

## **ECOSOC**

(ESL)

The question of job security in response to AI.

The question of pro-natal population policies in developed economies.



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#### **Introductory Letters:**

#### Chatpat (Poj) Tanavongchinda



Hi! My nickname is Poj and I am currently in Y12 at NIST. My hobbies include reading (too many articles) and enjoying a game of badminton (I regret to inform any of the more athletically capable of you that this is the only sport I enjoy). Outside of this, I am also an avid theater kid with varied involvement in productions throughout the last four years.

My participation in Model United Nations stems from my attempt to understand a chaotic world through which I was introduced to the world of politics, history, and economics. This inspired me to expand the reach of this activity through conference organization, participation in MUN across two schools, and BarrierMUN, an initiative to break down language and financial barriers to increase accessibility to MUN. This interest makes me particularly excited to take on an ESL committee at THAIMUN this year!

#### Pannalak (Tammy) Sutthiraksawong

Hi everyone! My name is Pannalak Sutthiraksawong but please feel free to call me Tammy. I am a Year 13 student at Satit Prasarnmit International Programme (SPIP). I am always a very busy person, whether it's with YSDA, an association working on localizing SDGs, or studying for my IALs. Other than that, I love playing sports like basketball, football, and Taekwondo, traveling around with friends, or simply relaxing and scrolling through TikTok.

Participating in MUN events allow me to have the opportunity to connect with individuals who share the same interests, forge new friendships, and engage in meaningful discussions about real-world issues. Therefore I am looking forward to seeing you all in this year's THAIMUN X, especially in the ECOSOC (ESL) committee!



### **Important Notes**

- 1. Delegates should conduct research outside of this chair report. This chair report is only an introduction and it does not cover all of the issues.
- 2. This chair report does not completely resemble a conventional chair report in MUN. Its content and use of words has been adapted for ESL speakers.
- 3. Delegates who do not understand this text should contact the chair as quickly as possible so support can be given.
- 4. Delegates are highly encouraged to read the recommended further readings in Thai. This will help delegates more easily understand in-depth information.
- 5. Some parts of this report may be difficult to read. This is meant to help new delegates understand how conventional committees operate. However, please focus on the simplified topic overview for the main points of each topic.

#### <u>หมายเหตุ</u>

- 1. ผู้ร่วมจำลองควรทำการหาข้อมูลด้วยตัวเอง โดยเอกสารฉบับนี้เป็นเพียงแค่เอกสารเพื่อ แนะนำหัวข้อซึ่งจะถูกถกเถียงขึ้นในที่ประชุม การอ่านเอกสารฉบับนี้อาจไม่เพียงพอหาก ต้องการเข้าใจหัวข้ออย่างลึกซึ้ง
- 2. เอกสารฉบับนี้มีลักษณะซึ่งอาจแตกต่างไปจาก 'Chair Report' ในการประชุมการจำลอง สหประชาชาติแบบทั่วไป เนื่องจากมีการปรับปรุงเนื้อหาเพื่อให้เหมาะสมกับผู้ที่ใช้ภาษา อังกฤษเป็นภาษาที่สอง
- 3. หากผู้แทนท่านใดที่ประสบปัญหาในการเข้าใจเนื้อหาของเอกสารฉบับนี้สามารถติดต่อ ประธานกรรมการผ่านอีเมล
- 4. ผู้เขียนแนะนำให้ผู้ร่วมจำลองทุกท่านอ่านเนื้อหาเพิ่มเติมใน "Further Reading (Thai)" เนื่องจากน่าจะช่วยให้ท่านสามารถเข้าใจเนื้อหาของเอกสารฉบับนี้ได้อย่างลึกซึ้งและง่าย มากขึ้น

#### **Committee Overview**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) operates within the United Nations system, serving as a principal forum for discussing international economic and social issues, including sustainable development, job security, population policies, and other critical global challenges. The ECOSOC (ESL) committee comprises delegates from diverse linguistic backgrounds, fostering multilateral dialogue and collaboration in addressing complex issues. Currently, our committee is actively debating two pressing topics: the question of job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI) and pro-natal population policies in developed economies. These discussions aim to explore innovative solutions, policy frameworks, and collaborative strategies to navigate the socio-economic implications of AI-driven automation on employment and demographic trends in developed nations. By engaging in rigorous debate, research, and consensus-building processes, the ESL committee seeks to formulate comprehensive resolutions that promote inclusive growth, ethical considerations, and sustainable development pathways, reflecting the diverse perspectives and expertise of its members in addressing multifaceted global challenges.

The committee will follow an adapted ESL format based on the THAIMUN X full rules of procedure (including some aspects of UNA-USA). This RoP is similar in practice to the average general committee but may not include some of the more technical aspects such as different forms of voting or points. Additionally, the chairs may also move at a slower pace to allow new delegates to have enough time to prepare for speeches and resolutions. Delegates are more than welcome to communicate to the chairs in Thai if they need help during the committee. A separate copy of the rules of procedure will be provided. The goal of this document is to be easily readable and understandable. The chairs will also be available during Q&A sessions to answer any questions you may have and help you prepare for the conference.

The question of job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI) revolves around the profound impact of automation and technological advancements on employment landscapes globally. As AI technologies continue to evolve and integrate into various sectors, concerns arise regarding potential job displacement, skills mismatches, and socio-economic inequalities. This issue encompasses multifaceted challenges, including identifying sectors most susceptible to

AI-driven automation, developing re-skilling and training initiatives to adapt to evolving job requirements, and establishing ethical and regulatory frameworks to govern AI deployment responsibly. Addressing job security in the context of AI necessitates collaborative efforts among policymakers, industry leaders, educators, and civil society stakeholders to foster inclusive growth, mitigate adverse impacts, and harness the transformative potential of AI technologies responsibly, ensuring equitable opportunities, and sustainable development pathways in an increasingly interconnected and technologically driven global economy.

Birth rates have consistently declined in developed countries over the last few decades due to the rise of urbanization, economic prosperity, shifting religious beliefs, and changing social structures. This continued reduction has resulted in sub-replacement total fertility rates (TFR) and potential population decline, which creates issues like aging societies, labor shortages, low economic growth, and other widespread social or economic problems. Therefore, governments are considering ways to encourage the public to have more children, which are called "pro-natal policies". This may range from making it easier for parents to find affordable public housing to increasing the length of maternity leave, the amount of time an employee can stop working when they first have a child. Some proposed policies also aim to solve the issues created by low birth rates without increasing births themselves. For example, a country could solve a shortage of labor by making it easier for people in other countries to immigrate. It is also possible to increase the quality of the workforce rather than the quantity by improving public education so that domestic industries are more productive and innovative, helping increase economic growth. Some may also suggest that smaller populations may actually be beneficial since it means that there will be less environmental pollution and competition for resources in society. The chairs hope that this diversity of opinions will be represented in our committee's debate.

## Topic 1: The question of job security in response to AI.

## **Pre-Chair Report Section**

## **Key Terms:**

In order to help delegates more easily read the chair report, a list of key terms have been attached here with a Thai translation. The chairs recommend that ESL delegates take a look at at least the bolded words and practice using them.

Term	Thai Translation	English Definition
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	ปัญญาประดิ <b>ษ</b> ฐ์	The use or study of computer systems or machines that have some of the qualities that the human brain has, such as the ability to interpret and produce language in a way that seems human, recognize or create images, solve problems, and learn from data supplied to them
Automation	ระบบอัตโนมัติ	The use of machines and computers that can operate without needing human control
Digital Skills	ทักษะด้านดิจิทัล	Range of abilities to use digital devices, communication applications, and networks to access and manage information
<b>Economic Impacts</b>	ผลกระทบทางเศรษฐกิจ	A financial effect that something, especially something new, has on a situation or person
Economic Resilience	ความยืดหยุ่นทางเศรษฐกิจ	Efficient use of remaining resources at a given point in time to produce as much as possible
Ethics	<b>จริยธรรม</b>	The study of what is morally right and wrong, or a set of beliefs about what is morally right and wrong

Human-centric Approach	แนวทางการแก้ไขปัญหาที่มีมนุษย์ เป็นศูนย์กลาง	A solution that focuses on the needs and perspectives of human beings
Inclusive Growth	การเติบโตแบบครอบคลุม	Economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all
Inequalities	ความไม่เท่าเทียม	The unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, money, etc. than other people
Job Displacement	การโยกข้ายงาน	When an employer removes a position that is currently being held by an employee
Job Quality	คุณภาพงาน	One's work is valued and respected and meaningfully contributes to the goals of the organization
Job Security	ความมั่นคงของงาน	The probability that an individual will keep their job
Labour Market	ตลาดแรงงาน	The supply of people in a particular country or area who are able and willing to work
Lifelong Learning	การเรียนรู้ระยะยาว	The process of gaining knowledge and skills throughout your life, often to help you do your job properly
Policy	นโยบาย	A set of ideas or a plan of what to do in particular situations that has been agreed to officially by a group of people, a business organization, a government, or a political party
Partnerships	ทุ้นส่วน	The state of being a partner or a company that is owned by two or more people
Regulatory Frameworks	กรอบการกำกับดูแล	A set of regulations that is valid in a given industry

Remote Working	การทำงานระยะไกล	The practice of an employee working at their home, or in some other place that is not an organization's usual place of business
Reskilling	การเรียนรู้ทักษะใหม่	The process of learning new skills so you can do a different job, or of training people to do a different job
Unemployment	การว่างงาน	The state of being unemployed or do not have a job that provides money
Virtual Reality (VR)	สภาวะเสมือนจริง	A set of images and sounds, produced by a computer, that seem to represent a place or a situation that a person can take part in
Workforce Transitions	การเปลี่ยนผ่านด้านแรงงาน	The process by which organizations empower their employees to adapt and excel along with an organization as it grows and changes

Note: Definitions are a combination of chair self-authorship, Google translate, Thai Longdo dictionary and Cambridge Dictionary.

#### **Simplified Topic Overview:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing industries worldwide, offering innovative solutions but also raising concerns about job security. As AI technologies automate tasks traditionally performed by humans, the impact on employment, skills requirements, and socio-economic structures is being heavily discussed.

AI-driven automation can replace routine tasks across various sectors, leading to potential job losses in specific industries like manufacturing, transportation, and customer service. Moreover, the rapid evolution of AI necessitates new skills and training programs to bridge the gap between current workforce capabilities and emerging job market requirements. AI's adoption also exacerbates socio-economic disparities, affecting vulnerable populations, marginalized communities, and sectors less equipped to adapt to technological changes.

Additionally, the challenge we are facing right now is bigger than we thought. Ensuring responsible AI deployment involves addressing ethical considerations, data privacy, algorithmic biases, and establishing regulatory frameworks to govern AI's impact on job security. Promoting education, lifelong learning, and vocational training initiatives can equip individuals with adaptable skills, creating resilience, and facilitating workforce transitions amidst AI-driven transformations. Plus, governments, business leaders, and workers must work together to create comprehensive strategies, safety nets, and adaptive policies that prioritize human-centric approaches, inclusive growth, and equitable opportunities in an AI-driven economy.

Navigating the complexities of job security in response to AI requires proactive strategies, collaborative efforts, and forward-thinking initiatives. Embracing innovation, fostering public-private partnerships, promoting ethical AI practices, and prioritizing human values can guide societies toward harnessing AI's transformative potential responsibly, ensuring sustainable development, and equitable outcomes for individuals, communities, and the global workforce.

All in all, job security in the era of AI represents a multifaceted challenge and opportunity, necessitating holistic approaches, ethical considerations, and inclusive strategies to navigate the evolving landscape, mitigate risks, and harness the benefits of technological advancements responsibly. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and adaptive resilience, societies can shape a future where AI complements human capabilities, fosters inclusive growth, and ensures fair opportunities in an interconnected and rapidly changing global economy.

#### The Full Chair Report

#### **Topic Introduction:**

The question of job security in the face of artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most pressing concerns of our era. As AI technologies continue to advance at an unprecedented rate, the specter of automation replacing human labor looms large, triggering widespread apprehension across various industries and sectors. Historically, technological advancements have often led to shifts in the labor market, displacing certain jobs while creating new opportunities. However, the rapid pace and scope of AI development present unique challenges that are profoundly reshaping the landscape of employment.

Throughout history, technological innovations have been both a boon and a bane for labor markets. The Industrial Revolution, for instance, brought about significant advancements but also displaced countless workers, leading to social and economic upheavals. Similarly, the advent of AI technologies, characterized by machine learning, robotics, and automation, is disrupting traditional job roles and functions at an unprecedented scale. Unlike previous technological shifts, AI possesses the potential to automate not only routine tasks but also complex cognitive activities, raising concerns about the obsolescence of human skills in an increasingly automated world.

Today, the prevalence of the job security question in relation to AI reflects broader socio-economic anxieties about inequality, displacement, and the future of work. The accelerating pace of AI adoption across various sectors—from manufacturing and transportation to healthcare and finance—has intensified concerns about job displacement, wage stagnation, and the widening skills gap. Moreover, the concentration of AI-related benefits among a select group of corporations and stakeholders exacerbates inequalities, further fueling debates about the ethical and equitable deployment of AI technologies. In this context, addressing the question of job security requires a multidimensional approach that considers technological, economic, and social dimensions to ensure a more inclusive and sustainable future.

#### Causes & History:

The question of job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI) is a multifaceted issue shaped by a confluence of historical, political, social, economic, and cultural elements that have evolved over time.

#### **Automation and Technological Advancements**

The acceleration of automation technologies, including AI, intensifies concerns about job displacement across multiple sectors, echoing historical trends dating back to the Industrial Revolution. This transformative period heralded significant technological advancements and labor market shifts, with mechanization leading to widespread job displacement and socio-economic disruptions. Drawing parallels with this historical context illuminates enduring challenges and disruptive impacts of technological innovation on employment landscapes and societal structures. The Industrial Revolution thus provides a poignant historical precedent, underscoring the imperative for contemporary stakeholders to devise proactive strategies that balance automation-driven efficiencies with mitigating adverse socio-economic consequences. As technological advancements continue to reshape industries and redefine workforce dynamics, informed policy frameworks, reskilling initiatives, and equitable strategies remain essential to navigate and harness the potential of automation effectively while fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development.

#### **Policy and Regulatory Response**

The absence of comprehensive policies and regulations addressing AI's ethical, economic, and social implications amplifies uncertainties surrounding job security. This gap compels governments and policymakers to navigate intricate regulatory challenges, ethical dilemmas, and strategic workforce development initiatives. The political landscape is increasingly characterized by vigorous debates on labor rights, educational reform, and economic policy frameworks specifically designed to mitigate AI's adverse impacts on employment stability. As AI technologies continue to advance, the urgency to establish robust governance mechanisms and equitable strategies intensifies. Balancing technological innovation with socio-economic considerations remains paramount, necessitating collaborative efforts among stakeholders to cultivate a resilient labor market, foster inclusive growth, and address the multifaceted challenges posed by AI-driven transformations effectively.

#### **Economic, Globalization and Outsourcing**

Economic globalization and outsourcing have heightened job losses in developed countries due to cheaper overseas labor. This has transformed traditional employment, causing widespread displacement in vulnerable sectors. Additionally, artificial intelligence (AI) intensifies job insecurity with increased automation and productivity shifts. While AI offers innovation and efficiency benefits, its uneven benefits distribution exacerbates socio-economic disparities and increases structural unemployment, especially in automation-prone sectors. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive policies, proactive labor interventions, and equitable strategies to ensure inclusive growth amidst technological advancements and global interconnectedness.

#### **Social and Cultural Perceptions**

Social attitudes and cultural narratives significantly shape public perceptions of AI technologies, impacting policy debates and industry practices related to job security. Media, literature, and popular culture portray AI in varied lights, oscillating between optimistic visions of technological progress and fears of human obsolescence. This cultural framing influences public opinion and guides policy decisions in an evolving technological landscape. Concurrently, the rise of AI technologies intensifies societal anxieties about inequality, displacement, and the future of work. Growing concerns over job loss, wage stagnation, and skill disparities contribute to heightened precarity among workers across sectors. These intertwined cultural dynamics not only shape the discourse on AI's workforce impact but also inform regulatory and ethical frameworks. Addressing these complexities necessitates comprehensive strategies that reconcile technological advancement with equitable outcomes and societal well-being.

#### **Continuing Developments**

The development of AI technologies, proficient in handling intricate cognitive tasks, sparks concerns about the future of professions reliant on human expertise. This apprehension is particularly poignant in today's landscape, where the question of job security in response to AI stands as a pressing issue. The urgency is amplified by the confluence of rapid technological advancements, globalization, and the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ongoing efforts are underway to address these challenges, encompassing the regulation of AI ethics, promotion of responsible innovation, and the formulation of policies that harmonize technological progress with considerations of social equity. The trajectory ahead necessitates collaborative endeavors involving policymakers, industry leaders, academics, and civil society, navigating the intricate interplay of historical, political, social, economic, and cultural factors

shaping this critical issue. As AI continues to reshape the workforce and societal norms, proactive strategies, inclusive dialogue, and ethical frameworks are imperative to ensure equitable outcomes and responsibly harness the transformative potential of AI technologies.

In summary, the question of job security in response to AI is a complex issue shaped by historical precedents, political dynamics, social concerns, economic factors, and cultural narratives. As AI technologies continue to evolve, ongoing developments in these areas will continue to influence the direction of this critical issue.

#### **Timeline:**

Date	Description
1955	The term "artificial intelligence" was officially coined at the  Dartmouth Workshop by John McCarthy, laying the groundwork  for subsequent advancements in the field
1961	The first industrial robot "Unimate" started working on an assembly line at General Motors in New Jersey, tasked with transporting die casings and welding parts on cars (which was deemed too dangerous for humans)
1965	Edward Feigenbaum and Joshua Lederberg created the first "expert system" which was a form of AI programmed to replicate the thinking and decision-making abilities of human experts.
1966	Joseph Weizenbaum created the first "chatterbot" (later shortened to chatbot), ELIZA, a mock psychotherapist, that used natural language processing (NLP) to converse with humans.
1980	The first conference of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) was held at Stanford.  The first expert system came into the commercial market, known as XCON (expert configurer). It was designed to assist in the ordering of computer systems by automatically picking components based on the customer's needs.

	Note: AAAI (formerly served as American Association of Artificial Intelligence) is a nonprofit scientific society devoted to advancing the scientific understanding of the mechanisms underlying thought and intelligent behavior and their embodiment in machines.
1981	The Japanese government allocated \$850 million (over \$2 billion dollars in today's money) to the Fifth Generation Computer project. Their aim was to create computers that could translate, converse in human language, and express reasoning on a human level.
1984	The AAAI warns of an incoming "AI Winter" where funding and interest would decrease, and make research significantly more difficult.
1987	The market for specialized LISP-based hardware collapsed due to cheaper and more accessible competitors that could run LISP software, including those offered by IBM and Apple. This caused many specialized LISP companies to fail as the technology was now easily accessible.
2000	Professor Cynthia Breazeal developed the first robot that could simulate human emotions with its face, which included eyes, eyebrows, ears, and a mouth. It was called Kismet.

#### **Global Reform Efforts:**

Addressing the question of job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI) has garnered attention at both national and international levels, with various policies and strategies formulated to navigate the challenges posed by AI-driven automation. However, the UN has emphasized the importance of harnessing AI responsibly through various initiatives, such as:

- 1. UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in 2021: UNESCO adopted a recommendation aimed at establishing a standard-setting framework for the ethical development and deployment of AI technologies, emphasizing principles like human rights, transparency, and inclusivity.
- 2. European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act in 2021: The EU introduced a comprehensive regulatory framework addressing AI's ethical implications, including provisions related to job displacement, safety, and fundamental rights.

- 3. OECD Principles on AI in 2019: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has developed principles on AI to promote responsible innovation, emphasizing transparency, fairness, and accountability, with implications for labor markets and job security.
- 4. National AI Strategies: Several countries, including the United States, Canada, China, and Japan, have formulated national AI strategies outlining policies, investments, and initiatives to harness AI's benefits while addressing workforce challenges through education, training, and re-skilling programs.
- 5. ILO's Future of Work Initiative in 2015: The International Labour Organization (ILO) has launched the "Future of Work Initiative" to examine the impact of technological advancements, including AI and automation, on employment trends, skills development, and social protection measures globally.
- 6. G20 Discussions on AI and Employment: The Group of Twenty (G20) countries have engaged in dialogues and collaborative efforts to address the socio-economic impacts of AI on labor markets, employment policies, and international cooperation frameworks.

#### **Topics your Resolutions Should Address:**

#### Ethical Frameworks for AI Deployment

Delegates addressing ethical frameworks for AI deployment may consider several potential solutions to guide their resolutions effectively. Firstly, implementing stringent transparency requirements can ensure that AI algorithms and decision-making processes remain accessible and understandable, fostering accountability and trust among users. Secondly, establishing comprehensive data privacy standards and consent mechanisms can safeguard individual rights, mitigating risks associated with data misuse or unauthorized access. Additionally, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and stakeholder engagement in AI development and governance processes can facilitate diverse perspectives, ethical considerations, and inclusive decision-making, ensuring that AI technologies align with societal values, respect human rights, and contribute to equitable and sustainable outcomes.

#### Impacts on the Labor Market

First of all, promoting robust re-skilling and training programs tailored to emerging AI-related roles can help workers adapt to evolving job requirements and fill skill gaps. Second, implementing supportive labor market policies, such as income support, unemployment benefits, and transition assistance, can mitigate short-term disruptions and facilitate smoother workforce transitions. Additionally, fostering public-private partnerships to stimulate job creation in AI-related industries, encouraging entrepreneurship, and investing in innovation ecosystems can unlock new employment opportunities and stimulate economic growth. By integrating these solutions, delegates can formulate comprehensive resolutions that address labor market challenges, promote inclusive growth, and harness the transformative potential of AI technologies responsibly.

#### Social Protection and Safety Nets

Delegates can explore social protection and safety nets in response to AI-driven job transformations by considering several potential solutions. Firstly, establishing comprehensive unemployment benefits and income support mechanisms tailored to displaced workers can provide immediate relief and financial stability during transitions. Secondly, investing in lifelong learning programs, vocational training, and re-skilling initiatives can equip individuals with the skills needed to adapt to evolving job markets, fostering resilience and enhancing employability. Additionally, strengthening social safety nets through universal healthcare coverage, affordable housing policies, and targeted assistance programs can mitigate socio-economic disparities and ensure access to essential services, particularly for vulnerable populations. By prioritizing these solutions, delegates can formulate holistic resolutions that promote inclusive growth, protect livelihoods, and safeguard societal well-being amidst AI-driven disruptions.

#### **Education and Skill Development**

There are several points to consider in addressing Education and Skill Development in response to artificial intelligence (AI) to equip individuals with the necessary competencies for an evolving workforce. Firstly, delegates may propose fostering partnerships between educational institutions, industry stakeholders, and government agencies to develop tailored curricula and training programs focused on emerging technologies, digital literacy, and critical thinking skills. Secondly, promoting lifelong learning initiatives, re-skilling, and up-skilling opportunities can empower individuals to adapt to changing job requirements and technological advancements proactively. Additionally, delegates could advocate for enhancing access to affordable and accessible education, leveraging online platforms, vocational training, and mentorship programs to bridge skills gaps, foster innovation, and promote inclusive economic growth in an increasingly interconnected and technologically driven global landscape.

#### **Countries & Party Stances:**

Here is some baseline information on some countries that have prominent stances on this use, this research can be used to help guide delegates with the research process.

#### **Asia**

#### China

China's significance in the discourse on job security in response to AI cannot be understated, given its pivotal role as a global technology powerhouse and manufacturing hub. Historically, China has been at the forefront of adopting AI technologies, driving innovation, and integrating automation across various industries, which has led to significant advancements and economic growth. However, this rapid technological transformation has also raised concerns about job displacement, skills mismatches, and socio-economic inequalities within China's vast labor market. Looking ahead, China's strategic plans emphasize leveraging AI to enhance productivity, stimulate innovation, and foster sustainable development, while concurrently implementing policies to re-skill workers, promote educational reform, and address employment challenges in the context of AI-driven automation.

#### India

India holds significant relevance in the discourse on job security in response to AI due to its burgeoning technology sector, skilled workforce, and strategic emphasis on digital transformation. Historically, India has emerged as a global hub for IT services, outsourcing, and software development, leveraging its vast talent pool to capitalize on technological advancements. However, the advent of AI and automation poses challenges related to job displacement, skills redefinition, and socio-economic disparities within India's diverse labor market. Looking forward, India's strategic plans encompass fostering AI innovation, promoting research and development, and implementing policies to re-skill its workforce, enhance digital literacy, and stimulate inclusive growth, aiming to harness AI's transformative potential while mitigating adverse impacts on employment and socio-economic stability

#### **Europe**

#### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom (UK) holds significant relevance in discussions concerning job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI) due to its prominent position in

technology innovation, research, and economic development. Historically, the UK has been at the forefront of AI research, fostering a thriving ecosystem of startups, academic institutions, and industry collaborations that drive advancements in AI technologies. However, like other nations, the UK faces challenges related to job displacement, skills gaps, and workforce transitions accelerated by AI-driven automation. Looking forward, the UK government has outlined strategic plans to invest in AI research and development, promote digital skills training, and establish ethical frameworks to govern AI deployment responsibly, aiming to harness AI's transformative potential while mitigating adverse socio-economic impacts.

#### **Germany**

Germany holds significant importance in discussions surrounding job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI), given its robust industrial base, focus on innovation, and competitive manufacturing sector. Historically, Germany has been a global leader in adopting advanced technologies, including automation and AI-driven solutions, to enhance productivity and maintain its competitive edge in various industries such as automotive, machinery, and manufacturing. However, this technological transformation has also raised concerns about job displacement, skills gaps, and the need for workforce retraining within Germany's labor market. Looking forward, Germany's strategic plans emphasize fostering innovation, investing in research and development, and implementing comprehensive policies to address AI's impact on employment, promote skills development, and ensure sustainable growth in an increasingly digital and interconnected global economy.

#### **Latin America**

#### Brazil

Brazil's significance in the discussion on job security in response to AI stems from its emerging role as a key player in the Latin American technology landscape. Historically, Brazil has showcased a growing interest in AI adoption, with increasing investments in research, development, and innovation. However, like many countries globally, Brazil faces challenges related to job displacement, skills gaps, and the socio-economic implications of AI-driven automation. Looking forward, Brazil's strategic plans emphasize leveraging AI to drive economic growth, enhance competitiveness, and address societal challenges, including job security concerns. Initiatives such as fostering digital literacy, promoting entrepreneurship, and investing in education and training programs aim to equip the Brazilian workforce with the necessary skills to navigate the evolving labor market dynamics influenced by AI technologies.

#### Mexico

Mexico's significance in the context of job security in response to AI is multifaceted, reflecting its evolving role in the global digital economy. Historically, Mexico has positioned itself as a key player in manufacturing and technology sectors, with industries such as automotive, electronics, and aerospace increasingly integrating AI-driven automation. While these advancements have enhanced productivity and competitiveness, they also pose challenges related to job displacement, skills development, and workforce transitions within Mexico's labor market. Looking forward, Mexico's strategic plans emphasize fostering innovation ecosystems, promoting digital transformation, and implementing policies to re-skill workers, enhance educational programs, and stimulate inclusive economic growth in alignment with AI-driven technological trends.

#### **North America**

#### United States of America (USA)

The United States plays a pivotal role in shaping the discourse on job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI). Historically, the U.S. has been a global leader in AI research, development, and adoption, contributing significantly to technological advancements. However, this leadership has brought forth challenges related to job displacement and shifts in the labor market. The U.S. government, recognizing the transformative potential of AI, has outlined plans for the future. The National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 allocates resources for AI research, development, and workforce training to ensure the U.S. remains competitive while addressing the socio-economic impacts of AI.

#### Canada

Canada holds significant relevance in discussions surrounding job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI), given its commitment to innovation, research, and technology-driven economic growth. Historically, Canada has invested in AI research and development, fostering a thriving ecosystem of startups, academic institutions, and industry collaborations. However, the adoption of AI technologies poses challenges related to job displacement, skills retraining, and economic transitions within Canada's diverse labor market. Moving forward, Canada's strategic initiatives emphasize leveraging AI for sustainable growth, investing in education, skills development, and

fostering partnerships between government, industry, and academia to address workforce challenges, promote inclusive innovation, and ensure equitable opportunities in an AI-enabled economy.

#### **Oceania**

#### Australia

Australia's significance is influenced by its dynamic economy, technological innovation ecosystem, and commitment to fostering digital transformation. Historically, Australia has been proactive in adopting AI technologies across various industries, including healthcare, agriculture, finance, and manufacturing, aiming to enhance productivity, innovation, and global competitiveness. However, this rapid technological integration raises concerns about job displacement, skills development, and economic restructuring within Australia's labor market. Looking ahead, Australia's strategic plans emphasize investing in education, research, and development initiatives, fostering collaboration between industry, academia, and government sectors to harness AI's potential responsibly, promote workforce resilience, and ensure inclusive growth in an increasingly interconnected and digitally driven global economy.

#### New Zealand

New Zealand's significance stems from its commitment to innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable economic development. Historically, New Zealand has been proactive in fostering a conducive environment for technological advancements, including AI, to drive productivity, competitiveness, and economic growth. However, like other nations, New Zealand faces challenges related to job displacement, skills mismatches, and the ethical implications of AI adoption. To address these challenges, New Zealand's strategic plans emphasize investing in education, training, and research initiatives to equip its workforce with the necessary skills and capabilities for an AI-driven future while fostering inclusive growth and social cohesion.

#### **Independent Groups**

#### Future of Life Institute

The Future of Life Institute (FLI) holds significant relevance in discussions about job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI), emphasizing ethical considerations, responsible innovation, and societal impact. Founded in 2014, FLI has been instrumental in convening experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to address the challenges and

opportunities presented by AI advancements. Historically, FLI has sponsored research, organized conferences, and advocated for policies prioritizing human-centric approaches, aiming to mitigate risks such as job displacement, economic inequalities, and ethical dilemmas associated with AI technologies. Moving forward, FLI continues to focus on fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, promoting transparency, and shaping policy frameworks to ensure AI's responsible deployment, equitable outcomes, and alignment with human values.

#### World Economic Forum (WEF)

The World Economic Forum (WEF) holds significant influence in shaping discussions on job security in response to artificial intelligence (AI). Historically, the WEF has been actively engaged in examining the impact of emerging technologies on the global economy. As a key proponent of public-private cooperation, the WEF convenes leaders from various sectors to address challenges posed by AI, including job displacement and skills gaps. The WEF's initiatives, such as the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, focus on developing policy frameworks, fostering collaborations, and guiding stakeholders toward responsible AI adoption. In the future, the WEF is poised to continue its role as a thought leader, advocating for inclusive growth and ethical considerations in the evolving landscape of AI-driven transformations (Source: World Economic Forum - Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution).

#### **Ouestions to Consider**

- How will AI-driven automation impact job sectors across different industries and regions?
- What are the potential implications of AI on skills requirements and workforce development?
- How can policymakers foster re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives to adapt to AI-driven changes in the labor market?
- What ethical considerations and regulatory frameworks are necessary to govern AI deployment responsibly and protect workers' rights?
- How will AI contribute to job creation in new sectors or industries, and what strategies can facilitate this transition?
- What role can education, training, and lifelong learning play in preparing individuals for AI-related job opportunities and challenges?

#### **Recommended Websites to Use**

#### **Further Read (English)**

The Rise of AI and Your Job Security

Three Factors for Job Security in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

AI Myths and Job Security: Will Robots Take Our Jobs?

Generative AI and Its Economic Impact: What You Need to Know

Artificial intelligence and unemployment in high-tech developed countries

## **Further Read (Thai)**

AI ผลกระทบต่อแรงงานในประเทศไทย เทคโนโลยี AI นำไปใช้ในแต่ละหน้าที่งานของธรกิจอย่างไรบ้าง?

AI ช่วยให้ทำงานได้ง่ายขึ้น หรือเขี่ยให้มนุษย์ตกงานโดยที่ไม่รู้ตัว พร้อมส่องผลกระทบต่อเศรษฐกิจโลก ที่ไม่อาจมองข้าม

ผลกระทบของ ปัญญาประดิษฐ์ AI & Automation ต่อแรงงาน

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# Topic 2: The question of pro-natal population policies in developed economies.

## **Pre-Chair Report Section**

## **Key Terms:**

In order to help delegates more easily read the chair report, a list of key terms have been attached here with a Thai translation. The chairs recommend that ESL delegates take a look at at least the **bolded words** and practice using them.

Term	Thai Translation	English Definition
Antinatalist	นโยบายหรือคนที่ต่อต้านการ เกิดหรือพยายามให้อัตราการ เกิดน้อยลง	Opposing or discouraging childbirth and population growth.
Asset	สินทรัพย์	A useful or valuable thing, person, or quality.
Birth Rate	อัตราการเกิด	The number of live births per thousand of population per year.
Boom and Bust	กล่าวถึงสภาพเศรษฐกิจที่ไม่ แน่นอน ซึ่งเห็นได้จากการที่ เศรษฐกิจอย่างรวดเร็วในช่วง หนึ่งและเศรษฐกิจอาจ ถดถอยอย่างรุนแรงในช่วงต่อ ไป	A cycle of rapid economic growth followed by a period of decline or recession.
Brain Drain	สมองไหล	The emigration of highly skilled or educated individuals from one country to another.
Career	อาชีพ	A person's occupation or profession, typically involving long-term employment and opportunities for progress.
Child Mortality Rate	อัตราการตายของเด็ก	The number of deaths of

ChildbearingการคลอดบุตรThe process of giving birth to and raising children.ContraceptionMethods or devices used to prevent pregnancy.The process of change in a society's population structur from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.Demographic TransitionประชากรStatistical data relating to the population and particular groups within it.DemographicsประชากรThe legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.Divorceหย่าChildbearing to those and particular groups within it.Divorceหย่าThe legal dissolution of production,			children under the age of five
Childbearingการคลอดบุตรand raising children.ContraceptionการคุมกำเนิดMethods or devices used to prevent pregnancy.The process of change in a society's population structur from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.Demographic TransitionประชากรStatistical data relating to th population and particular groups within it.DemographicsประชากรThe legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.Divorceหย่าCompetent body.The system of production,			
Contraceptionการคุมกำเนิดprevent pregnancy.Demographic Transitionการเปลี่ยนแปลงทางด้าน ประชากรThe process of change in a society's population structur from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.Demographic TransitionประชากรStatistical data relating to th population and particular groups within it.Demographicsประชากรgroups within it.The legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.Divorceหย่าThe system of production,	Childbearing	การคลอดบุตร	The process of giving birth to and raising children.
รociety's population structur from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.  Demographic Transition  บระชากร  Statistical data relating to th population and particular groups within it.  The legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.  Divorce  หย่า  Society's population structur from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.  Statistical data relating to th population and particular groups within it.  The legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.  The system of production,	Contraception	การคุมกำเนิด	
ท้อมูลประชากร/โครงสร้าง population and particular groups within it.  The legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.  The system of production,	Demographic Transition		society's population structure from high birth and death rates to low birth and death
marriage by a court or other Divorce หย่า competent body.  The system of production,	Demographics		
	Divorce	หย่า	marriage by a court or other
consumption of goods and	Economy	เศรษฐกิจ	distribution, and consumption of goods and services in a particular region
The practice of controlling the number of children one has and the intervals betwee Family Planning การวางแผนครอบครัว their births.	Family Planning	การวางแผนครอบครัว	the number of children one has and the intervals between
Employment contracts that have a specific end date or fixed-Term Contracts สัญญาระยะยาว duration.	Fixed-Term Contracts	สัญญาระยะยาว	have a specific end date or
Relating to or including individuals who do not exclusively identify as male Gender Diverse เพศหลากหลาย or female.	Gender Diverse	เพศหลากหลาย	individuals who do not exclusively identify as male
Generations รุ่น A group of individuals born	Generations	รุ่น	A group of individuals born

		and living at the same time, typically spanning 20-30 years.
Healthcare	บริการสุขภาพ	The organized provision of medical care and services to individuals or communities.
Heternormative	บรรทัดฐานรักต่างเพศ	Denoting or relating to a worldview that promotes heterosexuality as the normal or preferred sexual orientation.
Human Capital	ทรัพยากรมนุษย์	The skills, knowledge, and abilities that individuals possess and can contribute to economic productivity.
Immigration	การอพยพ	The action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.
Infant Mortality Rate	อัตราการตายของทารก	The number of deaths of infants under the age of one per thousand live births.
		Countries with low levels of industrialization, income, and standard of living.
		*Sometimes the term developing country/nation is used to the same effect but
Less Economically		may not be precisely the
Developed Countries	ประเทศที่พัฒนาน้อยกว่าทาง	same in other documents or academic works.
(LEDCs)	เศรษฐกิจ (LEDCs)	
Life Expectancy	อายุขัย	The average number of years that a person can expect to live, usually from birth.
Maternity Leave	การลาคลอด	A period of absence from

Social Values ค่านิยมทางสังค	าม desirable. วนัอยจนทำให้ Below the level needed to
	The principles and beliefs held by a society or community regarding what is considered important or
Sexually Transmitted <b>โรคติดต่อทางเ</b> Diseases (STD) (STD)	Infections that are spread through sexual contact, wศสัมพันธ์ caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites.
Reproduction การสืบพันธุ์	The biological process by which new individuals of the same species are produced, either sexually or asexually.
นโยบายหรือคน Pronatalist การเกิด	Supporting or encouraging เทิสนับสนุน childbirth and population growth.
Population ประชากร	All the inhabitants of a particular town, area, or country.
Parenthood ความเป็นพ่อแม่	The state or relationship of being a parent.
More Economically Developed Countries ประเทศที่พัฒน (MEDCs) เศรษฐกิจมากขึ้	

	จำนวนประชากรอาจลดลงใน อนาคตได้	maintain a stable population.
Subsidized	เงินอุดหนุน	Having part of the cost paid for by the government or another organization.
Tax	ภาษี	A compulsory financial charge imposed by the government on individuals or businesses to fund public services.
Total Fertility Rate	อัตราเจริญพันธุรวม	The average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime if she were to experience the current age-specific fertility rates throughout her reproductive years

## Non-Technical Terms

Term	Thai Translation	English Definition
Communities	ชุมชน	Groups of people living in the same area or sharing common interests or characteristics.
Comprehensive	ครอบคลุม	Complete and including all aspects or details.
Excessive	มากเกินไป	More than what is considered necessary, normal, or reasonable.
Casual	ไม่เป็นทางการ	Relaxed, informal, or not

		planned.
Discuss		Talk about (something) with others, typically in order to reach a decision or exchange ideas.
Transmission	<u> </u>	The act or process of passing something from one person, place, or thing to another.
Equitable	เป็นธรรม	Fair and just, treating everyone equally.

Note: Definitions are a combination of chair self-authorship, Google translate, AI (Diffit) generation, the Thai Longdo dictionary, and additional translations by the Royal Society of Thailand.

#### **Simplified Topic Overview:**

In developed countries, contraception and family planning have become more accessible. The government provides access to birth control and teaches people how to use it to prevent the spread of diseases and lower the number of babies being born. Young people in places like Australia are living with their parents longer and delaying marriage and having kids. Marriage is seen as less important now, and divorce has become easier, leading to fewer chances for couples to have children.

Countries with more money and fairer relationship rules tend to have laws that support single parents. However, studies show that single parents usually don't start new relationships or have more kids even if they find someone new. Women in rich countries have more financial independence and prioritize their careers over starting a family. Balancing work and kids can be

challenging, especially without enough childcare options. Jobs that used to provide good income are disappearing, making it harder for families to have enough money. Young people are focusing on education and career goals instead of having kids.

There have been significant conferences and meetings to discuss population policy on an international level. Plans like the World Population Plan of Action and the Program of Action have been created to guide decisions about population and development. Efforts to encourage people to have more children include programs like the Baby Bonuses program in Italy, where parents receive monthly payments. Other countries have implemented policies such as mandatory maternity leave in Norway, immigration to address workforce shortages in South Korea, and providing free use of cars in Japan for families with a fourth child.

Resolutions should address making it cheaper to have children in developed nations and promote learning from each other's experiences. Governments can also help by finding ways to make parenting easier. Different countries are at different stages of development, and policies encouraging more babies may not be relevant for countries in the early stages. These countries might benefit from international discussions to plan for the future. Portugal's population is decreasing due to fewer births and emigration, while people are living longer. The government is implementing measures to encourage young people to have more children.

Overall, the passage discusses various factors influencing population growth and decline, including contraception accessibility, changing societal norms, economic conditions, and government policies. It raises questions about increasing birth rates, government involvement in personal decisions, the role of immigration, and international collaboration on population policies.

(Simplification of text using *Diffit*)

## The Full Chair Report

#### **Topic Introduction:**

Pro-natal population policies are policies that aim to increase birth rates. These are often implemented in countries where there are declining or sub-replacement total fertility rates, which is defined by an average woman having less than 2.1 children. This figure is the number of children a woman would need to replace herself by having a daughter who survives to adulthood, when they can have children of their own. This issue is relatively new since families used to have many more children than the 2.1 average children since they were often considered as economic assets (ie. more children means more help on the farm) and there was also a high child mortality rate (ie. many kids died before the age of 5), making it necessary to have many children to ensure that at least some would survive. However, improvements in healthcare, changes in social values,

and economies have reduced the need and want to have so many children, especially in developed economies where many nations now struggle to replace past generations. These factors are most clearly seen in developed countries like Singapore or Italy due to their higher and earlier economic development as discussed below ("TOTAL FERTILITY RATE Demographics Population Change").

A low birth rate has more harm than just reducing the population of a country. Fewer new children being born means fewer workers, which makes economic growth harder to achieve. At the same time, life expectancy, the amount of time a person can be expected to live, has increased. This means there will be more people in the older, retired generation, who use healthcare and pension services, than in the younger, working generation who effectively help pay for these services, creating a greater burden for them. Hence, it will be hard to finance these public services in the long run. The difference between the productive population and the non-productive population can be called "demographic stress" and is measured by "dependency ratios" (a way to measure the proportion between dependents and workers) (Khoo). These issues are most serious in aging societies where a large proportion of the population is no longer economically productive.

Hence, governments have proposed policies to encourage the public to have more children, reversing the trend of lowering birth rates.

Note: The chairs recognize that this chair report may be overly reliant on heteronormative assumptions. This is due to the focus of existing information regarding demographics on heterosexual relationships. However, delegates are more than welcome to discuss stakeholders who may be gender diverse as well.

#### **Causes & History:**

#### **Availability of Contraception and Family Planning**

Contraception and family planning have become more easily accessible in developed countries as governments seeked to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and lower extremely high fertility rates, which were viewed as a burden in the past. This was mainly achieved through increasing access to contraceptives, educating the public about their use for family planning and STD transmission prevention as well as increasing access to related medical services. These measures were partly aimed at ensuring that families focused on the quality of children rather than the quantity by reducing family sizes and ensuring that parents are prepared to have children; it was previously thought that growing up in a larger family could potentially

reduce the income of children as adults although the empirical evidence to support this claim is still unclear. These programs effectively reduced both the desired size of families and the fertility rate (Baily). Since they were first introduced in MEDCs where high birth rates first became a concern, family sizes in the developed world are the first to be affected.

### "Life Course" Changes

Changes in the way youth progress through their lives have contributed to lower birth rates. Specifically, delays in leaving one's parent's house, which is usually needed for marriage or reproduction, are a trend throughout the developed world. In Australia, the proportion of young men and women living with their parents has increased from 46% to 52% and 25% to 39% respectively from 1979 to 2000. Furthermore, youth no longer leave their homes solely for the purpose of marriage but also live together with their unmarried partners (ie. boyfriends or girlfriends) for longer periods. It has also become more unlikely that these first partnerships will result in marriage and children due to shifting social values that no longer present marriage as a priority (Weston and Parker 7).

Marriages have also become more unstable. Passage of laws that make divorce easier mean that more marriages are ending, reducing the opportunities for couples to have children. These laws are often found in more economically developed countries with more equitable social values surrounding relationships. Although it is possible for parents to have children outside of these relationships, it has been shown that single parents often do not engage in new relationships or have any more children even in a new relationship (Weston and Parker 8).

The growing financial independence of women has also reduced the need to find a partner for financial support and often makes career goals more important than family goals. This is most commonly found in developed economies where progressive laws and values that enabled female work first emerged. It is also often difficult for some to balance both work and children, especially if there are not enough childcare and educational services available (Weston and Parker 8). Hence, women are delaying or completely avoiding marriages and children.

### **Labor Markets**

Stable, well-paying jobs for early school leavers used to be easily available in developed economies have slowly declined and are now replaced with fixed-term contracts with casual or part-time hours. At the same time, the economic "boom and bust" cycle has intensified in the developed world (think about the subprime mortgage crisis or Japan's lost decade), resulting in greater financial instability for families. Therefore, young people are more likely to prioritize investments in their own "human capital" such as getting a better education or job rather than spending these resources on children, which are especially crucial in developed economies where

most jobs are skill-intensive. This is particularly true when childcare, family, or other support are not available to parents, making it harder to care for children while trying to pursue their own goals (Weston and Parker 9).

# **Lower Childbearing Benefits**

It is also true that children are no longer as financially valuable as they were in the past. Families used to be able to generate income or help from children with farming or child labor. Now, these are no longer relevant (or legal) for most families in the developed world with advanced industries and strict laws so there is little economic incentive for parents to have many children. Instead, children serve more of an emotional value in modern society, which is easier to notice in smaller families. Any economic benefits like retirement care are found later in life and this requires that these children are well-educated in order to be able to support their parents (Weston and Parker 9-10). Hence, it is more efficient for parents to have few children.

### **Increasing Childbearning Expenses**

Having a child does not only come with the most obvious costs like childcare, education, and diapers but also has a high opportunity cost for parents. Many parents, especially mothers, will take time off work or completely quit their jobs to care for children. Even in the first case, there is an opportunity cost in terms of lost income since it may delay promotions or career advancement. This is especially true for women in high-paying careers who may need to sacrifice significant earnings to care for children, most of whom live in developed economies. Child-raising resources that used to be luxuries in the past are now considered essentials in the developed world as incomes rise and previously unaffordable products become relatively normal (Weston and Parker 9-11). Hence, making the opportunity and direct costs of having children higher than ever before.

#### MEDCs, LEDCs and the Central Causes

It can be noticed that all these five factors are most commonly found in MEDCs (more economically developed countries) rather than developing countries since life course changes, shifting labor markets, and increasing childbearing expenses are often associated with economic development. However, these issues are in no way exclusive to MEDCs with many developing economies like Thailand are also facing low fertility rates and similar challenges. Although the agenda focuses on pro-natal population policies to increase birth rates in developed economies, delegates for lower and middle-income countries should also contribute if any applicable policies

are experienced if they are faced with similar issues. Lower and middle income countries that still aim to reduce total fertility rates due to excessively high population growth should consider the debate as preparation for a future when birth rates do drop below replacement rate.

# **Timeline of Global Population Statistics and Policy:**

Although there is no single global timeline about population policy and change due to its change based on country, there is a clear record of global cooperation on this topic as shown below:

Date	Description
31 August-10 September 10 1954	First World Population Conference: This is the first time exchanging scientific information about population growth, decline, and effects. It was mainly academic and focused around creating new methods and regional training centers to collect data.
30 August-10 September 1965	Second World Population Conference: At this conference, the focus shifted towards population study as a part for development planning. At this time, the United States had started supporting population programs in developing countries through USAID.
19-30 August 1974	Third World Population Conference: This was the first time population policy at an international level included many governments and their representatives rather than just experts. The World Population Plan of Action, the first global population plan, discusses economic and cultural development as part of population development.
6-14 August 1984	International Conference on Population: Issues of human rights, conditions of health and well-being, employment, and education started to become more important in this conference. This conference saw international discussions and cooperation in relating to population.
5-13 September 1994	The Fifth International Conference on Population and Development: A new "Program of Action" was adapted to coordinate and guide international and national decisions about population and development for the next 20 years. This document

	emphasized the relationship between economic development and population. The program is a commitment to effectively integrate population issues with development goals, especially to improve the quality of life of people.
30 June-2 July 1999	The 21st Session of the General Assembly: Population policy and its effects were a key topics of discussion at the 21st session of the General Assembly as world leaders met to discuss global issues. They collectively revised the "Program of Action" previously approved in 1994.

("United Nations: Key Conference Outcomes in Population")

#### **Global Reform Efforts:**

Pro-natal policies have been implemented and proposed to encourage the public to have more children in developed nations. These include the following case studies:

- 1. Baby Bonuses (Italy): Parents are paid a monthly bonus of 600 euros to make having children more affordable and attractive in Italy. The effectiveness of this program is not very clear and there are now proposals to increase the value of the bonuses for firstborns to increase their effectiveness (Wood 2-3).
- 2. Maternity Leave (Norway): Like many developed countries, Norway allows parents to take paid time off work when they first have a child (Wood 3). What makes Norway different is that it mandates (forces) new parents to take at least 6 weeks. Original positions and pay are guaranteed for parents when they come back to work. Fathers also receive these benefits in the same way as mothers ("Parental Benefit in Norway").
- 3. Immigration (South Korea): Since fertility rates have continually decreased below replacement rate for several decades, the productive population is getting smaller, resulting in a lack of workers. Instead of only trying to increase birth rates, the South Korean government has started to accept more immigrants to make up for the reduced number of local workers (Wood 3).
- 4. Free Use of Cars (Japan): One rather creative way to encourage the public to have more children is reducing everyday childcare costs such as transportation. Some Japanese cities have cooperated with car companies like Daihatsu to offer families with a fourth child free use of a car for one year (Wood 3).

- 5. European Comprehensive Pro-Natal Policies (France): France has one of the highest fertility rates in the developed world, which is just slightly higher than replacement rate, due to its long-running social programs:
  - a. Cheap, income-linked, and state provided childcare: One challenge that makes having children less attractive is the difficulty of caring for children as more parents, especially women who are traditional caretakers, are now in the workforce. Childcare services, which are often expensive, can help care for young preschool aged children during work hours and reduce these challenges. They are now being provided cheaply by the French government to incentivize potential parents to have more children ("Pro-Natalist Policy (France)").
  - b. Tax breaks for families with many children: Tax breaks for families with many children help ease the financial cost of caring for children, making it easier for families to have many children ("The Influence of Family Policies on Fertility in France").
  - c. Making it easier for parents to care for children while working: The French government mandates that employers provide flexible working hours and time-off for family matters to ensure that parents can more easily care for their children, so that more prospective parents more strongly consider having children (Wood 3).
- 6. Asian Comprehensive Pro-Natal Policies (Singapore): Singapore has experienced a continued decline in its fertility rate below replacement level. Hence, the government has implemented a series of pro-natal policies over the past four decades. However, many of these policies have not proven to be effective enough with Singapore's total fertility rate below replacement rate (Wood 3).
  - a. Pro-Family Housing Policies: Singapore is well known for its expensive housing with most families depending on government-provided housing to minimize costs. To encourage larger families, those with children are prioritized for public housing, especially larger units (Need).
  - b. Providing Information: The Singaporean government regularly conducts public information campaigns to encourage the public to have more children (Wong and Yeoh 7).
  - c. Subsidized Reproductive Health Services: Some couples may require medical assistance to reproduce. The Singaporean government subsidizes (pays for) a part of this medical treatment so that Singaporeans can more easily have children (Tan).
  - d. Accompanied by standard policies found in other nations that are mentioned above:

- i. Baby Bonus Scheme
- ii. Tax deductions for families with four or more children
- iii. Work Life Policies (Wood 3).
- 7. Global Initiatives and UN Action: Although policies are implemented at a national level, international cooperation is also crucial in collecting data, and setting global goals. This can be found in the United Nations' World Population Plan of Action which details ways different nations can cooperate on the issue of population growth. Much of the plan actually discusses how developed nations can cooperate with developing countries to control population growth so that they are not too large or small (World Population Plan of Action).

# **Topics your Resolutions Should Address:**

# Reducing the Costs of Childbearing

The costs of childbearing have consistently increased in developed countries. This has the effect of making it less affordable to have children. Even those who can afford many children feel that it is now less desirable (Weston and Parker 9-11). Hence, resolutions should discuss ways developed nations can reduce the cost of having children for its public, including how different developed nations can share or learn from each other when implementing these programs. For example, nations could follow Italy's example of providing baby bonuses while learning from Italy's experience and increasing its value to make the effectiveness higher (Wood 2-3).

### Reducing Parenthood Burdens and Career Disruption

Cost is not the only factor that makes parents want to have fewer children. Sometimes, even couples who can afford many children don't want to have them because it may be too difficult to balance it with their existing jobs and goals (Weston and Parker 9-11). Governments can reduce these challenges by finding ways to make it easier to be parents. Examples include free or cheap childcare so parents can focus on work during the day while toddlers are cared for safely. To ensure that parents' (especially mothers') careers are not disrupted, countries can create laws that force employers to give paid time off for parents when they have children, ensure that they are given their old positions back, and prevent companies from refusing to hire (or promote/fire) women who plan to have children. This not only makes sure that parents' careers are not disrupted but also helps maintain gender equality because women's careers are more often disrupted than men's when having children ("Parental Benefit in Norway").

# Improving Human Capital

In countries where fertility rates are decreasing and populations will likely start to reduce, economic growth may be maintained by upskilling, the process of making workers more qualified. This means that even though there are fewer people in the workforce, they may be able to earn and produce more because they are more efficient or work in higher-paying industries (Siskova et al.). To achieve such improvements, it is crucial that governments invest in education. For example, developed countries which already have universal public education may want to invest more in existing schools. These investments can also be made in higher education such as by making undergraduate education free and offering scholarships for graduate study. Some developed countries even provide funding for study abroad or exchange programs to make their population more aware. Developed countries can also increase investment in research and development to produce more experts and new innovations ("Productivity, Human Capital and Educational Policies").

## **Immigration**

If developed countries can not successfully increase their fertility rates back to replacement level, they may want to find workers from other countries to make sure that all jobs are filled. Immigration is also an excellent way to recruit foreign talent that can help economies innovate so they are able to compete with other countries and also contribute taxes to help care for the older population. However, this can be harmful for developing countries because it results in brain drain (ie. all the qualified workers leave for higher pay in developed countries) (Carrington and Detragiache). Therefore, resolutions should discuss the extent and suitability of pro-immigration policies including its effect on local workers.

### The Benefits of Population Decline

It is crucial that population decline as a result of lower-than-replacement not be viewed as a necessarily bad result as previously discussed. A smaller population means more opportunities like high-paying jobs and a college education for everyone. A smaller population means less waste and pollution, resulting in ecological recovery. A smaller population also means more career advancement for women in particular and longer lifespans means new opportunities for innovation and self-exploration never seen before as explained in this <u>article</u> (Feng). The debate and resolutions should weigh the benefits and drawbacks of population decline rather than immediately reaching the conclusion that a population decline is undesirable.

#### **International Cooperation**

Although population policies are implemented at a domestic level, international cooperation is still important because they can affect other countries, especially developing nations, as well. This is especially true with immigration policies, which can harm developing nations through brain drain. Additionally, developed economies can learn from their peers through international collaboration to identify the most effective policies. Developing nations can also be part of this conversation and prepare for a near future where their fertility rates also decline (*World Population Plan of Action;* Carrington and Detragiache).

### **Countries & Party Stances:**

Instead of going by region, this chair report will explain the different potential positions of countries with various demographic structures based on the demographic transition model. The model explains how and why countries experience population growth and decline at various stages of their development (Roser).

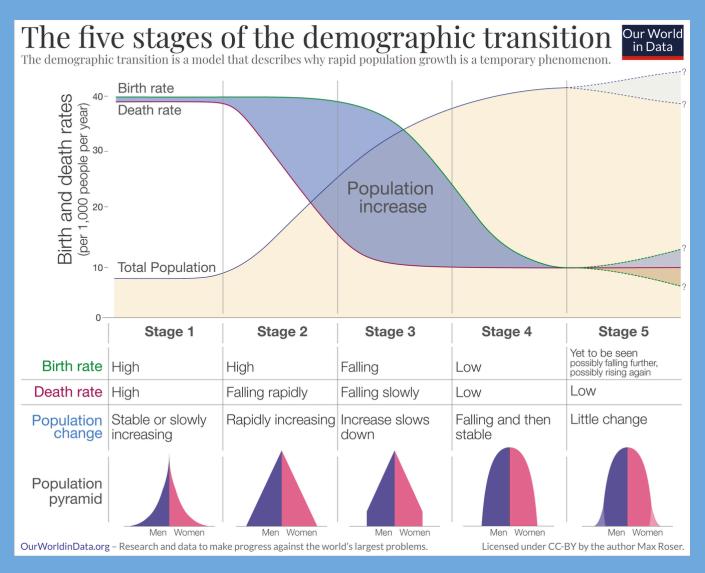


Fig 1. An illustration of the demographic transition model (Roser).

### Stage 1-high mortality rate and high birth rates

In the past, societies have always had high birth rates but there was no sizable population growth because mortality rates were also high. This was the demographic status for the last 1000 years, which resulted in a relatively stable global population during that time. The population pyramid, which shows the number of people at each age, has a large base of young people while older generations get larger as they die (Roser).

There are no countries in the committee in stage 1 of the demographic transition model. However, some communities in sub-Saharan Africa or the Amazon may still be in this stage such as **Brazil** or **Tanzania** (Roser). Those that still have this demographic structure are often lower-income countries and will need to aim to increase their life expectancies and reduce birth rates. Hence, pro-natal policies are not relevant to these countries. The participation of these nations to the debate will likely be limited to planning for a future where the population does decline.

# Stage 2-mortality falls, but birth rates are still high

As healthcare access improves, the mortality rate starts to fall while the birth rate is still the same because families have yet to react to economic and health changes so the population grows (Roser). At this phase, governments, usually in developing nations, aim to implement antinatalist policies. Countries in this phase are not immediately relevant to the debate about pronatalist policies in developed countries but may benefit from international discussion about pronatalist policies to plan for the future. These countries will also be negatively affected by immigration policies implemented by developed nations and may oppose them in the committee. Here are some examples of nations in this stage:

#### Tanzania

Tanzania is a country with a high fertility rate at 4.9 children per woman, a high infant mortality rate at 40 deaths per 1,000 live births, and a shorter life expectancy at 65.0 years ("Tanzania | Demographic Dividend"). Hence, it is in stage 2 of the demographic transition model. The Tanzanian government is considering new investments in health and family planning to reduce the birth rate and death rates.

#### Senegal

Senegal is a country with a high fertility rate at 4.6 children per woman, a high infant mortality rate at 42 deaths per 1,000 live births, and a shorter life expectancy at 67.6 years. Hence, it is in stage 2 of the demographic transition model. The Senegalese government has continually tried to reduce the fertility rate, which was as high as 5.7 in 1997 as well as improving healthcare to reduce the infant mortality rate and increase life expectancy ("Senegal | Demographic Dividend"). One interesting policy used by Senegal is the involvement of communities. Instead of making one policy nationally, local councils can help decide how policies are implemented (Wilson).

# Stage 3-mortality is low and birth rates begin to fall

As families adjust to a healthier environment and economic changes, they have fewer children while the mortality continues to fall. At this point, the population starts slowing as the gap between births and deaths narrows (Roser). Governments, usually in high-income or upper middle income countries, start considering pronatal policies at this stage to avoid population decline, which may occur within the next few years. In this stage, younger generations at the bottom of the pyramid start becoming the same in size.

#### Jamaica

Jamaica has a relatively low birth rate and death rate so it is in the third stage of demographic transition. The Jamaica population continues to increase in 2023 but may soon reduce as a result of sub-replacement fertility rates ("Jamaica Population 2020 (Demographics, Maps, Graphs)"). Jamaica previously had a policy of reducing fertility rates and infant mortality rates to ensure that the population does not get too large. However, now that Jamaica has sub-replacement mortality rates, it is likely that Jamaica may start implementing pro-natal population policies to avoid population decline ("National Population Policy").

### Stage 4-both mortality and birth rates are low

Population growth halts in stage 4 where birth rates and death rates are nearly identical. The population pyramid is now similar to a box since the younger cohorts are the same size while older people die off more slowly. At this point, the population may stabilize and then start to slightly decline (Roser). Governments, usually developed nations, aim to increase the birth rate at this stage in order to avoid larger declines in population through policies like immigration or other pronatal policies and are extremely relevant to the debate.

#### **Netherlands**

The Netherlands' population has seen no significant increase or decrease in the past few years with a sub-replacement fertility rate at 1.73 children per woman and a low infant mortality rate with high life expectancy ("Population, Households and Population Dynamics; 1899-2019"). The Netherlands government will likely anticipate a declining population over the next few years ("Largest Families in Urk"). Therefore, the

government has provided generous public welfare programmes such as government help when buying a new house to help new parents afford large families. Hence, the Netherlands' fertility rate has reduced at a lower rate than many of its European neighbors ("How Has the Netherlands Managed to Sustain Near-Replacement Fertility?").

#### Norway

Norway's population has seen limited population increase in the past few years with a sub-replacement fertility rate at 1.55 children per woman and a low infant mortality rate with high life expectancy (Thomas et al.). Norway's population is expected to potentially decrease in the near future since the fertility rate is estimated to reduce to 1.5 children per woman by 2025. Hence, Norway has a large set of pro-natalist policies such as parental leave to make having children easier ("Exploring Norway's Fertility, Work, and Family Policy Trends").

# Stage 5-the future of population growth and decline

There is some debate on whether or not the birth rate will increase after stage 4 since very few countries have reached this stage. Some developed countries have passed into stage 5 and these nations often see higher death rates than birth rates, especially since their total fertility rate is lower than 2.1 children per woman (Roser). These nations or nations likely to enter this stage are most relevant to the debate since they will need to significantly increase their total fertility rate or be more open to immigration to fill the shortage of workers in their economies and support an aging society.

## Portugal

Portugal's population is declining due to declining fertility rates. Between 2009 and 2018, the population was reduced by 297,000 people. There is also a lack of immigration into Portugal with many people moving out of the country (Duarte and Pinheiro). However, life expectancy has continually risen, meaning that Portugal may soon have a larger older population than a teenage population. Both the local and national governments have implemented affordable childcare services as well as cash subsidies for new homebuyers to encourage young people to have more children (Faiola).

#### **Ouestions to Consider**

- What is the most efficient way to increase the fertility rate?
- Should the government influence personal decisions in the first place?
- Should developed countries use more immigration to prevent population decline?

- How can nations cooperate on population policy?
- Is population decline or reducing birth rates necessarily a bad thing?

# **Further Reading (English)**

Population Decline Will Change the World for the Better | Scientific American
What's Going On in This Graph? | Global Population Growth and Decline - The New
York Times

Causes and effects of population decline in the Netherlands

<u>Don't worry about global population collapse - The Japan Times</u>

U.S. Population Trends Return to Pre-Pandemic Norms

China's shrinking population and constraints on its future power | Brookings

The Alternative, Optimistic Story of Population Decline - The New York Times

# **Further Reading (Thai)**

การเพิ่มขึ้นของจำนวนประชากร: หนึ่งปัจจัยสำคัญต่อการบรรลุเป้าหมายการพัฒนาที่ยั่งยืน กอดบทเรียนนโยบายประชากรประเทศสิงคโปร์เพื่อการพัฒนาประเทศไทย สังคมไทยจะทำอย่างไร เมื่อคนรุ่นใหม่ไม่อยากมีลูก อนาคตประชากรไทย: ในวันที่การตายมากกว่าการเกิด – จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย ผลกระทบของ การเปลี่ยนแปลงทางประชากร ในประเทศไทย วิกฤตเกิดน้อย: เข้าใจปัญหาและทางออกเชิงนโยบาย | TheCoverage.info ผู้หญิงกับการคุมกำเนิด บทที่8: นโยบายประชากร

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