

**Meeting: Future of Work (Employment)**  
**Committee: Robot vs. Human Labor**  
**Country: Nigeria**

With the effect of rapid globalization of economies in the African region and around the world, Nigeria has also been taking part in acquiring technological developments including IT and automation of industries. While having several merits of this process towards the national development there are several impediments that especially affect the labor market adversely. Being one of the emerging economies in Africa, Nigeria with over 85 million of the labor force out of its 190 million people has immense potential to excel in agriculture, manufacturing, services and tourism, telecommunications, financial and technological sectors through automation. Even though Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa, recent economic recessions caused to increase unemployment from 16.2% in quarter two to 18.8% in quarter three in 2017, where 21.2% of women in the workforce are unemployed that is much higher than the national average. On the other hand, Nigeria faces greater human development and regional disparities that are the major impediments for fair disbursements of development dividends.

Even with such daunting figures, Nigeria would like to stress that the Robots, artificial intelligence, automated machines and virtual realities rapidly take over the industries across the country that is one of the positive signs that the country takes part in fourth industrialization revolution. Multinational enterprises (MNEs) and foreign investments take the lead in this drive, yet according to UNCTED World Investment Report 2018, Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to Nigeria dropped by 21% against the previous year. However, this may lead to increase the unemployment and underemployment, while drastic changes in production, distribution and consumption patterns on the other hand consequently cause to social unrests and union actions resulting to disrupt the industrial peace and stability. Therefore, Nigeria firmly believes that there should be a balance between new trends in development, industrialization, automation while maximum utilization of country's precious human resources, where highlight that Nigeria requires new policies, procedures and mass scale awareness-raising among the nations.

Being Nigeria a developing country, its development drive mainly depends on FDI, yet because of the international trade competitions, MNEs tend to introduce technical savvy investments rather opening doors for the country's labor force. While Nigeria highly recognizes the greater contributions of FDIs, it firmly believes that people of Nigeria should be benefited from the industrialization and development. The government of Nigeria understands that the Robots and automated machines take over the jobs in many industries, claiming that Nigeria is not mature enough to deploy robot machines in industries due to looming effects of unemployment. But on the other hand, this automation eventually requires more skilled human labor to run and maintain the systems, so creating new jobs while reducing the production cost, which would be the benefit of the country in long run. Therefore, delegates of Nigeria firmly believes that advancing the human capital and skilling its workforce is the best solution for the issues may arising from automation of industries.

While recognizing the potentials of technology has to improve the life of humankind, Government of Nigeria expects the investments from developed nations and industries in skilling its workforce, while expresses its support to global efforts on rectifying issues relating to technological development, automation and labor issues. The government of Nigeria further expects to take policy revisions on skilling its workforce, identify new types of employments, investments while facilitating new development drives and acquire learning from other countries around the world.