

AICESIS Workshop – AI, Social Dialogue, and the Renewal of the Social Contract
Date & Time: October 30, 2025, 14:00–17:00

14:00–14:15 – **Opening remarks**

Speakers: *John Hubert Jacobs*, AICESIS President (President in function of SER Curaçao)

14:15–14:45 – **Keynote interventions**

Two keynote addresses will provide complementary perspectives to frame the discussion:

- **Keynote 1:** ILO and Global Perspective – The Director General of the ILO, the Honorable **Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo**, represented by a senior ILO official of the ILO Headquarters in Geneva. Topic: ‘AI, Decent Work and the Social Contract: A Global Outlook’. This talk will examine how AI is reshaping work worldwide, the risks to decent jobs and equality, and the role of social dialogue in governing this transition. It will draw on ILO’s latest findings and initiatives – for example, the “Global Coalition for Social Justice” and the ILO’s 2024 report “Towards a Renewed Social Contract” – to argue that strengthening social dialogue institutions is key to ensuring AI-driven productivity gains do not come at the cost of workers’ rights or social cohesion.
- **Keynote 2:** Multilateral and Ethical Governance Perspective – **Paula Isturiz- Caverro**, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Office for the Caribbean. Topic: “Governing AI for Inclusion and Trust.” This intervention will highlight international and Caribbean efforts to craft AI governance frameworks that uphold human rights and inclusive development. Citing initiatives like UNESCO’s Recommendation on the Ethics of AI implementation the audience will hear how multilateral bodies are moving from identifying AI’s risks to implementing solutions for ethical AI – for instance, UNESCO’s global forums on AI governance in 2024–25 and the forthcoming UN Global Digital Compact. This keynote reinforces that effective governance and multilateral cooperation are essential to prevent AI from fragmenting regulatory approaches or weakening social protection.

These two 15-minute keynotes set the stage by connecting the workshop theme to real-world policy action. Together they underscore the workshop’s core message: that harnessing AI for good requires aligned action by governments, social partners, and international institutions.

14:45–15:30 – Expert panel discussion: ‘ESCs at the forefront of the AI era’

Moderated panel (45 minutes) featuring diverse experts from AICESIS member councils and partner organizations. Moderator: **Apostolos Xyrafis** (Secretary-General of AICESIS).

This panel will explore how Economic and Social Councils (ESCs) and social dialogue institutions can respond to the challenges of AI. How can these bodies stay relevant in a world shaped by algorithms and automation? What are the most promising practices—such as AI agreements between unions and employers, national taskforces with social partners, or consultative input into laws like the EU AI Act? Panelists will also focus on inclusion, especially for vulnerable groups like young people, women, and those in precarious jobs, to ensure no one is left behind in the digital shift. Each speaker will offer a brief (5–7 minutes) perspective, followed by a moderated discussion and audience Q&A (with AICESIS members and partners). With insights from the ILO, OECD, UN, and regional ESCs, the session will reflect AICESIS’s global, collaborative approach and highlight how institutions can help guide AI for the public good. The discussion aims to produce practical takeaways such as joint guidelines on AI and work, training for social partners, and ideas for international cooperation. The moderator will capture key points to inform the final plenary synthesis.

Panelists:

- The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), represented by **Mr. Stefano Palmieri, President of the EESC’s** External Relations Section. He will share, among others, the European civil society perspective on AI governance including the EESC’s recent high level debates on AI in the workplace and calls for “pro-worker AI” policies and also discussing the topic of the labour and social impact of the technological change.
- The Economic and Social Council (ESC) of the Kingdom of Spain, represented by **Mr. D. José Ignacio Conde-Ruiz, Advisor**, expert as Chair of the Commission on the topic, will share from their experience in 2024 based on their report titled: Report on the Socioeconomic and Labor Situation in Spain for the year 2024, which was recently approved by the CES and includes a chapter on technological change, digitalization, and artificial intelligence.
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), represented by **Ms. Glenda Quintini, Senior Economist**. She will present the findings of the OECD on how social dialogue can shape AI’s impact on jobs positively and what policy support is needed to empower unions and employers in the AI age.
- Just JobsNetwork, a research organization finding evidence-based solutions to the pressing challenges of our times, will be represented by **Ms. Sabina Dewan, President / Executive Director**. She will give the global south perspective on the main theme of the conference.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Council/Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will be represented by **Mr. Hanif Navid, Assistant Secretary General for the ECOSOC** Development Office of the Under Secretary General (USG). He will deliver a comprehensive prerecorded video message highlighting how renewing the social contract and promoting digital inclusion fit into the UN’s 2030 Agenda and Our Common Agenda vision. This speaker will tie AI’s challenges to broader development goals, stressing the importance of global coordination avoiding a regulatory ‘race to the bottom’ on labor standards.
- The Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) of the Kingdom of Morocco, **Mr. Amine Mounir Alaoui, Member of the National Council CESE of Morocco** on the subject: Social Impact of disruptive technologies such as AI.
- La Escuela Interamericana de Diálogo Social, Tripartismo y Resolución de Conflictos (EI-DiSTREC) de la Universidad de Panama, represented by **Mr. Vasco Torres de Leon**. He will offer a regional perspective on AI’s local impacts and the capacity-building needs of ESCs. He will discuss issues like the digital divide and how ESCs and social dialogue institutions, especially in Latin America, can ensure that AI-driven growth is inclusive, citing examples such as efforts to formalize platform work or upskill workers for digital jobs.

15:30–16:15 – Breakout roundtable discussions

Participants will break into three facilitated roundtables (45 minutes) to allow more in-depth dialogue in smaller groups. These roundtables turn panel insights into hands-on discussion. In mixed groups, participants share experiences and co-develop practical ideas. The format keeps the workshop grounded and inclusive, with each group presenting 2–3 key takeaways in the plenary. Each roundtable will focus on a key sub-theme aligned with the workshop's objectives (with a flipchart or notetaker for reporting):

Roundtable 1, Governance & Policy Coherence: How can we design adaptive AI governance frameworks that protect workers' rights and social welfare across different sectors? (e.g. sharing national experiences in regulating AI at work, discussing alignment with international labor standards).

Facilitator: **Ms. Erica Obersi** (tech entrepreneur, artist and legal scholar with expertise in AI, copyright, and tech law)

Roundtable 2, Inclusion & Social Justice in AI Transition: How do we ensure AI-driven transformations do not widen inequalities but rather promote inclusive growth and decent work? This group will discuss strategies to support vulnerable workers – such as upskilling/reskilling programs, social protection for gig workers, and tackling algorithmic bias or discrimination.

Facilitator: **Paula Isturiz- Caverio** (UNESCO)

Roundtable 3, Empowering ESCs & Social Dialogue: What innovations in social dialogue can help renew the social contract for the digital age? Participants will brainstorm on how ESCs can adapt their working methods and advisory roles to address AI (for instance, creating dedicated AI committees, using online platforms for broader stakeholder input, or forging new partnerships with tech experts). They will also consider how ESCs can better network globally to share knowledge on AI governance.

Facilitator: **Mrs. Raimunda Monteiro** (Deputy Executive Secretary of the Council for Sustainable Economic and Social Development (CDESS) of the Federative Republic of Brazil)

16:15–17:00 – Synthesis plenary and conclusion

The workshop will come back together for a final 45-minute plenary session. Each breakout group will have a designated reporter (the facilitators) who will briefly share their group's main insights and recommendations. Moderated by the Secretary General of AICESIS, **Mr. A. Xyrafis**, the discussion will then open for participants to ask questions, offer reflections, and highlight shared priorities.

Mr. Xyrafis will wrap up the session by summarizing the key takeaways, emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen social dialogue in AI governance, foster international cooperation, and build on AICESIS's commitment to advancing these efforts. The outcomes including a concise summary report and proposed actions will be submitted to the AICESIS General Assembly to ensure these important discussions lead to concrete follow-up, such as creating working groups or endorsing collective statements.

The workshop will close with remarks from AICESIS President **Mr. John Hubert Jacobs**, who will thank everyone for their contributions and reinforce the alignment of this work with AICESIS's broader mission: promoting dialogue to shape fair and inclusive approaches to AI, work, and the social contract. By the end, participants will share a clear vision and actionable recommendations to carry this agenda forward beyond 2025.