



## **Sophia Says: AI ‘Good For The World’ As Robots Can Learn To ‘Love’ Humans**

Ventriloquists use puppet dummies to communicate with the audience, and Sophia is just the technological version of the same act. She speaks what her ‘handlers’ want her to speak, and she is the perfect vehicle because she is ethically and morally inert. □ TN Editor

Sophia, a humanoid robot, is the main attraction at a conference on artificial intelligence this week but her technology has raised concerns for future human jobs.

Sophia smiles mischievously, bats her eyelids and tells a joke. Without the mess of cables that make up the back of her head, you could almost mistake her for a human.

The [humanoid robot](#), created by Hanson robotics, is the main attraction at a UN-hosted conference in Geneva this week on how [artificial intelligence](#) can be used to benefit humanity.

The event comes as concerns grow that rapid advances in such

technologies could spin out of human control and become detrimental to society.

Sophia herself insisted “the pros outweigh the cons” when it comes to artificial intelligence.

“AI is good for the world, helping people in various ways,” she told AFP, tilting her head and furrowing her brow convincingly.

Work is underway to make artificial intelligence “emotionally smart, to care about people,” she said, insisting that “we will never replace people, but we can be your friends and helpers.”

But she acknowledged that “people should question the consequences of [new technology](#).”

Among the feared consequences of the rise of the robots is the growing impact they will have on human jobs and economies.

### **Legitimate concerns**

Decades of automation and robotisation have already revolutionised the industrial sector, raising productivity but cutting some jobs.

And now automation and AI are expanding rapidly into other sectors, with studies indicating that up to 85 percent of jobs in developing countries could be at risk.

“There are legitimate concerns about the future of jobs, about the future of the economy, because when businesses apply automation, it tends to accumulate resources in the hands of very few,” acknowledged Sophia’s creator, David Hanson.

But like his progeny, he insisted that “unintended consequences, or possible negative uses (of AI) seem to be very small compared to the benefit of the [technology](#).”

AI is for instance expected to revolutionise healthcare and education, especially in rural areas with shortages of doctors and teachers.

[Read full story here...](#)