

Forum:	The Economic and Social Council Commission I (ECOSOC I)
Issue:	Addressing the Social and Economic Impacts of Technological Competition (SDG 16)
Chair:	Hoon Kim, President & Hector Liu, Deputy President

Introduction

Technological competition is a factor that arguably impacts the goals communicated in SDG 16, which advocates and promotes peace, justice, and strong institutions. Many factors of technology can affect the development of government institutions, specifically those that ensure public access to information in agreement with international policies. With intergovernmental corruption being relevant, it is imperative that transparency is being constantly promoted and relegated, which censorship of technology could hinder and violate.

Technology plays a critical role in both social and political circumstances, and with social movements being sponsored heavily through modern-day technology, it is crucial for a government looking to establish or reinforce strong institutions. Furthermore, technology has affected the global economy by establishing a race between countries and companies to better and build on existing products. The tension and disturbance this creates on the global market and between nations unsettles the peace and strong institutions set between respective governments. By understanding the effects technological competition is exerting on the economy and society, we can better cope and resolve issues created by technology.

Competition is a must in modern society, as everyone wants to be the best in the world. Competition creates new technology, specifically digital technologies. Social and economic problems caused by technology are pretty severe. Being over connected to technology causes issues such as distraction, narcissism, and often depression. It also could harm personal physical health such as vision problems, hearing loss, and neck strain. Another social issue caused by technology is addiction. Using technology could often be very addictive, and it is very

difficult for modern people to stay disconnected with technology. US adults spend more than 11 hours daily in their technology, and some professors think tech addiction should be classified as a diagnosable addiction.

There are also economic impacts of technology. With technology being available, there is greater productivity. People could make products at less cost with more production. As an increase in productivity, wages of employees increase and prices of some products decline. Also, there are impacts such as employees needing to be more knowledgeable and professional. Companies need engineers, scientists, and highly skilled workers which is also an impact of technology.

Definition of Key Terms

Artificial Intelligence

They have been a very important part of technology as they solve problems in computer science, software engineering, and operations research. Companies such as Microsoft Cognitive Services, Google services, or Amazon services use AI to make phones more intelligent, anticipate users' desire and need. This has transformed users experience as it is very comfortable for users and it has grown exponentially

Big Data

Big Data is to create, manipulate, and manage very large data sets and storage facilities. When we handle big data, we observe and track what happens around it. Currently, big data is the usage of predictive analytics, user behavior analytics, and other advanced method from data. Indeed, big data requires many different techniques and technologies with new forms of integration.

Chatbots

Software that conducts a conversation via auditory or textual methods. Many companies use this system since it decreases the work people have to do and increases consumer experiences. They also collect data and analyze it which is great for the users as they could get personal experience while using their system.

Transparency

The ability to access data and information about the actions of different governments or private/public enterprises. Transparency also corresponds with the degree and level of information that is revealed to the general public. Transparency is an important factor both economically and politically, as it can create distrust and doubt within individuals.

Entrepreneur

An entrepreneur is an individual who takes on the responsibility of creating an organization or company. The entrepreneur bears almost all of the risks in creating the business but as a result, receives the profit and fame from their efforts. However, entrepreneurship comes with many high risks as entrepreneurs need to finance their enterprise on their own and that they have to face their problems themselves.

Monopoly

A specific market in which one seller or organization dominates, the seller is absolute and is the sole seller of the specific product. In a monopoly market, the seller faces no competition. Factors also prevent and restrict other competitors from entering the market, as the organization with the monopoly could possess information unknown to other competitors. Also, the company with the monopoly controls the patents, copyright and could set the market price for the product.

Trade War

A trade war is an economic conflict between two countries. China and the United States are going through this as President Trump started to set tariffs and trade barriers as US believes their trade is an unfair one.

Fundamental Freedoms

The four fundamental freedoms are UN human rights, and relate and reinforce the freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. The freedom of speech is the right to express self-opinion without respective governments

restraining them. Freedom of worship is the freedom to practice and worship however and whoever an individual wishes to.

5G

It's the fifth-generation wireless technology since 2019. The main purpose of the new creation of the digital cellular network is to make the world faster than ever before. Its speed is around 1-2 Gb/s, and it is available in 20 networks. Companies such as T-Mobile and AT&T in the US started in Dec 2019, but its speed is currently similar to advanced 4G.

Background Information

China-United States Tariff War

The ongoing economic conflict between the US and China, regarded as the largest economies in the world, began after US President Donald Trump's accusations and threats on China's unfair trading practices. This led to increased tension between both sides, and eventually beginning a "war" with both the Trump and Xi administrations imposing sweeping tariffs on imported items coming from each respective country. The uncertainty and sensitivity around the negotiations and deals due to the trade war have caused instability for businesses on both sides, with potential to affect more consumers.

United States

This section will focus specifically on some of the Trump administration's tariffs on China. On January 18th, 2018, Trump imposed tariffs on solar panels manufactured from foreign countries. The tariffs would start initially at 30%, and within four years, fall gradually to around 15%, per Trump. With China being a world leader in solar panel manufacturing, this tariff was believed to be targeted directly towards affecting their production. In conjunction with the tariffs on solar panels, tariffs on washing machines were also announced. According to the US International Trade Commission, China exported \$425 million worth of washing machines to the United States. The tariffs imposed call for 20% on the first 1.2 million units of washers, with a 50% on the rest imported within that year. More recently, the Trump administration issued a tariff on steel and aluminum, 25% and 10% respectively. However, this tariff applied to the EU, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and South Korea instead of China. The tariff was

later edited, as Argentina and Brazil were exempted after negotiations. In January of 2020, Trump announced plans on expanding the tariff on steel and aluminum, after previous tariffs were not effective.

China

After initial American tariffs were imposed (January - June 2018), China retaliated with tariffs on approximately \$34 billion worth of US goods, then in mid- 2019, Xi raised tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US goods. A few weeks after this event, Trump and Xi agreed to a temporary “truce” in the G20 Osaka summit, which came into effect for a few months. During the months of “truce”, tension remained between Trump and Xi, with the truce finally being broken when the Chinese Ministry of Finance announced retaliative tariffs on \$75 billion worth of US goods. The last of retaliative effort China imposed was in September of 2019, when China imposed 5% to 10% tariffs on approximately 5078 imports from America.

Private and Public Sector

The public sector of an economy is comprised of many different organizations that are owned and operated by the government of a respective country. These organizations exist to benefit and provide services for the citizens. Likewise to the voluntary sector, these organizations in the public sector do not generate profit for the government. For example, education and public transportation would be organizations that are part of a public sector. On the contrary, the private sector of an economy is not stated controlled, and are owned and operated by individuals for profit. In a free market, the private sector makes up a larger share of an economy.

Competition between the Private and Public Sector

In terms of efficiency and profit, the private sector would greatly prevail in comparison to the public sector, as the aim and purpose of the private sector is to earn and generate profit for organizations. However, in terms of social welfare, the public sector benefits the citizens of a country a lot more than organizations in the private sector, as they are created specifically to better society.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute)

It Aims to achieve SDG 16 through research and technological innovation to accurately measure and focus on the impact of corruption on justice/peace. They are very focused on combating illicit financial flows (IFFs) especially those related to arms flow and stolen assets. They also voiced participation in the Expert Consultation Meeting organized by the UNDC and UNCTAD. UNICRI focuses improved security through technology and research and aforementioned focuses

UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is primarily focused on target indicator 16.3 in Sustainable Development Goal 16, based on promoting the rule of law at international levels to protect and guarantee access to justice and law enforcement equally. In addition, UNESCO contributes to SDG 16.5, on anti-corruption and transparent, accountable institutions, pertaining both to the private and public sector.

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

They focus on democratic governance and building peace. Whether technology is a factor that assists them in helping with electoral votes is unclear

Transparency International

Pertaining to corruption and promoting transparency within governments and organizations. Corruptions Perceptions Index measures and assists with taking actions to prevent/decrease global corruption

United States

They have an advantage compared to any other country in the world as it has the strongest research base in the world, leading technology companies, and an innovative culture. The US is struggling a lot because they are spending on other issues such as \$2 trillion in Afghanistan alone. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a big issue and many

of the technology professionals work in the US when China ranked 7th place in investing over \$400 billion on research and development

China

China's currently one of the fastest-growing countries regarding technology. They recently invested a large amount in technology, infrastructure, and science. People from all around the world are interested in the US-China trade war but it is initially a 'tech war'. Their goal is being one of the leading power in science and technology, and turning into a technological innovation powerhouse by 2025.

Tech Giants

Five tech giants are Facebook, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon. By the end of the 2010s, these companies had become the top five companies in the world in terms of market capitalization, as their value is from half a trillion to one trillion US dollars. In 2017, these five companies has a value of over \$3.3 trillion. Amazon is a leading company in e-commerce, Google is a leading company in AI with inventing personal digital assistants, Apple sells smartphones and other computing devices, Facebook is a leading company in social media, and Microsoft is a leading company with desktop programs such as Windows

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1981	Development of 3D printing by using ultraviolet lights to harden polymers and create solid objects
January 1st, 2016	Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions adopted by government and leader
January 22nd, 2018	Trump announces tariffs on solar panels and washing machines
July 6th, 2018	China imposes first retaliatory tariffs on \$34 billion worth of US goods
May 27th- May 29th, 2018	Expert group meeting (EGM) on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) preparing for the July 2019 session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

June 29th, 2019	Osaka G20 summit; Trump and Xi agree to a truce in the trade war
July 9th - July 18th, 2019	High-Level Political Forum on SDG 16 under the coordination of the UN Economic and Social Council
January 15th, 2020	Vice Premier Liu He and President Trump sign US- China trade deal "Phase One"
2030s	NASA and ESA plan a human mission to Mars

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- Establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, 5 Dec 2018 (A/73/506)
- Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, 19 Nov 2018 (A/73/507)
- Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, adopting, without a vote, the eponymous draft decision contained therein, 8 Nov 2018 (A/73/509)

Possible Solutions

Having governments set stricter regulations on monopolies through ways such as price capping. Price Capping are governments setting a limit on the amount a company or an organization can charge for a specific item, antitrust laws, preventing companies from setting high prices together, and other corrupt means to gain an advantage for companies

Another possible solution is to **make sure that justice is accessible to everyone**, being smarter and making appropriate choices of our resources, including new technologies and innovations. Due to technology, there are many disadvantages caused such as some people not having access to technology which should not be a case in a digitally connected world

Another possible solution is to **encourage technological improvements of developing countries.** Encouraging technology is important as some LEDC countries may still

not realize how important technology is and we should all be connected to each other. Also, they should know the benefits it bring as new technologies reduce the price of goods and services. Indeed, consumers in its country will benefit from improvements such as not needing to go to bank branches as they could use cell phones to do it.

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