

# Concept Note: East Africa Regional Africa Creates Jobs (ACJ)

## Skills and Jobs

## for Africa's Economic Growth

### Context

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 response to youth employment and skills promotion. Amongst the key partners mobilized 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.

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:

1. The current macroeconomic conditions and key growth sectors for job creation.
2. Creating better linkages between industry and skills development to ensure skills meet the market needs of the current context.
3. Pathways for integration of skills from the informal sector for mainstream socio-economic development.
4. 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 addressing 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 Union regions to share knowledge and experiences among Member States. This will be undertaken in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that are critical in facilitating regional economic integration between members of the individual regions and

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implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). 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. These Regional workshops will also provide opportunities for cross-regional lessons which will be aggregated at the continental level to feed into the continental ACJ in November 2021. Among the input documents will be the studies undertaken across the region including 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 documents will be shared to all participants before the event.

## The East Africa Regional ACJ: August 16th – 17th , 2021

Businesses, policy makers, TVET institutions, secondary and higher education professionals, youth organizations and civil society from East Africa will come together **on August 16th & 17th 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** (East African Time) to discuss ‘Skills and Jobs for East Africa’s Economic Growth’.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the East Africa Region had the most resilient economy in 2021 with growth of 0.7%, a significant drop from 5.3% in 2019, but nevertheless stronger than the rest of the continent that saw negative growth.

In this context, businesses are struggling to adapt to new market needs and new business processes. The demand for capacities in leadership, change management, digitalization and remote work is skyrocketing and yet these skills are in limited supply.

In its 6th Development Strategy, the East African Community (EAC) has identified TVET a priority area. It recognizes the role of TVET in regional economic growth, regional integration, employment creation, poverty reduction, strengthening the productive sectors and value addition.

As the East 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 East African Community 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 East Africa Regional ACJ will be held [online](#), using the [Zoom platform](#). [ASPYYE](#) (African Skills Portal for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship) will be used to share information including reports and good practices

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

The online workshop will be held August **16th & 17th, 2021, from 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. (EAT)**, following the agenda below:

<b>Day 1</b>	
<b>Timing</b>	<b>Modules</b>
<b>10.00 – 10.30</b>	<b>Module 1 - Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>REC : Dr James Otieno JOWi, Principal Education Officer (EAC)</i></li> <li>• <i>Business Africa : Dr. Aggrey Mlimuka, Secretary General Business Africa</i></li> <li>• <i>AUC : Mr. Hambani Masheleni, Head of Education Division</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introduction of participants</li> <li>• Workshop Objectives and Framework</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 11:30</b>	<b>Module 2 – Macroeconomic trends for East Africa</b> <b>Key findings from macroeconomic and labor market analysis studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continental and Regional trends</li> <li>• Specificities of the Regional economy</li> <li>• Informal economy in the region</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>
<b>11:30 - 11:45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.45 – 12.45</b>	<b>Module 3 – Skills for East Africa Growth Sectors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Growth Sectors for East Africa</li> <li>• Skills requirements for Growth Sectors</li> <li>• Integrating Skills from the Informal Sector • Discussions</li> </ul>
<b>12.45 – 1.00</b>	<b>Conclusion - Day 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap up</li> <li>• Evaluation of day 1</li> </ul>
<b>Day 2</b>	
<b>10.00 – 10.15</b>	<b>Module 1 - Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief summary of day 1</li> <li>• Workshop Objectives and Framework</li> </ul>

<p><b>10:15 - 11:30</b></p>	<p><b>Module 4 - Adapting recommendations to the region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of key recommendations</li> <li>• Reflections from the EAC Secretariat</li> </ul> <p><b>Stakeholder dialogue to develop recommendations for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply side (TVET)</li> <li>• Private sector</li> <li>• Informal sector</li> <li>• Governments (Measuring Demand, Business Environment, etc. )</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:30 - 11:45</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>11:45 - 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>Module 4 - Adapting recommendations to the region (Continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from groups</li> <li>• Regional recommendations to the Continental ACJ</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30 – 1:00</b></p>	<p><b>Module 5 – Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Way Forward</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Closing remarks (AUDA-NEPAD)</li> </ul>