

UNITED GLOBAL COMPACT: MAKING GLOBAL GOALS LOCAL BUSINESS IOE ROUNDTABLE ON DIGITAL SKILLS FOR DECENT JOB FOR YOUTH IN AFRICA

Date: Thursday, 3 December 2020

Time: 10.00 am to 11.00 am (CET TIME)

Location: Hopin (Login details will follow)

1. Background

To become more competitive and follow the fast pace of technological innovation globally, developing economies need to re-skill their workforce with the skills for the jobs of the future.

Without robust skills base, effective adoption of new technologies will not be possible. Technological advances and digitalization drive skills needs, while skills determine the extent to which technologies can be used effectively. Given this close connection between skills and technologies, it is essential for Africa at all levels of development to plan not just for current skills needs but also for the implications of the trends in technology for the future skills needs. The issue of technologies is only a part of the broader picture and closely connected to other transformative forces, such as globalization, climate change, migration and demographic changes. These forces will not only present new opportunities but also exert negative impacts on some workers.

To secure Africa's digital future, there is need to "digitally enable" every individual, business and prepare the entrepreneurship ecosystem to capitalize on recent churning of innovative startup stage digital ventures. These startups require support to graduate to a higher growth stage – so they can become enterprises that will have a big impact on overall economic growth and jobs creation. In order to keep pace with the rapid digital transformation, strengthen personal data protection, and address growing market concentration, enactment of pending legislations need to be fast-tracked. Furthermore, initiatives aimed at building a digitally savvy workforce should be strengthened.

Where does Africa's developing economies fit into this trajectory?

The IOE is the largest private sector network in the world, encompassing more than 50 million companies in 147 countries. For almost 100 years, in social and employment policy debates taking place in the ILO, to which the IOE is the sole representative of business, and across the UN, G20 and other emerging forums. The IOE is recognised for its unique expertise, advocacy, and influence as a powerful and balanced voice for business at the international level.

It is within this context, that the IOE is undertaking efforts to bring together various stakeholders from the business world, key policymakers, and experts at the international level. The sharing of best practices, policy guidance and recommendations will help to enable a conducive business environment, including for trade in Africa.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this roundtable are to:

1. Raise awareness on the necessity of digital skills for the African youth
2. Discuss strategies and good practices to effectively implement digital skilling programs at national levels.
3. Discuss the Impact of Covid-19 and post-pandemic medium to long-term actions and strategies to foster the usage of digital tools in doing business in Africa.

3. Who is the target audience?

Companies, Employer and Business Federations, Policy Makers, NGO's, and Government Officials.

4. Agenda

Moderator: Mr. Amadou Sako, IOE External Adviser for Africa

10:00- 10:05	<p>Opening remarks Prof. Mthunzi Mdwaba, IOE Vice-President to the ILO, Chair of Productivity South Africa</p> <p><i>Future of work- Digital skills needed in Africa (5 mins)</i></p>
10:05 – 10:45	<p>Interactive remarks by:</p> <p><u>Multilateral institutions</u></p> <p>Nazrene Mannie, Executive Director, The Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN)</p> <p>How can digitalization foster apprenticeship in Africa? (8 mins)</p>

	<p><u>EBMOs & SMEs Representatives</u></p> <p><i>Patricia Veringa, founder and CEO of The Job Factory Recruitment and Head of Social Comitee of RDC Employers' Federation</i> <i>How can EBMOs in Africa leverage the power of digital to enable a conducive business environment? (8 mins)</i></p> <p>Mr. Louis Camara, Managing Director, Kamsar</p> <p><i>How can companies in Africa contribute to reduce digital skills shortage? (8 mins)</i></p> <p>Ms Laureine Guilao, CEO, TIPME LIBERIA</p> <p><i>How the integration of finance and digital can foster the development of SME's in Africa? (8 mins)</i></p> <p>Mr. Nazri Muhd, CEO of MYFINB AFRICA and Adjunct prof. (A.I) at Sunway University</p> <p><i>How Artificial Intelligence is shaping the future of digital in Africa? (8 mins)</i></p>
10:45-10:55	Q & A session
10:55-11:00	<p>Concluding remarks by Prof. Mthunzi Mdwaba IOE Vice-President to the ILO, Chair of Productivity South Africa (5 mins)</p>