



Expert dialogue

Charting the Pathway Towards Accelerated Digital Transformation in Africa

**Wednesday, July 12th, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (EDT)
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung New York Office**

According to the [Secretary-General's Special Report on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), only 12% of SDGs are on course. The 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be an opportunity to strengthen the commitment of Member States to advance targeted policies and actions for accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. On the African continent, expanding access to digital infrastructure and building digital skills is critical to reaching all development goals. As the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) transforms industries ranging from agriculture to education, in parallel, there is increasing demand for expertise in digital skills — from foundational digital literacy to highly complex skills to harness the benefits of artificial intelligence. The World Bank Group estimates that 230 million jobs in Africa will require basic digital skills by 2030. Citizens, and especially youth, must be equipped with the right skill- and mind-sets to participate effectively in the economies of the future.

In this context, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (**KAS**), the International Organisation of Employers (**IOE**) and the African Center for Economic Transformation (**ACET**) are convening a series of expert dialogues among policymakers and development partners to identify best practice and concrete policy actions to accelerate the development of digital skills in Africa. The initiative focuses on three core themes: i) *Technical and Soft Skills in the Digital Era*; ii) *Re-imagining Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the Fourth Industrial Revolution*; and iii) *Disinformation, Data Management, and Citizen Skills*. Building on the outcomes of these expert dialogues, KAS-IOE-ACET will convene a fourth expert dialogue during HLPF 2023 to chart the path towards accelerated digital transformation in Africa.

The event will discuss how policy recommendations for enhancing digital skills in Africa can be taken forward and translated into concrete action, and what role can be envisaged for Member States, the United Nations, civil society and the private sector. To confirm your attendance, **please RSVP to Erica.mumford@kas.de by Friday, 7 July.**

Agenda

- 1:00 - 1:10** **Welcome remarks**
Ms. Andrea E. Ostheimer, Executive Director New York Office,
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Mr. Jérôme Bellion-Jourdan, Deputy Secretary-General of the
International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- 1:10 - 1:30** **Overview of the policy recommendations and key findings
of the KAS-IOE-ACET virtual dialogue series**
- Mr. Rob Floyd, Director, Innovation and Digital Policy,
African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)
 - Ms. Andrea E. Ostheimer, Executive Director New
York Office, KAS
 - Mr. Amadou Sako, Adviser & Project Officer for Africa,
IOE
- 1:30 - 2:00** **Experts and practitioners' perspectives: opportunities and
challenges for policy implementation**
- Perspectives from Djibouti**
Ms. Hasna Barkat Daoud, Head of Legal, Djiboutian Employers
Federation, *La Confédération Nationale des Employeurs de
Djibouti (CNED)*
- Perspectives from Kenya**
Dr. Robert Muthuri, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, LLM
Innovation Technology and the Law, Edinburgh, PhD Legal
Informatics
- 2:00 - 2:25** **Open discussion**
- Moderator:** Mr. Amadou Sako, Adviser & Project Officer for
Africa, IOE
- 2:25 - 2:30** **Closing remarks**
Mr. Rob Floyd, Director, Innovation and Digital Policy, ACET

Organization: KAS New York
Phone: +1 646 852 6500
newyork@kas.de

Venue: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office
220 East 42nd Street (The News Building),
Suite 3300, New York, NY 10017

Please RSVP to Erica.mumford@kas.de by Friday, 7 July.