Business principles for people-centered technology transformation

Putting people at the heart of the Future of Work

With society and technology changing faster than ever before, WBCSD is working towards a vision of the Future of Work where people thrive – personally, professionally, and as active members of their communities. A future with inclusive workforces that are secure, motivated, skilled and prepared for any challenge that comes next. Where people’s lives are enriched by advancing technology. And where society can prosper from equal access to new opportunities.

The challenge

| Workers are at the frontline of technology transformation | Companies make technology-related decisions every day that impact workers’ rights, wellbeing and futures | In the face of rapid tech evolution, impacts on the workforce can be underestimated or overlooked |

WBCSD’s Principles aim to ensure technology transformation benefits the workforce, now and in the future.

Respect

- workers’ human rights when developing and implementing new technology
- Implement policies to ensure respect for workers’ human rights related to new technology.
- Conduct effective due diligence to identify current and potential human rights impacts of new technology.
- Be accountable and provide channels for effective remediation.

Engage

- workers in technology transformation
- Communicate transparently on the impacts of new technology on the workforce and how companies are preparing for transitions.
- Consult openly with the workforce and relevant stakeholders.
- Involve the workforce when designing, adopting and working with new technologies.

Empower

- workers to benefit from new technology
- Prepare the workforce by equipping workers with new skills and providing access to learning, training and support.
- Consult openly by ensuring underrepresented groups are fully engaged and benefit equally from new opportunities.
- Drive equality by fairly sharing the benefits of technology-driven improvements with all workers.

Adopting these Principles will help companies ensure the ongoing trust, preparedness and resilience of their own workforce, attract and retain the best talent, stay ahead of the curve on expectations and regulations, and contribute to a thriving workforce, company, labor market and society.

Companies & partners driving WBCSD’s Future of Work project

Find out more: https://futureofwork.wbcsd.org/