grated data. A combination of satellites, drones, mobile phones, sensors, financial technologies and IoT devices collect real-time data, something that is able to transform the management of natural resources and ecosystems. This potential can be harnessed to combat climate change and advance global sustainability, environmental stewardship and human well-being.

4. The new skills needed

The future of work presents unparalleled opportunities, but also significant challenges. The digital transformation is upending everything: it is redefining economies, changing the way companies operate, introducing new business models, changing the way countries are managed and the way people communicate with each other. The International Labour Organisation estimates that 24 million new jobs could be created globally by 2030 on account of the adoption of sustainable practices in the energy sector, the use of electric vehicles and increasing energy efficiency in existing and future buildings. Meanwhile, a report by McKinsey Institute[12] suggests that up to 800 million people could lose their jobs to automation by the end of this decade. Polls reveal that employees worry that they do not have the necessary training or skills to get a well-paid job.

These fears are legitimate, as the future of work will see a shift in demand away from office support positions, machine operators, and other low-skill occupations towards ICT professionals. Acquiring and maintaining appropriate staff is therefore strategically important for the development of modern economies, especially looking globally through the prism of potentially high unemployment and at the lack of a qualified workforce.

It is crucial that policies help workers, employers (SMEs) and society at large to manage the transition with the least possible disruption, while maximising the potential benefits. This requires changes in our approach to education, for instance, by placing more emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; by teaching soft skills, and resilience; and by ensuring that people can re-skill and up-skill throughout their lifetimes.

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12 *Jobs lost, jobs gained: Workforce transitions in a time of automation* (McKinsey Global Institute, November 2017).