

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Outcome Statement and Call to Action from Africa Skills Week 2024 Accra, Ghana, 18th October 2024

Outcome Statement:

The inaugural Africa Skills Week 2024 has successfully established itself as a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective action to address the skills gap in Africa. The event brought together key stakeholders, including policymakers, development partners, educators, industry leaders, and youth representatives, to discuss and develop innovative solutions for enhancing skills development and employability across the continent.

Key outcomes of the week include:

- **Enhanced policy dialogue:** The event facilitated high-level discussions on the importance of skills development in driving economic growth and social inclusion. Participants explored effective policy frameworks including the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) 2025-2034, investment strategies, and partnerships to support skills development initiatives.
- **Increased collaboration:** The week fostered collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments, educational institutions, private sector entities, and international organizations. This collaboration will be essential for implementing comprehensive skills development strategies.
- **Knowledge sharing and learning:** Participants shared their experiences and best practices in skills development, providing valuable insights and lessons learned. This exchange of knowledge will contribute to the development of more effective and efficient skills development programs.
- **Youth engagement:** The event actively engaged young people, providing them with opportunities to share their perspectives and contribute to the discussions. This ensured that the outcomes of the week were relevant to the needs and aspirations of Africa's youth.

Call to Action:

The Call to Action reflects the key areas where African Union and its partners can make meaningful progress in transforming its TVET systems, empowering its youth, and ensuring the continent is well-positioned for the future of work. Building upon the successes of Africa Skills Week 2024 hosted by the Republic of Ghana, we call on all stakeholders to take the following actions:

1. **Implement effective and inclusive skills development policies:** Governments are urged to prioritize skills development in their national development plans, increase investment in education and training, reform and implement policies that support targeted and inclusive acquisition of relevant and marketable skills for the 21st century. This should include development and harmonization of TVET Regulatory system with bodies instituted, to drive TVET and skills development in Member States.

2. **Strengthen partnerships for Impact:** Collaborations between governments, educational institutions, and the productive sectors are crucial for aligning skills development with the demands of the labour market. Frameworks should be established for exchange programs for African TVET trainers and students to broaden innovation and learning.
3. **Promote entrepreneurship:** Entrepreneurship can be a powerful driver of economic growth and job creation. Governments and educational institutions should support entrepreneurship development through training, mentorship, and access to financing.
4. **Leverage technology and innovation:** Technology can play a significant role in enhancing skills development and access to education. Governments and educational institutions should prioritize digitalization of TVET and educational systems, focusing on innovative learning technologies and AI integration, to deliver quality education and training.
5. **Continue the Dialogue:** We recommend the declaration of 2025-2034 as Africa's Decade of Skills and Jobs, strengthen and expand platforms for regular regional and continental exchange both digital and physical on TVET including through [Africa Skills Portal for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship \(ASPTEE\) portal](#), [WorldSkills Africa](#), and institutionalize Africa Skills Week as a biennial event to encourage dialogue, experience sharing and collaboration on skills development and employment in Africa.
6. **Increased public and private investment in TVET:** explore and prioritize innovative financing models and mechanisms, such as impact bonds, skills development funds, and blended finance, to de-risk investments and attract both domestic and foreign capital for skills development in Africa.
7. **Implement the Call to Action from the Youth Summit on Skills:** - partner with youth in intentional skills development and employment actions towards building a future where the African youth can fully realise their potential.
8. **Research, Monitor and Evaluate Progress:** Establish mechanisms to undertake research in TVET, monitor and evaluate the implementation of skills development initiatives, ensuring innovation, accountability and sustainability.

Considering Africa's youthful demographics, and workforce that is projected to double by 2050, by taking these actions, we can collectively address the skills gap in Africa and create a more prosperous and inclusive future for the continent.