2018 G7 "Preparing for Jobs of the Future" Ministerial Meeting Recommended Outcomes
March 2018

Industry welcomes the leadership of Canada in making "Jobs of the Future" a theme of the G7. Industry agrees that it must be forward-thinking in approaches to preparing the workforce of the future, but cautions members against getting ahead of domestic policymaking in these rapidly developing areas. The G7 should build on the progress made in Italy in 2017, where members made a commitment "to allow people and firms from all sectors to take full advantage of the benefits of innovation" that will increase both the quantity and quality of jobs.

Industry supports a renewed focus on enabling jobs of the future and encouraging development in artificial intelligence at the March meeting of the G7 Employment and Innovation Ministers and offers the following recommendations.

Enabling Jobs of the Future

- The G7 should recognize that the Internet and emerging technologies are creating possibilities and solutions for citizens around the world to find gainful, stable employment. Historically, technological progress has driven economic growth and enhanced labor productivity, which has been accompanied by transformations in how individuals participate in the economy.

- The G7 should emphasize that in addition to long-needed improvements in STEM education, schools must begin educating workers who have adaptive skills and the flexibility to master new roles as their jobs and the economy change. To illustrate, the U.S. Department of Labor identified active learning, active listening, complex problem solving, critical thinking, judgment and decision making, monitoring, reading comprehension, speaking, and writing as the nine adaptive skills necessary for an "Industry 4.0" workforce.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- The G7 should commit to furthering an environment that will enable growth and innovation in AI, automation, and algorithmic data analysis. This includes taking a proactive role in promoting AI's development by coordinating international investment in AI research and education. The G7 should encourage policy and regulatory approaches to AI protects consumers from actual harms. Speculative regulation can chill innovation and further development.

- Industry understands that the integration of AI technologies into the global economy could be disruptive. The G7 should encourage the private sector and government to work together to develop medium and long-term solutions to enable the economic growth and productivity enhancements of AI-driven automation while mitigating any disruptions in the workforce.

- The G7 should recognize that any policy solutions will hinge on fostering worker flexibility. In the medium term, workers will need to have the flexibility to adapt to new opportunities, and the private sector and government will need to provide the necessary programs to support them. Longer term policy solutions can also help minimize challenges associated with the economic impacts of AI, machine learning, and automation. Schools and vocational training programs may soon need to train workers who are responsive to the needs of AI-inflected economies and can adapt to a potentially faster pace of economic change.