



Trade Union Stakeholder Forum on the Digital Economy

Sustainable & Inclusive Innovation: Quality Jobs and Skills in the Digital Economy

Tuesday June 21, 2016
Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico

7:00 am to 9:00 am

Registration to the Forum & the Ministerial

9:00 am to 9:30 am

Opening and Keynote Address

9:30 am to 10:45 am

Technological Transformation & New Regulatory Models

Existing economic and social structures are increasingly affected by digitization: Some for the better (increased internet openness and exchanges) and other for the worse (security and privacy risks, non-shared profits, and the rise in non-standard work). A coherent set of regulatory policies and investment targets is imperative to enable an equitable technological diffusion, while anticipating trends and risks. As such, the risk of a “digital deflation” is real since companies increasingly encounter pressures on profit margins and rely on short-term financing. At the same time, monopolistic structures are making it difficult for new firms to grow, and leading some to adopt labour-cost saving and high-risk business models, to avoid paying taxes and to seek other legal loopholes. Panelists are invited to discuss the economic and social effects of Internet openness and technological change focusing on:

Value creation in the digital sector: Legal status and taxation

Competitive pressures vs. Sustainable business models

Long-term investment vs. Digital deflation

10:45 am to 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Policy Frameworks for Quality Jobs & Skills of Tomorrow

The effects of digital disruption on labour markets and skills needs are already underway across all economic sectors. It is therefore important to ensure transition pathways for those whose jobs are at risk, through active labour market policies and up-skilling programs. At the same time, there is need for an “**Action Plan for Quality Jobs in the Digital Economy**” based on international labour standards and the premise to ensure decent wages and social safety nets in emerging sectors, while preventing the expansion of non-standard employment. Panelists are invited to discuss the key issues at stake including:

Digital labour standards, and the role of collective bargaining

Wages, social protection and pension systems

Up-skilling, re-training and skills recognition

Working conditions in the platform economy and ICT mobile work

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Joint Stakeholder Lunch

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Trade Union Approaches for the Next Production Revolution

Successful technological diffusion and digitization depend on effective organizational structures, workers' involvement and social dialogue. As OECD Ministers look at conditions that enable digital innovation, the role of trade unions in contributing to company strategies, skills development and new organizational models is not always adequately recognized. Complex network systems and Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) influence all economic and social activities, including big data, cloud computing and the Internet of Things. To ensure that their benefits are shared, it is essential to expand affordable access to quality broadband networks and to foster technological adaptation. At the same time, the focus should not only be on new technologies and players, but on strategies to support the innovation potential across all sectors and regions to bridge digital divides.

The session will present trade union approaches to shaping industrial policies and innovation strategies at the national and the company level.

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm

Civil Society-Trade Union Panel: Consumers and Workers in a Digital World

This joint session is set out to enable an exchange of views on labour and privacy related aspects of on-demand and platform economies from a workers' and consumers' perspective. New forms of non-standard work in the platform economy and mobile work need to be addressed through regulatory frameworks ensuring quality working conditions, including data privacy and security, fair wages, social protection and the right to bargain collectively. Some emerging business models pose a long-term social risk and will lead to a loss in skills development and trust. Panelists are invited to discuss:

Challenges and solutions to achieving quality jobs, consumer protection and privacy.

4:20 pm to 5:20 pm

Civil Society-Trade Union Closing Session: How to promote a Fair, Equal, and Accountable Digital Economy?

The closing session will highlight the key issues at stake at the Ministerial meeting for both the labour movement and civil society, in dialogue with the OECD.

5:30 pm to 6:15 pm

Joint Stakeholder Press Conference

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Official Ministerial Welcome Reception