

REGIONAL  
**ACJ**  
AFRICA CREATES JOBS  
**2021**  
VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS  
**2-3 SEP**  
CENTRAL AFRICA



## CONCEPT NOTE

The African Union Commission and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), held the inaugural “Africa Talks Jobs (ATJ)” in 2017, as a dialogue platform to develop a continental answer to youth employment and skills promotion. Amongst the key partners mobilised was Business Africa as the continental body representing private sector employers. To date, through this partnership, efforts are underway to continue to strengthen public and private sector partnerships to improve employment prospects for youth. In 2019, stakeholders at the Africa Talks Jobs Conference agreed to re-orientate the dialogue towards **‘Africa Creates Jobs’** in the spirit of mobilizing and further strengthening partnerships to transform and scale up skills development delivery and employment creation.

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As the continent faces the challenges of adjusting to an economic recovery post the Covid-19 pandemic, policy makers are also grappling with how to spur growth through opportunities for expanded industrialization, markets and trade brought about through adoption of the new African Continental Free Trade Agreement. With these prospects in sight, this year the Africa Creates Jobs dialogue will take place in **November 2021**, under the theme **‘Skills and Jobs for Africa’s Economic Growth’**, to explore how the envisaged growth could meet the demand for over 20 million jobs that the continent needs per year.

This year’s dialogue will focus on:

- **The current macroeconomic conditions and key growth sectors for job creation.**
- **Creating better linkages between industry and skills development to ensure skills meet the market needs of the current context.**
- **Pathways for integration of skills from the informal sector for mainstream socio-economic development.**
- **Clear linkages between the National, Regional and Continental priorities in the implementation of Continental Technical Vocational Education and Training Strategy to foster youth employment; and the TVET Decade Plan of Action.**

Bringing together stakeholders from the business community, higher education, TVET and secondary schools, civil society, youth organizations and policy makers, the 2021 Africa Creates Jobs will contribute to stakeholders meeting the challenge of **‘Skills and Jobs for Africa’s Economic Growth’**.

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

As a prelude to the Continental Africa Creates Jobs conference, online workshops will be organized in 5 African regions to share knowledge and experience among Member States. Information from these workshops should guide investment decisions by Member States as they select sub-sectors prone to boost employment in a Covid-19 environment. Regional workshops will also



provide opportunities for cross-regional lessons learned which will be aggregated at the continental level to feed into the continental ACJ in November 2021. The main input documents will be the Macro-economic analysis and Rapid Skills Assessment Reports which were undertaken in 8 African Union Member States, which present possible scenarios of job growth potentials along national productive sectors. These reports will be shared before the meeting.

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## THE CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL ACJ

Businesses, policy makers, TVET schools, secondary and higher education professionals, youth organizations and civil society from Central Africa will come together on September 2nd & 3rd 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (Central African Time) to discuss 'Skills and Jobs for Central Africa's Economic Growth'. In Central Africa, growth contracted by 1.1% in 2020 (World Bank) due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the outlook published by the institution foresees that real GDP should grow by 2.1% in 2021 and 3% in 2022. In this context, businesses are seeking to adapt to new market needs and new business processes. The demand for capacities in leadership, change management, digitalization and remote work is skyrocketing, yet these skills are in limited supply.

As the Central African region adjusts to this new economic challenges, key questions arise:

- What are the key sectors of the economy that can ensure growth and create jobs?
- What are the skills needed to drive growth and competitiveness in these sectors?
- What are the linkages, policies and practices needed to create the synergy among public and private stakeholders to seize these opportunities?
- What are the key lessons from the experience of the ECCAS in facilitating economic growth and job creation?

Join the discussions to reflect, learn and share your experiences in order to determine policies and strategies for your region.

## MEETING STRUCTURE AND APPROACH

The Central Africa Regional ACJ will be held online, using the [Zoom platform](#). [ASPYEE](#) (African Skills Portal for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship) will be used to share information including reports and good practices. [Please register here](#).

Key Reference documents will be shared prior to the meeting to ease remote participation and better understanding of presentations.