

YUNMUN XXX

UNESCO

Topic 2: Impacts of Automation and Artificial Intelligence on Underdeveloped Countries

Automation and artificial intelligence are transforming the way we view work all over the world. Jobs that used to be stable factory positions are suddenly in flux, as unskilled labor becomes increasingly susceptible to technological disruption. This reality could have disproportionate effects on the underdeveloped world, as, first, most of the workers in these nations are unskilled. Second, the way we have economically developed countries until now has often involved the introduction of manufacturing into the nation. However, with automation, no longer will manufacturers need to use the cheap labor of these countries to produce their goods.

UNESCO views science and technology as central to generating positive change in the world. As the world experiences disruption at the hands of automation and artificial intelligence, UNESCO must figure out the optimal path forward. This is a topic UNESCO has only begun to discuss, so you, delegates, have the unparalleled opportunity--and responsibility--to recognize it as the growing issue it is. The committee has already published the Beijing Consensus in Artificial Intelligence and Education, which could be used as a good blueprint for working with other nations to assure a secure technological future. It also acts as an example of the many ways in which artificial intelligence can change our world. The issues about which you should be thinking cover a wide range:

- How have developed countries handled the introduction of automation and artificial intelligence?
- Which countries have been affected by these new technologies?
- How can different countries be of benefit to each other in working out these questions?

These inquiries will likely lend themselves to deeper questions:

- What does it mean to be human, when we have artificial intelligence?
- What does it mean to be a developed country? Can automation debilitate that process?

Our topic is new and only relatively recently brought to prominence, so feel free to take the discussion in a direction that works best for your country. Remember: you represent a specific country with unique problems, so make sure you learn them well. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Good luck, and I look forward to seeing you soon,

Ben Atwood

Chair, UNESCO

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