



## Introduction:

The Afro-Sino Centre of International Relations (ASCIR) sent a six-member delegation to AUDA-NEPAD's Africa Policy Bridge Tank 2024 Inception Conference which took place at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The 3-day conference convened leading African think tanks to engage stakeholders on Africa's development trajectory and potential, the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, and to foster collaboration to align knowledge production with policy implementation on the continent.

## Outcomes:

ASCIR's delegation led a workshop on '*Digital Education/Transformation: Shaping Africa's Post-Covid Economic Futures.*' The workshop explored an integrated framework on multilayered digital education/transformation in Africa, designed by the Centre to contribute to shaping Africa's post-pandemic economic futures. The workshop focused on the complex interconnections between Africa's digital environment, digital education/capacity of Africa's youth, and the continent's digital economic transformation especially in Africa's post-Covid economic recovery efforts.

1. ASCIR engaged the audience on the continent's current digital transformation efforts as well as projections of what a multilayered digital framework would look like for Africa.
2. Invaluable insights, perspectives and recommendations came from the audience.
3. Partners and other research institutions reached out to initiate discussions on possible collaborations and partnerships.

## Reflections:

Key takeaways from the workshop were the discussions that emerged on the invaluable role of technology/digital transformation in enhancing the AU's Agenda 2063 aspirations. For example:

1. The role of technology in enabling cross-border payment systems like the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) in relation to the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for Africa's economic development.
2. Leveraging digital education/transformation to enhance intra-Africa communication and knowledge sharing among institutions, governments, and people.

## Recommendations:

1. Digital transformation is pivotal in shaping Africa's economic futures and therefore requires that intentional efforts are made at advancing the continent's digital education capacity, digital environment and labor market (digital economy) in an interconnected and multilayered approach informed by evidence-based research.
  - a. There is the need to invest in research to explore best practices within the African context while learning from international partners.
  - b. The AU could work with Member States to ensure the implementation of its Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (DTSfA) – only 15 countries on the continent have national ICT framework/policy/strategy.
2. Ethics should be pivotal in our digital education and transformation efforts instead of being an afterthought.