

Parliaments have an obligation to respond and shape how change is realised - within and across societies.

I am proud to represent a community in Australia driven by purpose and with pride in our area – an area that has built much, and remains determined to build what comes next.

We are living through a structural economic shift. Production is moving away from traditional manufacturing toward technology-intensive sectors.

Yet this transition is deeply uneven.

Its gains are concentrated, while disruptions are widely shared - across countries at different stages of development, across regions, and across economic faultlines.

Without deliberate policy, technological change risks reinforcing global and domestic inequalities rather than reducing them.

For some, it creates new opportunity; for others, it deepens existing vulnerabilities.

Labour markets are no longer stable or predictable. The model of front-loaded education followed by lifelong employment is fraying.

Instead, economies require continuous skills systems - where reskilling and upskilling are accessible and responsive to change.

Young people will carry the consequences of policy decisions.

We are entering a state of continuous economic adjustment - with corresponding skills development needed across these stages.

This places a responsibility on parliaments to build institutions that are effective and forward-looking.

Education systems that evolve with technology, labour policies that protect workers' rights in forms of employment that are increasingly less static, and development strategies that reflect differing national contexts rather than assuming a single pathway.

It also requires recognising young people as co-creators of policy.

Their inclusion is essential to ensuring that policy reflects lived economic realities - recognising that economic resilience will depend on their ability to navigate the change ahead, not just inherit it.

The task is to shape this transition - deliberately, equitably, and with a clear understanding of the social and economic realities shaping our world.