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### **Robotics: the new industrial and social revolution**

In the past, human society has undergone a number of "revolutions" that have profoundly changed the way people lived and worked. The industrial revolution changed the work structure and stimulated the urbanization of the society, computers have changed the way many jobs are carried out, and cellular phones have changed the way people communicate and socialize. In the next 5 to 10 years, we are facing with the new industrial and social revolution of robotics that will change both our work and life styles at the same time. Since we have experienced similar changes in a very recent past, it would be wise to be prepared and to start thinking on how to manage the impact they will have on our lives. In this talk I will summarize the development of robotics and illustrate the current state of this technology in the key areas of health care, manufacturing and logistics. I will then suggest different scenarios that a large use of robotic technologies could generate, and I will propose the key social and technological problems that each Country will have to solve. How these problems will be solved will depend on the political and social structure of each Country and by its willingness to face the challenges posed by the new technologies.