

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
(CSTD)**

**Twentieth Session
Geneva, 8 to 12 May 2017**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2016 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

International Labour Organization

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 20th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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ILO contribution to the Report of the Secretary-General on “Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels” for 2016

ICT Applications (C7)

e-employment

ICTs continued to have a mixed impact on labour markets and employment, creating new jobs while destructing others, spurring work migration as well as transforming work patterns and modalities. While this has long been the case, there is general agreement that these trends are both accelerating and increasing in scope, especially with the arrival of Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things and the so-called “Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

Empirical evidence indicates that ICTs may contribute to polarizing labour markets, with some more high-skilled jobs at the top and many more low-skilled jobs at the bottom, while crowding out huge numbers of mid-skilled jobs so important for a vital middle class. These developments give reason for concern and underscore the need to invest in skills, education and lifelong learning for the global work force to adapt to and benefit from ICTs.

ICTs, especially the Internet, are also important facilitators of globalization, whereby labour markets are increasingly integrated and interdependent, including through global supply chains. Thus ICTs contribute to the need for reassessment of labour market governance, both at the national, regional and global level.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 8 – to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all – place the world of work at the heart of sustainable development.

It is therefore compelling to make sure, with even greater vigour, how ICTs can best contribute to decent work for all. This is a key priority for the International Labour Organization and its tripartite constituents of governments, workers and employers.

To this effect, in 2016 the ILO has taken several measures with regard to research, capacity building and advocacy, including in the context of the ILO's Future of Work Centenary Initiative, where "Technology and the Future of Work" is a key component.