



International
Labour
Organization

Virtual Tripartite Panel Discussion on the 2021 ILO WESO Report

February 24, 2021

14:00 – 15:15

Geneva

The digital economy is transforming the world of work. Over the past decade, expansion in broadband connectivity, cloud computing, and data have led to the proliferation of digital platforms, which have penetrated a number of sectors of the economy. Since early 2020, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to remote working arrangements and allowed for the continuation of many business activities, further reinforcing the growth and impact of the digital economy. The crisis has also laid bare and exacerbated the growing digital divide within, between and across developed and developing countries, particularly in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information ICTs and access to the internet.

The 2021 ILO WESO report., seeks to enhance the understanding of how digital labour platforms are transforming the world of work and the implications of that transformation on businesses and workers. While digital labour platforms provide workers with income-generating opportunities and benefits from flexible work arrangements, including for women, persons with disabilities, young people and migrant workers, they also present some challenges. Consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are exposing the risks and inequalities of workers engaged in location-based platforms.

The regulatory responses from many countries have started to address some of the issues related to working conditions on digital labour platforms. However, there is a need for some form of international policy dialogue and coordination since digital labour platforms operate across multiple jurisdictions. The promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and coordination is also vital to ensure regulatory certainty and the applicability of universal labour standards, given the diversity of responses by countries and platform companies.

The virtual tripartite panel will engage in a discussion on the report, *World Employment and Social Outlook 2021: The role of digital labour platforms in transforming the world of work*.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

	Chair and Moderator Martha Newton , Deputy Director General for Policy, ILO
14:05	Initial remarks Uma Rani , Research Department, ILO
	IOE ITUC Governments
15:10	Closing Remarks by the Chair