

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Date: 7th September 2024

Venue: Accra, Ghana

MEDIA ADVISORY

1st Africa Skills Week

Theme: “Skills and Jobs for the 21st Century: Quality Skills Development for Sustainable Employability in Africa”

INVITATION TO THE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

What: 1st Africa Skills Week

Theme: “Skills and Jobs for the 21st Century: Quality Skills Development for Sustainable Employability in Africa”

When: 14th – 18th October 2024

Where: The Palms Conventions Center, Accra, Ghana

Who: The Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) department of the AU Commission in cooperation with AUDA-NEPAD; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ); and the Government of the Republic of Ghana

Why:

Africa's journey towards economic prosperity is heavily reliant on the integration of education and opportunities, as highlighted by the Continental Education Strategy ([CESA 2016-2025](#)) and the [Continental Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\) Strategy](#). These strategies emphasize the critical link between education, skill development, and job creation. Africa Skills Week (ASW) aligns with CESA's goals by fostering collaboration and innovation in skills development and employment across the continent. The event supports the African Union's 2024 theme of "building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa". By prioritizing skills development, the AU and its partners aim to unlock the potential of Africa's youth, driving sustainable economic growth and social inclusion across the continent.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the Africa Skills Week are follows:

1. Promotion of Skills Development: Raise awareness about the significance of skills development in enhancing employability, entrepreneurship, and economic resilience in Africa.
2. Knowledge Sharing: Facilitate the exchange of best practices, innovative approaches, and successful initiatives in skills development among stakeholders from across Africa and beyond.
3. Policy Dialogue: Provide a platform for policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and other stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue on policies and strategies to strengthen skills development ecosystems in Africa.

4. Youth Empowerment: Empower young people by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities to thrive in the rapidly evolving job market and contribute to Africa's sustainable development.

5. Partnership Building: Foster partnerships and collaboration among governments, civil society organizations, educational institutions, businesses, and international development partners to support skills development initiatives in Africa.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced Awareness: Increased understanding of the importance of skills development in Africa's socio-economic development.

2. Increased Collaboration: Stronger partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders to support skills development initiatives.

3. Policy Recommendations: Actionable strategies and policy recommendations to strengthen skills development ecosystems in Africa.

4. Youth Empowerment: Young people empowered with the skills and opportunities to succeed in the 21st-century job market.

Participants:

The ASW is expected to draw the participation of African Ministers responsible for TVET and other relevant ministries, Heads of International Development Institutions, The Regional Economic Communities and the private sector, academia, the youth, and technical institutions.

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