



*Ecosoc: Future of  
Work*

---

# Table of Contents

<b>Introductions from your ECOSOC Dais</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Committee Information</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Committee Background</b>	<b>6</b>
Automation Affects the Working Class	6
Potential of Automation for Companies	7
Questions to Consider	7
<b>Committee Positions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>10</b>

---

---

## Introductions from your ECOSOC Dais

Dear delegates,

Hello! My name is Neve Diaz-Carr, and I am your chair for the ECOSOC Future of Work Committee. I'm a senior at Stuyvesant and have been involved in Model UN for three years now. Apart from Model UN, I love to dance, paint, and get involved in local politics. I work part-time with State Assembly Member Rebeca Seawright and am the Chief Relations Officer for the Stuyvesant Student Union. I'm originally from Montreal, but moved to New York before high school.

In the past year, I have definitely come to realize that our future can turn on a dime. Nothing has taught us this lesson more than COVID-19 and the ensuing recession. Now, as our state tries to heal from crisis, so many questions are left up in the air. One question that permeates across our city is the future of work. In the face of industrialization, unskilled labour has become more profitable when automatized. This is exacerbated by the pandemic, where companies are trying to cut costs at every corner and laying off employees who cannot come into work. In the face of total uncertainty for the future, it is your job to figure out the best solution for the future of work in the world. But I promise it will be fun. With pros and cons coming from either side, I am excited to see all of you argue this issue thoroughly and analytically while working together to come up with a resolution that will benefit both country and person.

In these extraordinary times, we both have new things to learn. But don't worry, we are in this together! I hope you love the world of Model UN just as much as I do, and I can't wait to see all of you. Keep your spirits high.

Much love,

Neve Diaz-Carr

[ndiaz-carr20@stuy.edu](mailto:ndiaz-carr20@stuy.edu)

---

---

Honorable delegates,

Hello, my name is Aaron Hui, and I am delighted to be serving as your director for the ECOSOC committee at MiniMUNC 2021! I am currently a junior here at Stuyvesant High School, have been participating in Model UN for 2 years, and this will be my second time directing a committee! MUN has been able to teach me so much about public speaking, collaboration, and other aspects. Going to conferences with my friends and being part of this organization has definitely made a huge impact on my time at Stuy. After the unprecedented situation last year, I am extremely grateful that we'll be able to host a conference in person, and am looking forward to this experience. To the newcomers, welcome to MUN; I'll make sure that this committee will be a memorable experience to you!

If you're completely new to MUN, I advise you to not be nervous! Many of the delegates in this committee and conference are in the same position as you, and this is a perfect opportunity to step out of your comfort zone! Although it may be nerve-racking to stand in front of a room and deliver a speech, MUN has a very supportive community, and you'll improve with experience. Take this opportunity to enjoy yourself, and don't worry about making mistakes. MiniMUNC is meant to be a learning experience, so treat it as such! I would also suggest utilizing the background guide and sources included on it, since it will provide a stepping stone for research and preparation.

As for research, if you're ever stuck, try to generalize! Imagine what the country of which you're representing would do in the situation; research some similar events and how they were handled. MUN isn't an exact representation; rather, it's full of unexpected twists and turns, and that's part of the fun! It's up to you, as delegates, to steer the committee in the right direction.

This will be the first conference for most, if not all, of you, so don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone, and have some fun!

Best of luck,

Aaron Hui

[ahui30@stuy.edu](mailto:ahui30@stuy.edu)

---

---

## Committee Information

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six main bodies of the United Nations, and is responsible for coordinating economic and social work within the UN. It plays a key role in fostering international cooperation and consulting with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

This committee will be a General Assembly committee, which means that delegates will be representing specific countries in the UN. Delegates will be collaborating with one another to address the topic of the committee and agree on a resolution.

For many of you, this will be your first conference, so we'll outline the general structure of MUN committees. Following roll call at the beginning of the first committee session, the speaker's list is opened, in which delegates have the opportunity to give an opening speech to introduce themselves and their view on the topic. After that, the committee will consist of mainly moderated caucuses, in which delegates give speeches pertaining to specific topics, or unmoderated caucuses, in which delegates are able to network and discuss with other delegates, allowing them to form blocs, which are basically groups that work together to write a resolution to address

the topic at hand. Once resolutions are finished, they will be presented and voted on. Throughout committee, notes can be passed between delegates, so don't be afraid to let other delegates know your views on their ideas and if you'd like to collaborate with them in a future unmod!

Below we have outlined some of the committee procedures.

**Roll Call:** At the beginning of each committee session, the chairs will take attendance. Delegates must respond with either, "Present" or, "Present and voting." If the delegation wishes to respond, "Present," they are able to abstain from voting for that committee session. If the delegation responds with, "Present and voting," the delegation must vote at every turn. If a delegation arrives late, the delegate must send a note up to the dais to inform them of their presence.

**Motions:** Motions are used for opening and closing debate, proposing a speaker's list, moderated, or unmoderated caucus, and deciding to move to voting procedure. To propose a motion, lift your placard.

**Speaker's List:** List of delegates which is often used to start committees. The speaker's list is usually used to outline a country's agenda on the topic

---

---

and jumpstart the networking process. If at any point during committee there are no new motions, the chair will revert back to the speaker's list.

**Moderated Caucus:** a form of debate used to allow delegations to explain and debate their country's positions on a specific topic in front of the entire committee. For a moderated caucus to be considered, the motion must include the overall speaking time, time per speaker, and the topic which will be discussed. Subsequently, the chairs will call on countries wishing to speak until the allotted time for the moderated caucus is over.

**Unmoderated Caucus:** an informal style of debate used for delegates to have time to form blocs and work on draft resolutions. Formal debate rules are suspended, and delegates are allowed to leave their seats. In order to move into an

unmoderated caucus, the motion must only outline the overall caucus time.

Although miniMUNC 2021 does not require position papers, they are **highly recommended**. Position papers are a great way to summarize all of your research into one document that can be referred to throughout the committee and can help you understand and solidify your stance on the topic. They can also be a great way to prepare for the conference since you will thoroughly research your topic in the process of writing the paper. If you would like to receive feedback on your position paper, please submit your paper to [ndiaz-carr20@stuy.edu](mailto:ndiaz-carr20@stuy.edu) and [ahui30@stuy.edu](mailto:ahui30@stuy.edu) via email. Papers should be a maximum of about one page long (single-spaced with 12 point font).

---

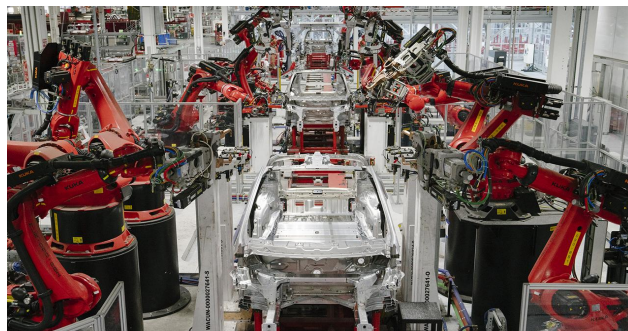
## Committee Background

According to the OECD, about 14 percent of all jobs today are vulnerable to automation, with estimates varying among individual nations. The jobs most prone to being automated are ones that are low skilled such as data collection, office administration, production, food preparation, and transportation. Meanwhile, high skilled occupations that require higher education such as

financial specialists and physicians are considered secure. Job insecurity will most affect the lower classes, as a result. In this committee, we will examine the effects of the automation of work and government responsibilities towards the workforce.

### ***Automation Affects the Working Class***

There is no doubt that unskilled labourers will frequently be replaced with machines. This will forever change the atmosphere of the workplace and the use of the workforce. Though jobs will be lost, most economists and specialists predict that there continue to be enough jobs for employment of the world population. In fact, many believe that the loss of work in factories could improve society as new jobs are created in infrastructure, climate change prevention, and social services. Society will have to undergo a major shift for this to happen. Workers will have to be re-trained for jobs that are less physically intensive. Work that favors



mental thinking, such as tech jobs, will definitely begin to gain a greater foothold in the labor industry, even greater than it has now. However, with skilled, educated labour, there comes a great class divide. As university tuition is becoming unaffordable for an expanding class of people, lower-income workers will not have the degrees necessary to fulfill these new positions.

Therefore, in order to ensure that jobs are being continuously created, we cannot simply create more jobs in skilled fields of work. Automation is predicted to widen the wage gap which is already desperately afflicting countries around

---

---

the globe. Those who work in tandem with automation, that is, will see their productivity increase, and along with that a pay increase. However, those who do not work with automation, or whose jobs are entirely replaced with automation, will face worsening pay cuts or job loss.

### ***Potential of Automation for Companies***

Although automation may sometimes be viewed in a negative light, it allows for allocation of money and resources elsewhere. When automation is implemented properly, productivity increases, allowing companies to invest in employees' education and such to allow them to suit broader skill sets. In addition, robots can take the place of potentially unsafe jobs in locations storing hazardous materials or involving heavy lifting, which can easily be replaced, and allocate these workers elsewhere. Most of the time and money for positions that are less desirable can be used to train workers for higher-skilled and more desirable positions.

Despite the fear of robots stealing jobs, automation is almost certainly the

next step into the future, and definitely has potential to work into the mainstream, spurring economic growth.

### ***Questions to Consider***

1. How much power do -- and how much power should -- governments have in controlling private business' decisions to automate employee tasks?
  2. Should there be a limit to the amount of tasks an artificial intelligence device can perform? How can one regulate this?
  3. How will the regulations implemented now affect the workforce in 20 or 30 years, once artificial intelligence has improved greatly?
  4. How can governments utilize the benefits of automation without hurting the job opportunities for their citizens?
  5. Should governments require companies to allocate more funds towards training employees for higher-skilled positions?
-



---

## Committee Positions

If you have questions regarding the categorization of your country, feel free to email [ndiaz-carr20@stuy.edu](mailto:ndiaz-carr20@stuy.edu) and [ahui30@stuy.edu](mailto:ahui30@stuy.edu) and we will be happy to let you know.

### **Economically Developed Countries:**

These countries lead the world in manufacturing and have some of the largest economies in the world. It comes as no surprise that they have been at the forefront of automation. For private corporations, the use of automation and artificial intelligence provides the perfect opportunity to minimize costs in the face of rising wages and corporate competition. Many governments agree with the use of artificial intelligence as a means to increase productivity in the workforce as they compete for the largest economies. However, research has shown that automation in these countries will severely hurt employment, especially of the lower classes (factory workers, retail workers, etc.) and contribute to an already tremendously large wealth disparity. Many citizens are wary of these issues and technological progress in general as a result.

### **Economically Developing Countries:**

Due to the lower skilled jobs in the developing world, automation can be used much more easily. Because of this, employment opportunities in

economically developing countries can be hurt, resulting in less wage growth, wage inequality, and slower reduction of poverty levels. As easily automated jobs such as agriculture and manufacturing are controlled by technology, workers will be forced into a smaller subset of jobs, which can hinder the development of a country primarily due to putting more economic pressure on the country. With some jobs in the position of being easily overtaken by automation, new jobs in areas such as service jobs, which require creative work, will have to be created to counteract the effects of automation on some areas of the workforce.

### **Economically Undeveloped Countries:**

The risk in using automation is quite high in underdeveloped countries. Already, there are few jobs offered, and many of those are unskilled and therefore easily replaceable by artificial intelligence. Many of these countries have a substantial amount of the workforce working for large companies in warehouses or call centers, both of which are quickly getting automated in the coming years. In fact, many

---

---

countries which have been developing quite successfully in the past decade might see stagnation or a decrease in economic development as a result of automation. Many politicians from these countries argue that automation should

only be introduced alongside a universal base income and extensive retraining programs for low-skilled workers.

---

# Bibliography

Brown, Sara. "A New Study Measures the Actual Impact of Robots on Jobs. It's Significant." *MIT Sloan*, 29 July 2020, [mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/a-new-study-measures-actual-impact-robots-jobs-its-significant](https://mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/a-new-study-measures-actual-impact-robots-jobs-its-significant).

Geiger, A.W. "How Americans See Automation and the Workplace in 7 Charts." *Pew Research Center*, Pew Research Center, 6 Aug. 2020, [www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/04/08/how-americans-see-automation-and-the-workplace-in-7-charts/](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/04/08/how-americans-see-automation-and-the-workplace-in-7-charts/).

Harris, Shawn. "Council Post: The Benefits of Automation in Today's Workforce." *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 1 May 2020, [www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2020/05/01/the-benefits-of-automation-in-todays-workforce/?sh=fd9ed631cc89](https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2020/05/01/the-benefits-of-automation-in-todays-workforce/?sh=fd9ed631cc89).

Kenny, Charles. "Automation and AI: Implications for African Development Prospects?" *Center For Global Development*, 22 Oct. 2019, [www.cgdev.org/publication/automation-and-ai-implications-african-development-prospects](https://www.cgdev.org/publication/automation-and-ai-implications-african-development-prospects).

Kharpal, Arjun. "From Driverless Cars to Robotic Warehouses, China Looks to Automation to Get Ahead of Labor Shortage." *CNBC*, CNBC, 25 May 2021, [www.cnbc.com/2021/05/24/china-looks-to-automation-to-solve-population-issues.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2021/05/24/china-looks-to-automation-to-solve-population-issues.html).

Roe, David. "How Will Automation Affect the Future Workplace?" *CMSWire.com*, CMSWire.com, 18 July 2019, [www.cmswire.com/digital-workplace/how-will-automation-affect-the-future-workplace/](https://www.cmswire.com/digital-workplace/how-will-automation-affect-the-future-workplace/).

Smith, Noah. *Bloomberg.com*, Bloomberg, 24 June 2021, [www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-06-24/automation-is-a-race-the-u-s-can-t-afford-to-lose](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-06-24/automation-is-a-race-the-u-s-can-t-afford-to-lose).

---