



Resource Guide

WFUNA International Model United Nations New York City 2024

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International Labour Organization

Decent Work in the Platform Economy





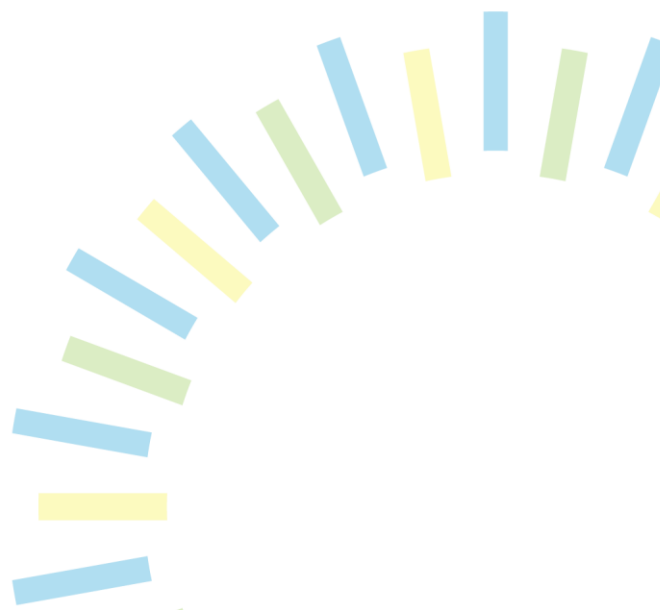
Welcome to WFUNA International Model United Nations New York 2024.

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and subsections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!





Topic Description

Within the International Labour Organization (ILO), the platform economy has emerged as a pivotal area of investigation and policy development. This term encapsulates the pervasive influence of digital platforms that mediate economic transactions, connecting a diverse range of workers with consumers, services, and goods - be it food delivery, ride-sharing, freelance work or online marketplaces. These platforms have reshaped traditional labor dynamics, giving rise to gig work, freelancing, and flexible employment arrangements.

At the ILO, deep attention is given to the implications of this digital transformation on labor markets, emphasizing issues such as labor rights, social protection, and the evolving nature of work. As the platform economy continues to redefine the world of work, the ILO plays a crucial role in analyzing and shaping policies that ensure fair and equitable outcomes for all stakeholders involved.





Official Resources on the Topic

- [Digital Platform Economy](#)
Summary: This is one of the ILO's portals to information on the digital platform economy. It provides links to the latest news on this issue.
Published: 2023
- [The Promises and Perils of the Platform Economy: Occupational Health and Safety Challenges, and the Opportunities for Labour Inspection](#)
Summary: This piece provides an overview of the occupational safety and health (OSH) implications associated with the Platform Economy. It also addresses the problems in defining who is a worker and employer in the Platform Economy and how this impacts the regulation of the Platform Economy.
Published: 2023
- [MEDWPE/2022: Decent work in the platform economy](#)
Summary: This reference document and background guide primarily addresses working conditions in the platform economy. It served as a resource for an expert meeting on decent work in the platform economy in October 2022.
Published: 2022
- [Summary record of proceedings - MEDWPE/2022](#)
Summary: This document contains a summary record of the proceedings of the meeting of experts on decent work in the platform economy held in Geneva in October 2022. It contains many statements by the government representatives and social partners (workers and employers).
Published: 2022
- [ILO Working Paper 80: Realizing the opportunities of the platform economy through freedom of association and collective bargaining](#)
Summary: This study presents empirical evidence from various global regions, highlighting pathways for platform workers to access freedom of association and collective bargaining rights.
Published: 2022
- [ILO Working Paper 70: A global analysis of worker protest in digital labour platforms](#)
Summary: This paper presents findings from the Leeds Index of Platform Labor Protests, a database documenting platform worker protest events in various sectors and regions, with





a focus on key causes of protests.

Published: 2022

- [ILO Working Paper 27: Platform work and the employment relationship](#)

Summary: This working paper analyses case law and legislation about the employment status of platform workers. It does so by referring to the ILO Employment Relationship Recommendation, 2006 (No. 198). It finds that this Recommendation provides for a valuable compass to navigate the issues that emerge from the analysis of the existing case law and legislation about platform work. Profiles of various countries are included in the paper.

Published: 2022

- [Rapid growth of digital economy calls for coherent policy response](#)

Summary: The growth of digital labour platforms is presenting opportunities and challenges for workers and businesses and a need for international policy dialogue. This piece written by the ILO examines these challenges and suggests a way forward.

Published: 2021

- [Can digital labour platforms create fair competition and decent jobs?](#)

Summary: This is part of the InfoStories ILO series to help understand the world of work. It presents information in an easy to understand manner that includes platform workers' stories, types and numbers of platforms, how digital economies are distributed around the world, what makes digital labour platforms different from traditional businesses, how digital labour platforms are changing and challenging traditional businesses, the types of workers that are engaged by the digital labour platforms, and more.

Published: 2021

- [World Employment and Social Outlook 2021: The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work](#)

Summary: This report provides a comprehensive overview of workers' and businesses' experiences on online and location-based platforms. Drawing from surveys and interviews with thousands of workers and representatives from various businesses globally, it delves into the business model of digital labor platforms, global regulatory responses, and a path forward for ensuring decent work in the platform economy.

Published: 2021

- [World Employment and Social Outlook 2021: The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work \[Summary\]](#)

Summary: This summary report explores how digital labor platforms are reshaping work





and its effects on employers and employees. It specifically focuses on online web-based and location-based platforms.

Published: 2021

- [Decent work in the platform economy](#)

Summary: This presentation of the technical paper "Decent Work in the Platform Economy" provides a brief overview of recent developments in the platform economy in terms of employment, the nature of work and job quality and then outlines major policy questions.

Published: 2018

- [Law for the Platform Economy](#)

Summary: This academic paper describes the evolution of the platform economy and introduces the ways that platforms restructure both economic exchange and patterns of information flow. It then explores some of the ways that actions and interventions by and on behalf of platform businesses are reshaping the law. Finally, it describes challenges that platform-based intermediation of the information environment has posed for existing regulatory institutions.

Published: 2017

- [Extending social security to workers in the platform economy](#)

Summary: This topic overview centers on social security in the platform economy and offers a wide range of additional reference documents.

Published: n.d.





Official Statements/Documents issued by Member-States, Workers and Employers

- [Vietnam's digital economy: great potential waiting to be exploited](#)

Summary: Information from the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam that noted it was ranked the fastest growing digital economy in Southeast Asia in 2022. The webpage also includes the government's projected growth of their digital economy in the next several years.

Published: 2023

- [Governing Body 347th Session, Geneva, 13-23 March 2023 Meeting Minutes of the Institutional Section](#)

Summary: This meeting of the Governing Body in 2023 contains many statements by the social partners on decent work in the platform economy. After opening the document, search the phrase "platform economy" to locate all of the statements on this issue made during the meeting.

Published:2022

- [Governing Body 346th Session, Geneva, October–November 2022 Meeting Minutes of the Institutional Section](#)

Summary: This meeting of the Governing Body at the end of 2022 contains many statements by the social partners on decent work in the platform economy. After opening the document, search the phrase "platform economy" to locate all of the statements on this issue made during the meeting.

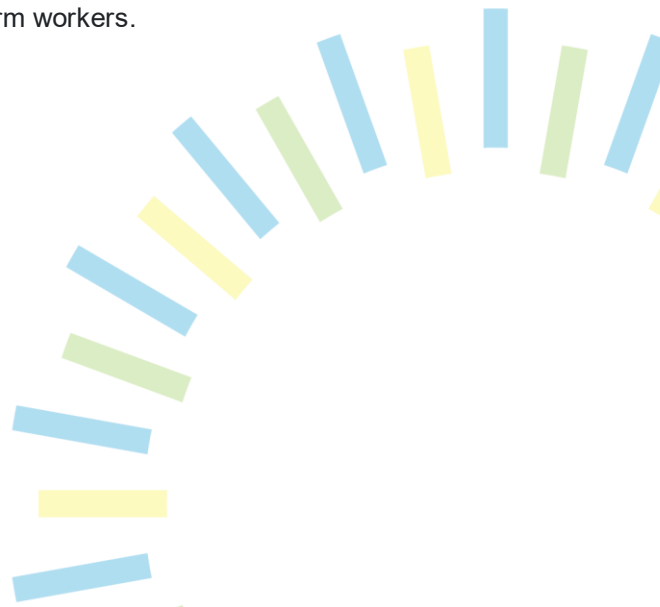
Published:2022





Official Statements/Documents issued by Intergovernmental Organizations, Regional & Political Groups

- [Digital Economy Ministers Meeting Outcome Document & Chair's Summary](#)
Summary: The Outcome Document comprises the entire text on the digital economy which was unanimously agreed to by all G20 members.
Published: 2023
- [Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy](#)
Summary: This statement by G77 and China on the digital economy was made at the 5th regular session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.
Published: 2022
- [Statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China](#)
Summary: This statement by G77 and China on the digital economy was made at the 69th regular session of the Trade and Development Board.
Published: 2021
- [Digital platforms and the world of work in G20 countries: Status and Policy Action](#)
Summary: This paper seeks to provide an understanding of platform work in G20 countries and how they are transforming the world of work. It presents some of the recent developments in digital labour platforms by providing estimates of the number of platforms in G20 countries, the funding or investments in these platforms, and the revenue generated by them over the past decade. The paper also examines some of the opportunities and challenges faced by platform workers in G20 countries. It then explores some of the regulatory gaps with regard to platform governance, and reviews some of the policy initiatives undertaken by governments and social partners to address these gaps and to ensure decent working conditions for platform workers.
Published: 2021





Official Documents about the situation in UN Regions or Member-States

Europe

- [Rights for platform workers: Council agrees its position](#)

Summary: The European Council webpage highlights the Council's readiness to negotiate a new law that will help millions of gig workers gain access to employment rights. It provides background to the issue and puts forth the proposition that platform workers should be legally considered to be employees as opposed to being self-employed which would make them eligible to enjoy the labour rights and social protection afforded to employees under national and EU law.

Published: 2023

Asia and Pacific

- [Digital Economy Report Pacific Edition 2022: Towards Value Creation and Inclusiveness](#)

Summary: This report, published by UNCTAD, presents a broad overview of the current digital economy landscape in the region and highlights key information about emerging trends and business models. The last chapter provides recommendations and pathways to support Pacific policymakers as they seek a way forward that maximizes the benefits and minimizes the risks of the digital era.

Published: 2023

- [Policy issues in the digital platform economy: A guide for employers' organizations in Southeast Asia](#)

Summary: This report reviews legal and regulatory challenges related to platform work and how employers' organizations can shape this framework, offering policy options and membership strategies for Southeast Asia.

Published: 2023

- [Platform work in Jordan: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

Summary: This report examines the potential of digital labor platforms in addressing unemployment in Jordan, emphasizing challenges and decent work considerations.

Published: 2023

- [ILO Working paper 85: Ride-hailing versus traditional taxi services: The experiences of taxi drivers in Lebanon](#)





Summary: This paper offers insights into the working conditions of platform-based taxi drivers in Lebanon, critically examining the development of taxi platforms and their dependence on various factors, including venture capital funds.

Published: 2022

- [Assessment of social security coverage of workers in diverse forms of employment and in platform employment in China](#)

Summary: This publication evaluates workers' access to social security in different employment types in China, including digital platform work. It provides recommendations to address policy and implementation gaps.

Published: 2022

- [Research brief 3: Social Security of Platform Workers in China: findings and recommendations from two studies \(2018-2019\)](#)

Summary: This brief comprises two studies focusing on the distinct circumstances faced by platform economy workers in China.

Published: 2021

- [Maua's Vanuatu expansion will create new digital trade opportunities for businesses](#)

Summary: This UNDP article examines the digital economy in Vanuatu and what is being done to expand it and how digital trade is being leveraged to preserve traditional knowledge and food.

Published: 2022

Latin America and the Caribbean

- [The Digital Economy Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

Summary:

Published: 2023

- [Digital Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean - Country Diagnostic: El Salvador](#) (available in English and Spanish)

Summary: This report from the World Bank assesses the state of digital economy development in El Salvador, and provides detailed analysis and policy recommendations to inform the reform agenda in the country.

Published: 2022.

- [ECLAC-ILO Decent work for platform workers in Latin America", Employment Situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, No. 24](#)





Summary: This report analyzes the impact of the crisis on labor market indicators in 2020 and presents characteristics of digital platform work in Latin America with respect to decent work principles.

Published: 2021

- [Digital Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean - Country Diagnostic: Colombia](#)
(available in English and Spanish)
- [Digital Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean - Country Diagnostic: Colombia](#)
Summary: The first link directs you to the full report on the digital economy in Colombia as published by the World Bank. It analyzes the current state of, challenges to, and opportunities for the development of a digital economy and proposes six policy priorities for the Government of Colombia (GoC).

The second link offers a short summary of the report content including the major challenges and recommendations for Colombia.

Published: 2021

Africa

- [Towards decent work for young refugees and host communities in the digital platform economy in Africa: Kenya, Uganda, Egypt](#)
Summary: This report explores job creation in the gig economy, particularly focusing on youth, refugees, and digital labor platforms in Kenya, Uganda, and Egypt.
Published: 2021

- [Digital Economy Diagnostic: Angola](#)

Summary: This report examines the digital economy in Angola and presents recommendations on the way forward for accelerating digital transformation. The analysis presented in this report is based on research and interviews with public and private stakeholders conducted by various World Bank from January 2020 to April 2021.

Published: 2023

Eastern Europe

- [ILO Working paper 38: Freelance platform work in the Russian Federation: 2009–2019](#)





Summary: This paper traces the evolution of freelance platform work in Russia, analyzing working conditions and worker well-being using data from online surveys spanning a decade.

Published: 2021

- [Work on Digital Labour Platforms in Ukraine: Issues and Policy Perspectives](#)

Summary: These surveys concentrate on working conditions of online platform workers in Ukraine, demonstrating the transformation of work modes and perceptions by businesses and workers.

Published: 2018





Non-Official Resources about the Topic

- [Platform workers and social protection: International developments](#)

Summary: This article examines the key aspects of social protection that platform workers need. It also considers the problems associated with determining the proper employment status of platform workers that is essential to establish their social security and labour rights and goes on to point out that at present there is a lack of clear legal frameworks governing digital platforms that has led to many labour-related disputes. In response, several countries – such as Belgium, Italy, and Spain have introduced legislative measures to clarify the criteria used for determining the existence of an employment relationship on digital platforms. This article also mentions actions taken by Indonesia to provide social protection to platform workers.

Published: 2023

- [The Rise of the Platform Economy: Anticipating the needs of today & the future](#)

Summary: This article focuses on the future in commerce that goes beyond what we are used to today. That future is the platform economy where we will have access to everything, everywhere, all at once. It provides an interesting discussion on defining what a platform is, asking whether a platform is the same as an online marketplace? The conclusion is that an online marketplace is a platform but a platform is not necessarily an online marketplace.

Published: 2023

- [Women in the platform Economy: Emerging insights](#)

Summary: The PowerPoint provides key research findings on the experience of women in the platform economy and why platforms should be aware of the barriers that prevent women from taking full advantage of the economic opportunities they create. This touches on an aspect of the digital economy that is not discussed often enough.

Published: 2022

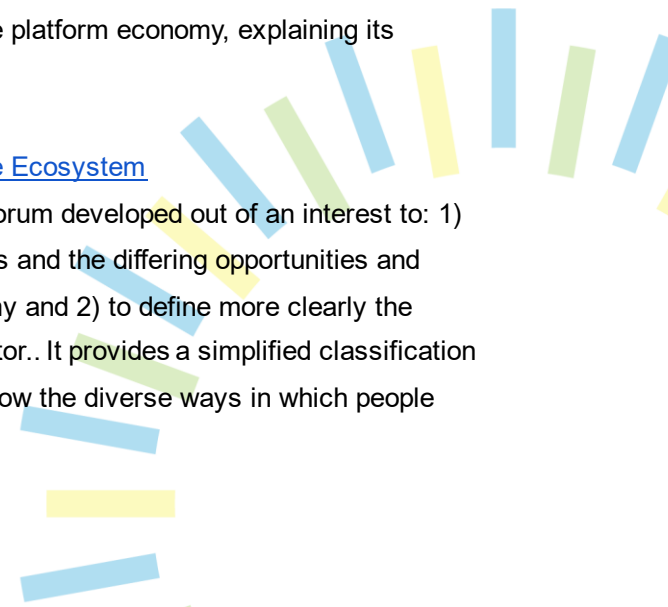
- [Platform Economy: A Deep Dive Into Digital Business Models](#)

Summary: This resource offers an overview of the platform economy, explaining its operation and influence on business practices.

Published: 2022

- [The Promise of Platform Work: Understanding the Ecosystem](#)

Summary: The paper from the World Economic Forum developed out of an interest to: 1) better understand the situation of platform workers and the differing opportunities and challenges for workers posed by platform economy and 2) to define more clearly the responsibilities of different stakeholders in the sector.. It provides a simplified classification of digital work/services platforms and highlights how the diverse ways in which people





work within digital platforms pose challenges for the current rules and laws governing work.

Published: 2020

- [The rise of the platform economy](#)

Summary: Deloitte provides a concise overview discussing questions, challenges, and opportunities related to the platform economy and its sustainable contributions to society.

Published: 2019

- [Digital Labour Markets in the Platform Economy](#)

Summary: This comprehensive analysis by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation categorizes digital labor platforms, examining various labor market models within the platform economy.

Published: 2017

- [The Rise of the Platform Economy](#)

Summary: This early article on the platform economy explores how it will change the nature of work and the structure of the economy.

Published: 2016





Non-Official Resources about Member-States or UN Regions

- [China sends strongest signal to support platform firms as Premier Li meets with industry representatives](#)
Summary: This article discusses China's efforts to support the digital economy.
Published: 2023
- [What is Zambia's Government doing about the growing platform economy?](#)
Summary: This article asks whether the Zambian Government use flexible policy and regulation to enable economic gains for youth through the digital platform economy. It includes a profile of a young person working in the Zambian Platform economy, why Zambian youth need a new economic agenda and whether the digital economy can be key in transforming the economy.
Published: 2023
- [For workers in Africa, the digital economy isn't all it's made out to be](#) *Summary:* While governments, development organisations and civil society look towards digital work as a fix for African countries' development problems, a five year study to investigate the digital economy and its implications for workers in five African countries: South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana found that job quality in digital work remains questionable. *Published:* 2022
- [Making digital Platforms Work for Asia and the Pacific](#)
Summary: This article provides an in-depth look at digital platforms in Asia and the Pacific. It notes the key characteristics of these platforms, provides selected definitions of digital platforms, highlights how they can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and much more..
Published: 2021
- [Can Africa take the Platform Economy Forward?](#)
Summary: This report explores four industries that we believe are poised for a far-reaching transition to the platform economy in Africa – retail, healthcare, financial services, and telecommunications.
Published: 2021
- [Governance of the platform economy in developing countries and emerging economies](#)
[Focus: African perspectives](#)
Summary: This publication provides an introduction to trends in the platform economy in developing countries and emerging economies with a special focus on the continent of Africa. In addition, it raises numerous questions that have emerged as a result of the radical structural change brought about by the platform economy.
Published: 2021





- [The Platform Economy: Southeast Asia's Digital Growth Catalyst](#)
Summary: Tthe Tech for Good Institute commissioned this report with the intent to provide a broad introduction to set the stage for looking into the challenges and issues in supporting the Platform Economy in Southeast Asia.
Published: 2021
- [10 Things to Know About Dubai's Digital Economy Ambitions](#)
Summary: This article discusses UAE's strategic priorities and ambitions for developing its digital economy.
Published: 2022
- [Law and policy of platform economy in China](#)
Summary: This academic article examines the rapid rise of the digital economy in China and how it was nourished by carefully designed public policies.
Published: 2020
- [The knowledge-intensive platform economy in the Nordic countries](#)
Summary: This report discusses the development of knowledge-intensive digital platforms in the Nordic countries. Knowledge-intensive platforms are a subset of the overall platform economy, connecting workers with clients.
Published: 2019





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