

## **Summary: Report on roundtable discussion on legislative interventions for platform work in India**

Vidhi Karnataka and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), in collaboration with the Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers (IFAT), organised a day-long roundtable discussion on the question of legislative interventions for the regulation of on-demand platform work in India in Bengaluru on October 15, 2022. The discussion was organised in light of the current legal vacuum in the regulation of the platform economy, not covered by either the existing labour laws or the recently enacted labour codes.

The three-session roundtable aimed to consult experts and stakeholders such as trade union representatives, researchers, academics and lawyers, to invite ideas and contributions on the various facets of platform regulation. The first session on occupational health, safety and working conditions explored current labour laws (including the new labour codes) and the scope of their applicability to platform work. The issues highlighted by the discussants included impediments to worker organisation, exploitative work practices, and challenges faced by women platform workers. The second session focussed on issues of algorithmic transparency and data protection, particularly the need to shift from mere algorithmic transparency to standard-setting. The issues raised were the overriding of labour protections through control by opaque algorithms, absence of data sharing with workers in relation to the quantum of work and client ratings among others. The third and final session discussed global developments in the regulation of platform work, and identified issues such as the difficulties in regularising platform workers through standard employment contracts, barriers to legal reform and the role of the judiciary.

The roundtable discussion also addressed areas for intervention, such as facilitating unionisation, introducing human intervention to prevent algorithmic exploitation, and adopting the 'decent work' standards of the International Labour Organisation.

Download the report [here](#).

**Stock photograph for the roundtable (below)**



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