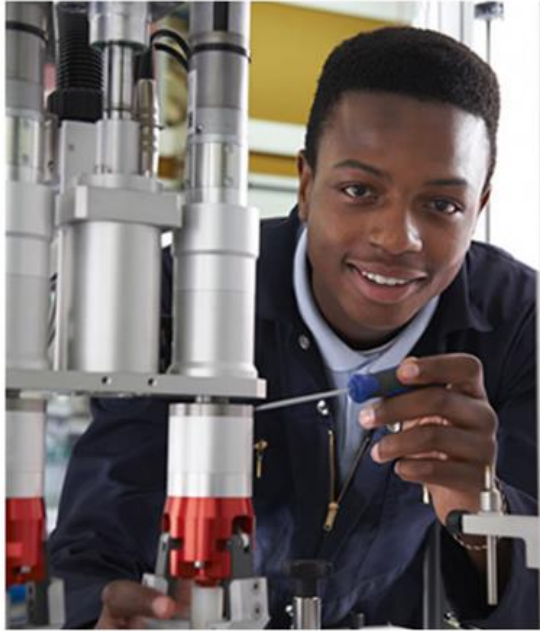


World OHS Day Commemoration



Evolving OHS Challenges Due to Digitalisation: African Context:

25 April 2025:

President Hotel, Bloemfontein, South Africa

1. Introduction to enterprise development as an exit pathway.

The current focus is on Enterprise Development: A strategic focus on fostering the growth and sustainability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), often through investment, training, and mentorship, to stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

Importance of ED:

- **Economic Growth:** Is a key driver of economic growth, as SMEs are the backbone of many of African economies.
- **Job Creation:** Supporting SMEs helps create jobs and opportunities for individuals and communities.
- **Poverty Reduction:** Empower individuals and families to earn a living and escape poverty.
- **Social Change:** Promote positive social change by fostering entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.
- **Improved Investor Perceptions:** Leads to a more favourable investor perception of an economy, as it demonstrates a commitment to supporting business growth
- **Global Influential Power:** G20, BRICS, IMF, etc.

AU Frameworks

- Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy: Harnessing AI for Africa's Development and Prosperity (July 2024)
- Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034
- AI and the Future of Work in Africa: White Paper (June 2024)
- The African Union Digital Education Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023-2028, and
- Establishes a framework for engagement and acceleration of adoption of digital technologies in alignment with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA)

SECTORS

Agriculture

Health

ICT

Energy

Environment-
Climate change/
Biodiversity

Strategic Priorities

Science
diplomacy/policy

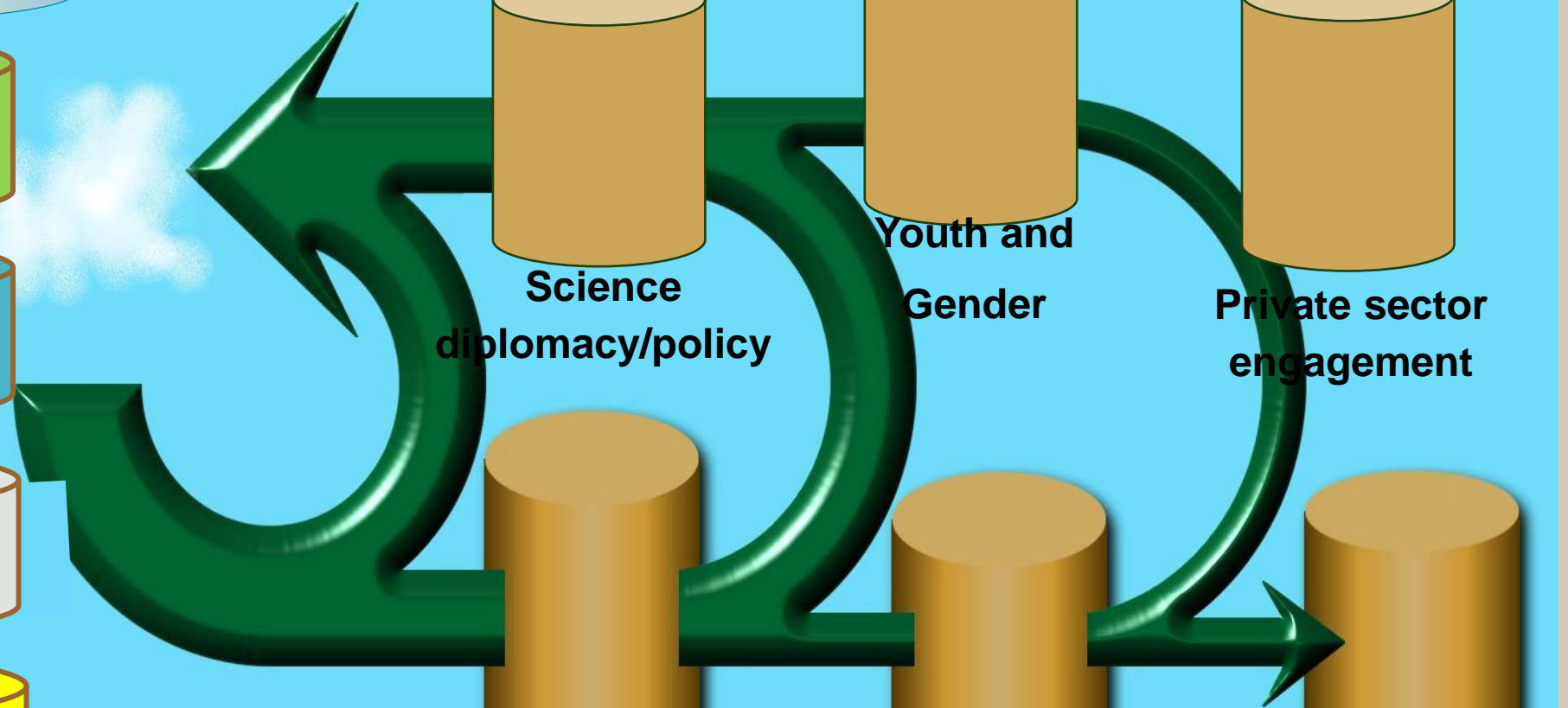
Youth and
Gender

Private sector
engagement

Industrialization

Capacity and
competences

Frontier
technologies



AUDA-NEPAD AI White Paper

- Discuss the implications of Generative AI for the future of work in Africa
- Discussions centered around four key themes:
 - Macroeconomic Impacts;
 - Jobs,
 - Skills and
 - Labour Markets;
- Presents insights and recommendations which aim to encourage debate and collaborative action towards creating a dignified future of work for everyone across Africa

Generative AI and the future of work in Africa:

- **Macroeconomics:** We need to explore the potential of Generative AI to be a game-changer for African economies and how its young, growing population creates a fertile ground for digital growth. However, its impact hinges on its inclusiveness and sustainability.
- **Jobs, skills and labour markets:** Understand how the growing tech scene offers opportunities for AI-driven job creation. Need to examine the possible impacts on jobs and skills, which considers factors like gender, education, and location.
- **Workers' perspectives:** Involvement of the affected population is critical if we are to benefit from the use of digital tech
- **Africa-centric AI platforms:** The trajectory towards the future is determined by the actions taken today, and advocates for proactive governance, inclusive design, investment in education, and a commitment to regulatory and ethical standards.

The importance of Occupational Digitalisation

- In Africa, 85.8% of employment is informal,
- ILO estimates that 95% of African youth ages 15-24 work in informal settings
- These are trades like street vendors, taxi drivers, hairdressers, metal workers, and repair shops, which are some examples of the urban informal sector
- Going digital improves the efficiency of the company's operational processes, so we must seek to digitise to be competitive
- The importance of digitalization was even more felt following the “COVID-19” pandemic of 2020

- An African Union programme implemented by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).
- The objective of SIFA is to enhance the **occupational prospects** of youth. Three focus areas:
 - *Construction and renovation of TVET infrastructure,*
 - *Procure state-of-the-art didactic equipment,*
 - *Curriculum development and review,*
 - *Capacity development of students and teachers, and scholarships,*
 - *Piloting of in-country innovations.*



SIFA Grants Portfolio and Pilot Countries



#	Member State	Amount (EUR)
1	Cameroon	7.58
2	Ethiopia	8,21
3	Ghana	9.37
4	Kenya	8.94
5	Nigeria	7.31
6	South Africa	7.24
7	Togo	9.02
8	Tunisia	8.78
		66.45

OSH Strategies embedded in our development projects:

- Digital ethical framework and codes of conduct;
- A strong user/worker-centred design 'prevention through design' approach;
- Collaboration between academics, industry, social partners and governments on research;
- innovation in development ICT-ETS/digital technologies to properly take account of the human aspects;
- Involvement of workers in the implementation of any digitalisation strategies;
- Advanced workplace risk assessments, Environmental and Social Risk Management;
- A regulatory framework to clarify EHS liabilities and responsibilities in relation to new systems and new ways of working;
- Support of effective OSH services to digital workers.

Conclusion

- Africa's focus on harnessing the demographic dividend by aligning national and regional investments with youth empowerment, education, health, and job creation priorities
- Aspiration 1 of the Agenda 2063 speaks of *“a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development”*
- Safe working places are a critical component of sustainable development
- We need to closely work with key stakeholders in the OSH space to advance
- OSH should not be an afterthought, but part of the development and implementation phases
- A need to introduce OSH awareness training at every level of our education system
- Need for AU, RECs, and all member states to develop OSH-related frameworks

Conclusion

- Africa is not:



- Rather it's:



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**THANK
YOU!!**