





Digital trade negotiations impact on workers and workers rights

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- ▶ The analysis done by Deborah clearly shows that there are major concerns on digital economy and having rules set globally in the interests of developed countries and specifically the tech giants that operate in those countries.
 - ▶ **Decimate decent work and Increase Precarious Work** – Introduction of occupations that see workers being defined as “self-employed” or “agency”, denying them many employment rights. The work often lacks fixed or predictable hours, social protection among others. As platform work proliferates, collective bargaining has been especially curtailed, since this is much harder for the self-employed.
 - ▶ **Making Enforcement of Local Labour Laws more Difficult.** When a law is broken, an entity must be brought to court to answer the charge. A company having a locally registered entity makes this process easy because they can be legally compelled to engage with the domestic legal process and comply with its judgements.
 - ▶ **Eroding Worker’s Rights by Necessity-** The digital transformation that society is undergoing is testing some of those hard-won rights about what constitutes a worker and what rights and protections they deserve.

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- ▶ **Challenges to Algorithmic Transparency**- Flying planes, stock trades, now being used for self driving vehicles, helping people make decisions about whether to offer an applicant a job interview, whether offenders will reoffend, and what social care provision a service user needs.
 - ▶ As algorithms enter increasingly sensitive areas of our lives, we need to have meaningful accountability for those who create and deploy algorithmic decision systems, especially in areas where decisions have a significant impact on individuals.
 - ▶ **Expanding Market Access right for Digital** – There is a quiet revolution going on within governments, known as Gov Tech, that could transform the nature of public services and who delivers them.
 - ▶ technology companies getting into the heart of key decisions that we normally associate with the state.
 - ▶ **Increase Power of Big Tech over workers** -The introduction of data-gathering technology, its analysis and use has disrupted the delicate balance between worker and employer, and has shifted power firmly back to employers.
 - ▶ Extending Surveillance beyond working hours, data used to benefit the company, The provisions around source code threaten to allow employers to hide behind automated decision-making systems, thereby reducing their accountability.

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- ▶ **Threaten countries' domestic industries' future by requiring the free transfer of the data** -Uber is a transportation company that is currently valued at about \$50bn yet owns no cars and employs no drivers
 - ▶ What Uber lacks in terms of capital and infrastructure it makes up for by gathering and analysing an immense volume of data on people, drivers and their cars and how they move around the city and interact with each other.
 - ▶ countries should be precluded from implementing policies and laws that would enable them to develop their own domestic tech industry by placing limits on the flow of data out of the country or requiring the localisation of servers and people.
 - ▶ **Preferencing Transnational Companies over Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** – MSMEs are drivers of the economy and account for over 45% of job, and contributes 33% of national income.
 - ▶ We are seeing completely reformulated rules, written by and for MSMEs, could deliver on this noble sentiment and provide real opportunities for them to grow and reach wider markets. However, in reality, the proposals will do little or nothing to help MSMEs, and in fact they are very much aligned with the needs of Big Tech companies, who would undoubtedly benefit the most. In addition, the way that the digital economy operates more generally also favours the tech giants over MSMEs.

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- ▶ **Agriculture and Digital Trade** -Today, the prospect of workerless farms staffed by robots is on the horizon, with many working on it while others are already doing it (at huge cost).
 - ▶ today we have radical restructuring of how, and by whom, our food is produced and distributed. Globally the small-scale food system, where (often family) farmers grow on small plots, often using traditional methods and selling their own produce directly in physical markets or on the streets, still feeds 70 per cent of people around the world.
 - ▶ The advance of Big Tech companies into agriculture and the wider food system presents a number of challenges to those trying to make a living, and feed themselves, from small-scale agriculture.
 - ▶ the liberal free flow of data linked to the prohibition on requiring source code transfer (as well as issues around local presence) means that large agritech businesses will continue to benefit most at the expense of small-scale farmer.