, social and cultural discrimination, accountability and legal responsibility, inequalities in access to digital technologies, and other issues there may be no sure way of foreseeing.<sup>39</sup>

### *Japan's Automated Workforce*

Japan's population fell by a record-breaking 264,000 people in 2017 and has been declining since. Deaths in Japan outnumber births by an average of 1,000 people a day.<sup>40</sup> It's domestic labor force is also predicted to decrease by an estimated 24 million between now and 2050.<sup>41</sup> Automation and robotics are not new to Japanese society whether replacing or improving human labor. Japanese companies have traditionally been at the forefront in robotic technology.<sup>42</sup> Because of Japan's shrinking population, aging workforce, and declining quality of services, Japan could experience more and faster benefits from the continued advance of robotics and artificial intelligence in their economy.<sup>43</sup> Japan's experience could be a blueprint for other Member States facing impending automation of their high-performing industries.<sup>44</sup>

### **Future Outlook**

ChatGPT, a chatbot developed with AI was launched in November of 2023 and reached over a million users in two months. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, compared artificial intelligence to the printing press in terms of how influential it could be for the world.<sup>45</sup> When the UN Security Council convened this year in July, they had artificial intelligence on the agenda for the first time.<sup>46</sup> The Member States of the Security Council discussed impacts of artificial

<sup>37</sup> United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination. "Principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system." United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination. CEB/2022/2/Add.1. 2022.

<sup>38</sup> Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. "Multistakeholder Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence." Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. 2023.

<sup>39</sup> Audrey Azoulay. "Towards an Ethics of Artificial Intelligence." United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. 2018.

<sup>40</sup> Todd Schneider, Gee Hee Hong, Anh Van Le. "Land of the Rising Robots." International Monetary Fund. 2018.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> United Nations Security Council. "Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security - Security Council, 9381st Meeting." United Nations Security Council. 2023.



intelligence on international peace and security, pointing out the need to work together to create artificial intelligence that bridges social, digital, and economic divides.<sup>47</sup> Advancement in technology has previously shaped the world we live in, and as more come our way, it is important that we identify risks and benefits, create robust policies to mitigate the risks, and strategically implement technology so that everyone and every Member State is able to experience the benefits.<sup>48</sup>

### **Focus Questions**

As delegates engage in further research on this topic, they should consider:

- How robust is the technological infrastructure in your Member State? How might that affect the automation of the workforce?
- How does the digital divide affect your Member State?
- How do innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics play into high performing industries within your Member State?
- What sectors are most profitable for your Member State and how has automation affected those industries?
- What is the age demographic in your Member State and how might that play into automation of the workforce?

<sup>47</sup> United Nations Security Council. "Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security - Security Council, 9381st Meeting." United Nations Security Council. 2023.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.



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