Shea Gopaul, IOE Permanent Representative to UN and co-chair of Business and Industry Major Group.

Thematic session 3. Bridging the science, technology and innovation divides to eradicate poverty and end hunger (SDGs 1 and 2)  
(16:30 – 18:00)

Thank you chair I'm speaking today on behalf of the Business and Industry Major Group and the International Organization of Employers (IOE). Employers are committed to developing and implementing the latest technologies and science to improve the lives of all communities. Geospatial technology, digital training, open-source solutions, mobile technology, renewable energy and health innovations can significantly contribute to poverty reduction. By ensuring affordability and accessibility to these technologies empowers individuals and communities to thrive.

To name a few examples: Mobile phones serve as a powerful tool for financial inclusion. Mobile money services enable secure transactions savings and access to credit. In developing countries where traditional banking infrastructure is limited, mobile technology bridges the gap. Digital payment solutions such as affordable and user-friendly payment apps facilitate transactions reducing reliance on cash and improving financial stability. Microfinance apps platforms connect borrowers and lenders and support small businesses and entrepreneurial ventures.

Digital literacy programs power individuals with essential skills. Access to online courses, tutorials, educational content enables people to learn and adapt to changing job requirements. This is particularly critical as we move into what we call the just transition- where we employers need to reskill their current and future workforce for the greener/ bluer jobs of tomorrow.

According to UNDP's recent study 79 out of 93 countries have said that job creation is the most important way to eradicate poverty. Private sector creates 90% of all jobs. Conversely, as with any disruptive technological change, such as AI, there will be job losses and creation. It has never been more important to be trained, skilled, reskilled on these new technologies. As they say ...AI will not take away someone’s job but the person who has AI skills will.

To conclude, employers are committed to technology adoption, sustainable practices and especially skills development as this directly impact job creation and worker well-being in advanced and developing economies.
Thank you.