



ZiMUN 2018 General Assembly Research Report

Forum: Economic and financial committee

Issue: Addressing universal wage issues in the era of unemployed through automation

Student officer: Ryan Patrick Sylvester

Position: Chair

Overview of the Issue

The current statistic for total unemployment of Labour, as according to the world bank, sits at 5.94% of the world's population. In an era of exponentially increasing technology new jobs are being created daily which, in theory, should improve the quality of life and reduce the rates of unemployment in the world. There are 1.2 billion youths in the world aged 15 to 24 which means that youths make up 17% of our world's population. Youth unemployment is approaching high levels as it has become increasingly challenging for young people to find jobs. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates there are 75,000,000 15-to-24-year-olds looking for work across the globe which is approximately 40% of the world's youth and that there are perhaps as many as 290,000,000 15-to-24-year-olds not contributing in the labour market which is about a quarter of the world's youths. Such a sizable youth cohort is an opportunity for growth but can also become a source of instability if youth unemployment and discouragement are not addressed. Furthermore, according to the UN 10.6% of the worlds youth (ages 15-24) are illiterate and 20% are idle (not in a system of education). This is representative of the supply side deficit of workers available to fill jobs being created as it is fair to say that in the age of automation jobs being created are greatly applicable to a more educated populous. Therefore as the population expands and technology improves it becomes more difficult to educate a growing population thus the rates for unemployment can only rise. As depicted by the World Bank graphing of global unemployment this assumption can be confirmed by the obvious trend in the growth of unemployed population. Therefore it is fair to say that there will be two key factors in reducing rates of unemployment, the first path is to increase measures to utilize the already educated but unemployed population. Then it is necessary to increase availability of education of youth population in order to fill the surplus of jobs becoming available. Further more it is necessary to take a statistical observation of the improvement of technology in relation to unemployment statistics. As shown in Moore's law of technological improvement graphed according to the



ZiMUN 2018 General Assembly Research Report

number of transistor per microprocessor. This shows a trend between 2010 and 2017 which matches the trend of unemployment rates according to the world bank.

Furthermore the trend in unemployment rates can also be linked to population growth, this proves that there is a surplus of idle labor as well as a deficit of active labor which shows that education will help to fill the gap and reduce unemployment through reduction in rates of idle workers. There is an urgent need to reverse the trend now. Unless immediate and vigorous action is taken, the global community confronts the grim legacy of a lost generation

Key Terms

WB- World Bank

ECOSOC - Economic and Social council

EFC- Economic and Financial Committee

Youth - People between the ages of 15 and 24

Countries and Organizations Involved

As unemployment is a global issue the largest majority of countries including most MEDCs are involved in the issue. The organizations which have been key in the issue in the past include ECOSOC and WB as well as the governments of most countries. Although the UN as a whole has been involved in the reduction of world wide unemployment the impact created has been less significant and the issue has often been pushed behind more pressing matters. The task of reduction of unemployment has generally been placed on the backs of governments, but without appropriate knowledge and ability most governments fail to reduce this issue. Hence the inherent need for UN intervention. Governments in the ASEAN block such as Indonesia and Thailand have made good progress in coalition with ASEAN and the UN. Germany, Sweden and Italy are also at the forefront of the problem with German unemployment rates increases as refugees enter the country. Italy and Sweden boast low general unemployment, however, figure show that 24% or Swedish youths are unemployed which is deeply significant in comparison to the overall average unemployment being 8%. Italy have backed resolutions in ECOSOC for the reduction of poverty and unemployment and have led the charge against the legacy of a lost generation.

Related UN resolutions and Previous Approaches to Solving the Issue

There have been many United Nations efforts to reduce world unemployment since its advent in 1948. In recent years they have become more pertinent to the



ZiMUN 2018 General Assembly Research Report

world as it enters an industrially autonomous state. The most prominent of these have been the ECOSOC Resolution 2006/11 which made a particular mention to automation and technology in clause 4 which encourages increases in technological capacity. Furthermore ECOSOC Resolution 2008/18 which stresses the importance of job creation to reduce world poverty as well as concepts of self determination and education to help aid job creation. In the spirit of reduction of youth unemployment I find it necessary to mention previous attempts to reduce unemployment of youths which include work by the IYF and the ILO. The two organizations have worked to increase youth employment by setting up programs to train youths for the job market. The United Nations Social and Economic Council and General Assembly have passed resolutions in order to promote youth employment. These two resolutions included suggestions to develop national action plans for youth unemployment and remind governments that they have the primary responsibility to educate young people. They ask that governmental bodies, representative youths organizations, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society collaborators with educational institutions to ensure that the education systems provide their students with the skills they need for the workforce. EU executive announced in February 2013 a seven-year plan to guarantee all young people a job, training, further education or an internship within four months of leaving school. Germany's Prime Minister Angela Merkel has urged other countries to follow the German style of education that focuses on apprenticeships however; on the other hand, residents of the EU have blamed her for the economic hardship due to her austerity policies. Germany is determined to shake that reputation by making more market-orientated changes rather than state-created jobs. programs. Furthermore efforts have been made by the UN such as resolution A/RES/57/165.

Works Cited

Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013. Rep. International Labour Organization, 03 Jan. 2013. Web. <http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_212423.pdf>.

Youth Unemployment: Challenges and Solutions. Rep. World Economic Forum, 2012. Web. <http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Manpower_YouthEmploymentChallengeSolutions_2012.pdf>

Graphs of world unemployment :

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS>



ZiMUN 2018 General Assembly Research Report

ECOSOC Resolution 2006/11:

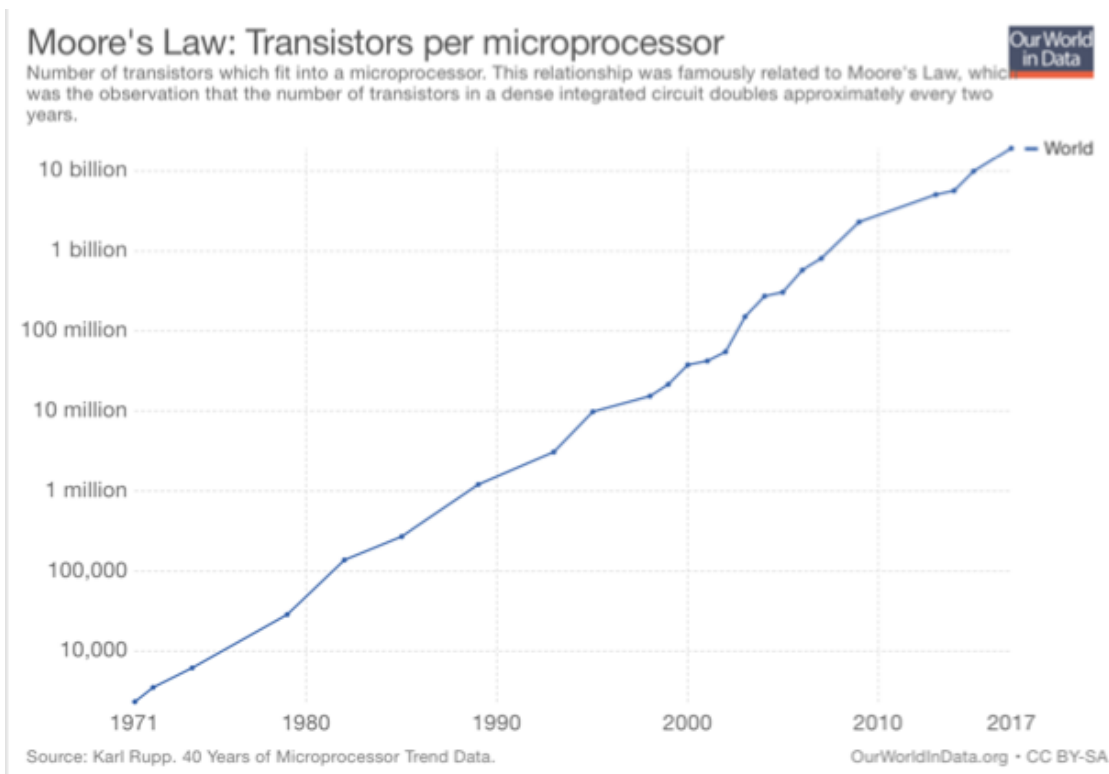
<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2006/resolution-2006-15.pdf>

ECOSOC Resolution 2008/18:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2008/resolution%202008-18.pdf>

Appendix

Moore's law for technological advancement.



World labor unemployment

