

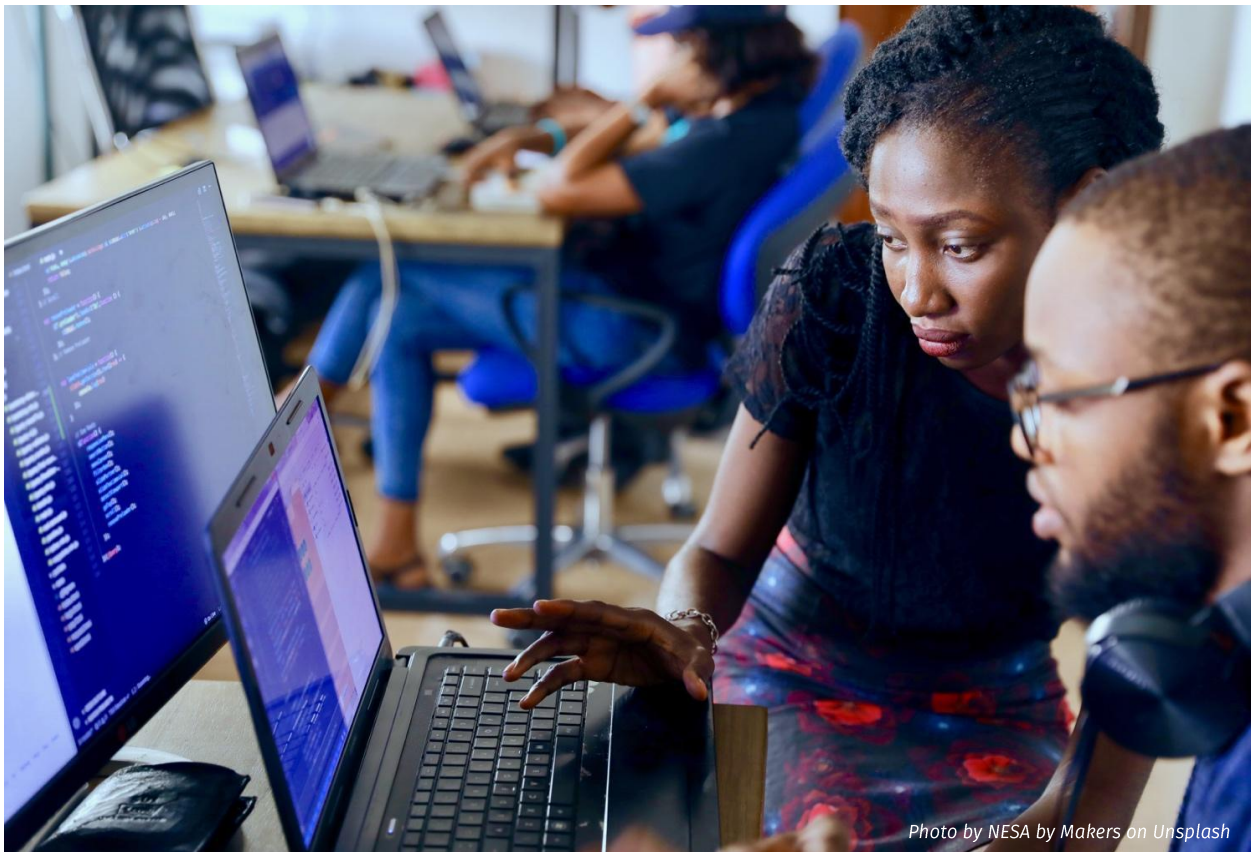


VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE

BOOSTING DECENT JOBS AND ENHANCING SKILLS FOR YOUTH IN AFRICA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY: SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING MECHANISMS

22 October 2020

11:00 – 14:00 GMT | 13:00 – 16:00 CET | 14:00 – 17:00 EAT



Background

Africa's growing youth population represents one of the most promising resources of our continent. Yet, many young people face significant challenges in accessing decent work, including youth unemployment, working poverty, informality and gender inequalities. Most young people do not possess the skills that are in demand in the digital economy and do not have access to suitable training opportunities or job matching services, while private sector job creation lacks what is needed to absorb a growing youth population.

At the same time, digital technologies are rapidly transforming societies and labour markets, creating new jobs and fields of work. Africa's transition to the digital economy offers an opportunity for job-rich growth but requires a skilled workforce in order to be successful and inclusive.

Under the aegis of the [Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth](#), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), with the support of the African Union (AU), have launched a programme with continental reach to create decent employment and enhance skills for youth in Africa's digital economy. These objectives have become even more urgent following the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in systematic, deep and disproportionate impacts on young people's education, employment and mental well-being. Demonstrating the importance of digital technology in moving training and jobs online, the pandemic has also underscored the need to accelerate digital transformation in Africa.

The programme's overarching goal is to increase the number of young Africans who access decent work in the digital economy in selected target countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. It will work through the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth at the continental level and will integrate with each participating country's own plans for youth employment and digital skills development.

The joint programme will implement interventions to create jobs, strengthen digital skills and improve employment services, establish partnerships and networks at continental level, and provide policy advice through new data, diagnostic tools and investments to understand what works to boost youth employment in the digital economy. The iterative cycle of interventions tailored to country contexts, building partnerships and creating evidence will not only contribute to long-lasting impacts and enduring policy changes but also encourage the scaling-up of successful interventions.

In support of this joint programme, the ILO, the ITU and the AU are organizing a virtual roundtable featuring multi-stakeholder dialogues to build sustainable partnerships and explore funding mechanisms.

Objectives

The objectives of the Virtual Roundtable are to:

1. Highlight priorities, needs and challenges of target countries to create jobs, promote entrepreneurship opportunities, narrow digital skills gaps, and streamline labour intermediation for young people in the digital economy.
2. Hold multi-stakeholder dialogues to explore synergies with existing initiatives at the country- and regional level in the key work areas of the Joint Programme, including job creation and youth entrepreneurship opportunities, digital skills development, youth innovations and overall digital transformation.
3. Seek expressions of interest to mobilize financial resources from development partners and non-financial support from youth employment stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the programme at the continental and/or country-level.

Participants

The virtual roundtable will bring together participants representing governments, workers' and employers' organizations of the programme target countries, youth-led organizations, UN organizations, bilateral and multilateral development partners, development banks, the private sector, including firms operating in the digital economy, and financial service providers.

Format

The virtual roundtable will offer participants a diverse programme of keynote speeches, and multi-stakeholder dialogues, including with youth representatives.

English and French simultaneous interpretation is available.

The roundtable will be hosted on Zoom for which pre-registration is mandatory.

Tentative agenda

Moderator: Nozipho Mbanjwa

Time (GMT)	Session
11:00 – 11:15	1. Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources Science, and Technology, AU• Andrew Rugege, Regional Director for Africa, ITU• Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa, ILO
11:15 – 11:35	2. Keynote speech
11:35 – 11:45	3. Youth voices <p>Young entrepreneurs and representatives share their experiences creating jobs and opportunities in Africa's growing digital economy.</p>
11:45 – 12:00	4. Boosting Decent Jobs and Enhancing Skills for Africa's Youth in the Digital Economy: a Joint Programme <p>An introduction to the ILO/ITU/AU Joint Programme, its goals, objectives and evidence-driven delivery approach based on the principles of inclusion, and youth participation.</p>
12:00 – 13:15	5. Driving action in programme countries: a multi-stakeholder dialogue <p>A series of multi-stakeholder dialogues in which government and social partner representatives underscore links between key programme action areas and national development agendas.</p> <p>In a discussion with youth and development partner representatives, panellists will highlight country priority and needs as well as share best practices to create jobs, strengthen investments in digital skills and improve labour intermediation in the digital economy.</p>
13:15 – 13:45	6. Building sustainable partnerships to mobilise resources and action for decent jobs in the digital economy <p>Participants outline a roadmap for building partnerships and investing in youth employment interventions in the digital economy that will deliver results at country and continental level.</p>
13:45 – 14:00	7. Closing remarks