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► Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020

Technology and the future of jobs

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Preface

The ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, adopted by ILO constituents on the occasion of the Centenary of the International Labour Organization (June 2019), calls upon the ILO to direct its efforts to, inter alia, “developing effective policies aimed at generating full, productive and freely chosen employment and decent work opportunities for all, and in particular facilitating the transition from education and training to work, with an emphasis on the effective integration of young people into the world of work”. The 2020 edition of the *Global Employment Trends for Youth* seeks to inform the design and implementation of such policies based on an update of key youth labour market indicators and in-depth assessments of trends and issues in the world of work facing young women and men.

The report also comes at a critical juncture. As part of efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8 to “[p]romote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, the international community was called upon to, by 2020, (i) substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET); and (ii) develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment. As this report shows, at the start of a new decade, the target to meaningfully reduce the proportion of youth NEET will be missed, highlighting the need to redouble efforts to generate decent jobs for the next generation of workers. Furthermore, youth labour markets around the world face a number of important challenges: the global economy remains sluggish as geopolitical tensions, social unrest and global trade barriers have dragged on growth. Recent epidemics carry the potential to further slow economic activity. These developments are particularly detrimental to youth as their employment prospects, relative to older workers, are more sensitive to economic downturns.

This edition of the *Global Employment Trends for Youth* focuses on the impact of technological advances on youth labour markets. It analyses both opportunities and risks for youth in terms of job destruction and creation, the use of digital technology to improve labour market programmes, and sharing productivity gains. Policy responses to address the potential risks are also explored. I hope this report will be a valuable tool in shaping a future of work with full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people.

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