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voice for business

## **Employers' Alliance for Green Skills**

**Date and Time: 9 December 13:30-14:30**

**Location: COP28 Blue Zone, Thematic Arena 3 - Employers Pavilion for Green Skills  
(Building 88 Zone B7 ground floor)**

**IOE launched the Employers' Alliance for Green Skills (the Alliance hereafter) at COP27 in 2022. The Alliance is a partnership of IOE members and partner companies that promotes the importance of an adequate and adapted skills framework to anticipate and prepare for job losses and gains due to climate change and climate policy.**

43% percent of jobs in Africa are vulnerable to climate change impacts according to Deloitte [analysis](#). In order for jobs to be created and filled, there will be a much stronger need for new skills within existing occupations. Skills are the currency in which we can understand disruption in transition, minimize the impacts, and facilitate optimal employment pathways. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region stands out as a region where jobs are most exposed to the threat of decarbonization, but economies need to adapt to absorb a highly skilled workforce into the growing sectors of the future. As one of the youngest populations in the world, it is imperative that the region make adequate investments in education and learning that hold value in the labour market and prepare citizens for the world of tomorrow. Only 5 NDCs from the MENA region reference climate change education, although some countries, like the [UAE](#), have advanced programs and projects on skills training.

Taking note of the challenges which arise from climate change, it is crucial to strengthen cooperation and partnerships to create the appropriate conditions globally, but particularly on the African continent and the MENA region to achieve the energy transition, also taking into consideration the continent's requirements and its social, economic and living conditions. The Alliance focuses on collaborative activities to ensure a smooth transition and productive labour markets; it also constitutes part of IOE's activities and efforts in the context of ILO's Climate Action for Jobs Initiative. We need to raise decision-makers' attention on the need to intertwine skills and climate policies in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition for countries and businesses.

In these circumstances it is crucial to strengthen cooperation and partnerships to create the appropriate conditions to achieve the energy transition. Addressing transition challenges requires a focus on enabling business environments, developing programmes to boost skills in all aspects of clean energy transitions and supporting the growth of new job opportunities in more sustainable economic activities. Spending on energy efficiency, electric and fuel cell vehicles, renewable energies and connected industries would provide many employment opportunities. Development in these areas can especially support the role of women and female entrepreneurs in driving change and improving gender equality. The private sector creates jobs and is one of the drivers of a country's economy, which gives it a central role. IOE's network is made up of local private sectors and is committed to fostering their development. As drivers of economic growth local employers have a key role to play. IOE has recently published [guidance](#) on the green skills agenda for employers and its importance for labour markets.

IOE and its members, independent and representative national employers' organisations with strong policy-making expertise and an influential role in labour markets around the world, are ready to work on changing policies and developing efficient enabling environments.

This event will provide a platform to discuss how employers can work together across borders to promote the crucial importance of green skills development and training, anticipation of skills shortages and data analysis and collection, as well as capacity building and resource mobilisation. It will explore how to bring strengthened focus to this crucial topic in UNFCCC discussion as well as national level initiatives.

**List of speakers:**

- **Welcome – Robert Marinkovic, IOE Adviser for Climate Change and Just Transition**
- **Moderator – Akustina Morni, IOE Director for Employment, Skills and Diversity**
- **Olga Strietska-Ilina, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO**
- **Sheena Myers-Greenville, CEO, Barbados Employers Confederation**
- **Priscilla Maa, Senior Climate Change Officer, Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
- **Jennifer Yelwa, Economics & Research Analyst, Nigeria Employers Consultative Association**
- **Simon Schmid, Partner, Skill Lab**