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UNESCO strategy for TVET 2022-2029

Hybrid international conference - Bonn, Germany

Concept note and agenda

**UNESCO-UNEVOC International
Centre for Technical and Vocational
Education and Training**

UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn
Germany

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2022-2029 document

Transforming technical and vocational education and training for successful and just transitions

Hybrid international conference on the new UNESCO strategy for TVET 2022-2029

United Nations Campus, Bonn, Germany
25-26 October 2022

CONCEPT NOTE and AGENDA

BACKGROUND

TVET in a world of interlocking transitions

In a world undergoing multiple transitions, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)¹ has a critical role to play in the recovery and reshaping of education systems and labour markets worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic severely exacerbated existing inequalities, as schools, training centres, and workplaces experienced closures around the world, disproportionately affecting young people and vulnerable communities. The global economy is undergoing an unequal economic recovery, following the severe recession in 2020, with less developed economies facing deeper long-term impacts on their learning, training, and unemployment rates.

Even prior to the pandemic, the number of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) was remarkably high, totalling 267 million² - equivalent to 31% of young women and 14% of young men in 2019. The number of young people in employment fell by 34 million in 2020, or 8.7% – compared with 3.7% for adults³ – and over 17% of young workers stopped working during the pandemic.⁴ **Demographic transitions** further necessitate adaptability and the need for lifelong skills development and acquiring new competences. While many countries have rapidly *ageing populations* in which shrinking working age cohorts must be prepared to support larger numbers of elderly people, others are experiencing *youth bulges*, which call for a continued expansion of education, training, and job creation.

The labour market has simultaneously been undergoing rapid **technological change**, driven by the expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation – often termed the ‘fourth industrial revolution’ – which will both destroy and create jobs on a massive scale. In 2020 alone, USD 16.7 billion was spent on business process automation, and 1.25 billion workers – equivalent to 38% of the global workforce – are employed in sectors facing severe decline in output and high risk of workforce displacement.⁵ The transformation towards digitalization and emergence of the ‘gig economy’ is inevitably challenging formal employment and associated worker benefits, leading to a rise in **informality**. The informal economy remains pervasive, representing 61% of total employment (including agriculture) in the world, 68% in Asia and the Pacific and in the Arab States, and up to 86% in sub-Saharan Africa.⁶

Societal issues are generating pervasive global demands for the reduction of poverty and inequality, with political instability and climate change leading to large-scale migrations. CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere increased by nearly 50% compared with pre-industrial times⁷ and according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C as expected by the Paris Agreement will require CO₂ emissions to decline by about 45% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050.⁸ The reality of the climate crisis is generating an increased

1 The scope of “TVET” is defined in the “UNESCO Recommendation concerning TVET” (2015): “TVET, as part of lifelong learning, can take place at secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels and includes work-based learning and continuing training and professional development which may lead to qualifications. TVET also includes a wide range of skills development opportunities attuned to national and local contexts. Learning to learn, the development of literacy and numeracy skills, transversal skills and citizenship skills are integral components of TVET.”

2 ILO, “COVID-19 and the World of Work,” May 2020.

3 ILO, “COVID-19 and the world of work,” 2021.

4 Decent Jobs for Youth, “Youth and COVID-19,” August 2020.

5 ILO, “COVID-19 and the world of work,” April 2020.

6 Ibid.

7 University of California San Diego, The Keeling curve, <https://keelingcurve.ucsd.edu/>

8 IPCC, Global Warming of 1.5°C, available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

demand for workers with new technical and generic skills needed in greener jobs and sectors. This has led to growing calls for a radical transformation of the world economy to achieve **green and sustainable development** by 2030. Skills development and support will be needed for all, including for those who are formally employed, in the informal economy self-employed, and workers in non-standard forms of employment.

With new skills constantly emerging and uncertainty becoming the norm – a phenomenon reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic – the crisis also serves as an opportunity to change course and take action. To address the multiple challenges of equity, inclusion, quality and relevance facing education today, the UN Secretary General convened the **Transforming Education Summit in September 2022**. The Summit mobilized leadership and commitment to expand the reach and depth of education centred around six calls to action: make schools safe, healthy and inclusive; advance gender equality in access to education and opportunities, value and empower our teachers; get every learner climate-ready; harness the digital revolution for the benefit of every teacher and learner; and take action to unlock far greater financial commitments towards education. Seven new Global Initiatives were launched during the Summit, including on Greening Education Partnership to get every learner climate-ready, and on connecting every child and young person to digital solutions. UNESCO's new strategy for TVET for 2022-2029 has been developed in part by taking into consideration the path to recovery, resilience building and reimagining of education and training, in the hopes of accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The launch of a new UNESCO strategy for TVET 2022-2029

The new UNESCO strategy for TVET 2022 – 2029 *Transforming technical and vocational education and training for successful and just transitions* was officially approved during the 214th session of the UNESCO Executive Board in April 2022 (214 EX/Decision 7). Building upon the achievements under the [Strategy for TVET 2016-2021](#), this new strategic vision for TVET for the period 2022-2029 takes into consideration the present and future priorities of individuals, economies, and societies. Its title, “*Transforming TVET for successful and just transitions*”, further captures UNESCO's expectation that TVET is critical for promoting a path to recovery and resilience building in the post COVID-19 pandemic era, and for accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 8 and other related SDGs over the next eight years.

The new Strategy seeks to instil a renewed ambition for TVET in Member States in a way that responds to their needs and ever-changing labour markets, economies, and societies. As such, it was developed in alignment with UNESCO's [2021 Futures of Education report](#), calling for a new social contract to repair injustices, solve the skills deficits affecting labour market insertion, and further learning and career progression for both youth and adults. Following extensive consultations, including with UNESCO Institutes, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET, UNEVOC Network members, and the Inter-Agency Group on TVET (IAG-TVET), as well as through an [international conference](#) held in December 2021, the new Strategy focuses on three strategic priority areas:

1. **Develop skills for all individuals to learn, work and live:** To support flexible lifelong learning pathways, the key focus is on inclusion and targeted measures and technical assistance to mitigate the impact of technology and climate change on gender equality, marginalized communities, and those dependent on informal economies and subsistence agriculture.
2. **Develop skills for inclusive and sustainable economies:** To support job growth, private sector participation and effective skills anticipation, the key focus is on the transition towards a digital and green economy, STEM and 21st century skills, innovation, and strong governance and investment.
3. **Develop skills for inclusive and peaceful societies:** To support rights-based education for sustainable development, the key focus is on global and participatory citizenship education, and TVET for social integration and cohesion.

The Strategy also adopts a range of modalities for cross-cutting interventions along the following three levers:

- A. **National, regional and global policy learning interventions**, such as performing comparative analyses of TVET policies, monitoring the emergence of regional TVET agendas, and cooperating on and expanding of regional policy dialogue platforms.
- B. **Data collection, research and analysis**, through support to Member States in collecting and analysing data on TVET programmes and their outcomes.
- C. **Networks and partnerships**, including the Global Education Coalition, the UNEVOC Network, the Inter-Agency Group on TVET (IAG-TVET), and the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030.

OBJECTIVES

The international conference on the new UNESCO strategy for TVET 2022-2029 takes place over the span of two days, with each day serving a unique purpose.

DAY ONE - Political Strategy Segment:

- Raise awareness among Member States and the international community of the new UNESCO strategy for TVET and its significance for reimagining education and skills for work and life;
- Mobilize political ambition and renew Member States' commitments for TVET;
- Highlight support to Member States' efforts in building a common vision for transforming labour markets, economies, and societies;
- Discuss the importance, challenges, and opportunities for lifelong learning.

DAY TWO - Technical and Operational Segment:

- Present UNESCO's ongoing and forthcoming TVET flagship initiatives, projects, and activities at Headquarters and in Field Offices, and their outcomes;
- Discuss the alignment of TVET initiatives with Member States' policies and partnerships;
- Consider the integration of intersectional issues, such as greening, minorities, gender equality, etc., and cross-cutting interventions (data, normative instruments, partnerships);
- Identify concrete actions and areas of collaboration and potential partners to support the development and implementation of the Strategy in boosting support for new skills.

FORMAT

The international conference on the UNESCO strategy for TVET (2022-2029) will take place in a **HYBRID format** on **25 and 26 October 2022** both in person and on an online streaming platform that is accessible to all. There will be approximately 150 participants in attendance at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany.

For those who are interested in **online participation**, please register to join the two-day hybrid conference on [the online platform](#). You will receive more details through your registered contact e-mail address. Contact info.tvet@unesco.org for any questions about the conference.

Interpretation will be provided in the following languages: **English, French and Spanish**.

AUDIENCE

The participants will include high-level officials, policy-makers, TVET stakeholders and practitioners, TVET teachers, trainers and learners, and development partners (multilateral, regional and local organisations, donors, NGOs, private sector, CSOs, and youth networks), among others.

AGENDA

DAY 0: Monday, 24 October 2022 (Room 2516, LE Building, UN Campus)

16:30 - 18:30	UNESCO TVET Community Meeting (internal) <i>Room: 2516 LE Bldg.</i>
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DAY 1: Tuesday, 25 October 2022 (AAH Upper Conference Room, UN Campus)

UNESCO strategy for TVET (2022-2029): HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

9:30 - 13:00 CEST

9:30 - 9:35	Projection of video on UNESCO's mandate and work on TVET
9:35 - 9:55	<p>OPENING SESSION <i>Host: Ms. Sumi Somaskanda, Journalist</i></p> <p>Opening remarks – Advancing SDGs 4 and 8, the contribution of TVET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jens Brandenburg, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany • Mr. Niels Annen, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany (video message) • Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
9:55 - 10:10	<p>TVET strategy presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO
10:10 - 11:25	<p>SESSION 1: Ministerial panel on TVET policies and strategy alignments <i>Objective: Discuss the possible opportunities for synergies between the new UNESCO strategy for TVET and government policies in response to current challenges and opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Sumi Somaskanda, Journalist</i></p> <p>Panel 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jens Brandenburg, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany • Mr. Pierre Gomez, Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Gambia • Mr. Tomás Dias Sant'Ana, Secretary of Professional and Technological Education, Brazil <p>Panel 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hamid Ahmed, Prime Minister Advisor and Executive Director, The Higher Committee for Education Development, Iraq • Mr. Wuikelman Angel Paredes, Vice Minister of Education, Venezuela
11:25 - 11:35	GROUP PHOTO (Atrium)

11:35 - 11:50	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
11:50 - 12:50	<p>SESSION 2: Multi-stakeholder panel discussion on leveraging synergies to reinforce TVET for successful and just transitions</p> <p><i>Objective: Outline UNESCO's support for implementation of TVET activities. The session will also tackle specific challenges and new directions and priorities for TVET to overcome these challenges, exploring how organizations can leverage synergies and cross-cutting interventions with other international and regional organizations.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Hubert Ertl, Vice President and Director for Research, German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)</i></p> <p>Panel members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. El-Iza Mohamedou, Director, Centre for Skills, OECD • Ms. Laurence Gates, Board Member, WorldSkills International • Ms. Carmen Morenes, Executive Director, Fundación Telefónica • Mr. Tim Schreiber, Policy Officer, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission • Ms. Virpi Stucki, Chief, Rural Entrepreneurship, Job Creation and Human Security Division, UNIDO • Mr. Srinivas Reddy, Chief, Skills and Employability Branch, International Labour Organization (online)
12:50 - 13:00	<p>Closing and the way forward</p> <p><i>Objective: Synthesize the key takeaways from the Day 1 discussions.</i></p> <p><i>Host: Ms. Sumi Somaskanda, Journalist</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hervé Huot-Marchand, Chief of Section, Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

(AAH Lower conference room foyer, UN Campus)

13:00 - 14:00 MARKETPLACE

Venue: Atrium, AAH Building.

The Marketplace hosts a range of ideas and initiatives that contribute to transforming TVET systems, programmes, and activities. The segment features UNESCO projects and partners, aiming to facilitate small-group interaction and networking. It is open to all participants on both days during lunchtime. A list of exhibitors will be available in the conference programme.

SIDE EVENTS 14:00 - 19:00

14:00 - 15:15

Global Skills Academy Spotlight

Room: AAH Lower Conference Room

Moderated by UNESCO, this session offers an interactive opportunity to learn more about the wide range of local and global learning solutions provided by GSA private sector partners and highlight the impact of the mission through the voice of learners and implementing centres.

Presentations from:

- **Mr. Carsten Johnson**, Cisco
- **Ms. Elfi Klumpp**, Festo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Susana Gomez Diaz, Fundación Telefónica • Ms. Lucy Hayter, Generation Global • Mr. Alexander Smethurst, Huawei • Ms. Cornelia Schneider-Pungs, Microsoft • Ms. Snezana Djuriscic, OutSystems • Ms. Jacqueline Wiafe, Siemens Stiftung
15:15 - 15:30	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
15:30 - 16:45	<p>Technical working session on “Building Better TVET Systems”, Report by the World Bank, ILO, and UNESCO</p> <p><i>Room: AAH Upper Conference Room</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Sumi Somaskanda, Journalist</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yoko Nagashima, Senior Education Specialist, The World Bank • Mr. Ramón Iriarte, Education Programme Specialist, UNESCO • Mr. Olivier Pieume, Chief of Technical Cooperation Unit, UNESCO-UNEVOC • Mr. Ashwani Aggarwal, Global Work Group Leader, ILO (online)
17:00 - 18:30	<p>UNEVOC Network Meeting</p> <p>* Only open to those with invitations.</p> <p>Room 2705, LE Building</p>
17:00 - 19:00	<p>Meeting of Inter-Agency Group on TVET (IAG-TVET) *Only open to those with invitations.</p> <p>Room 2112, LE Building</p>

DAY 2: Wednesday, 26 October 2022 (AAH Upper Conference Room, UN Campus)**9:00 - 12:30 CEST****9:00 - 9:45****SESSION 3- Voices from stakeholders in TVET**

This session will gather the perspectives of different types of stakeholders concerned with the governance of TVET systems. It will stimulate discussion on the contexts and roles of stakeholders in TVET governance, and where their participation could be improved to contribute and succeed in achieving the goals of TVET for youth employment, teacher upskilling and development, training fund mobilization and employer/ trade union cooperation.

Moderator: Mr. Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC

- **Mr. Thomas Schröder**, UNESCO Chair of TVET and Competence Development for the Future of Work, TU Dortmund University, Germany
- **Ms. Manuela Prina**, Head, Skills Identification and Development Unit, Knowledge Hub Department, European Training Foundation
- **Ms. Derica Yi Ru Kon**, Student, School of Design, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore
- **Mr. Daniel Christophersen**, WorldSkills Champions Trust Representative for Europe, Germany
- **Mr. Affero Ismail**, Associate Professor, Department of Engineering Education, Faculty of Technical and Vocational Education, Universiti Tunn Hussein Onn, Malaysia

9:45 - 10:00**Technical break****10:00 - 11:00****SESSION 4- Technical plenary session on TVET flagship initiatives addressing the multiple transitions**

This session will feature two clusters of interactive discussions around the ongoing and forthcoming TVET flagship initiatives across a range of priorities in the new Strategy, including projects by UNESCO Headquarters and Field Offices and other partners, potential collaboration and synergies, and new ideas for action to support successful and just transitions.

Host: Ms. Sumi Somaskanda, Journalist

Panel 1 - Green Transition

Moderator: Mr. Hubert Gijzen, Regional Director and Representative, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

- **Mr. Jefferson Azevedo**, Rector, IFF and Coordinator, CONIF, Brazil
- **Ms. Apoorva Shankar**, Labour Market Consultant, Circle Economy, The Netherlands
- **Ms. Marieke Vandeweyer**, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD
- **Mr. Kipkirui Langat**, Director General, TVETA, Kenya (online)

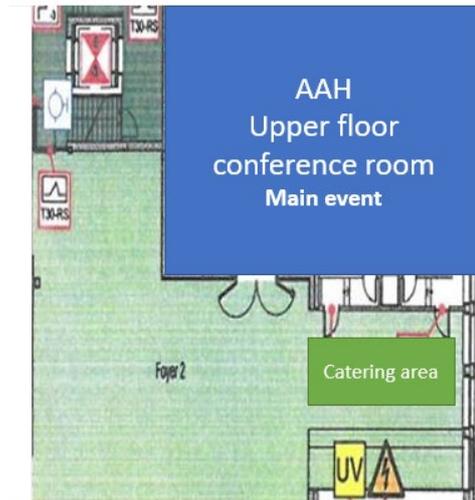
11:00 - 11:10**COFFEE/TEA BREAK with Networking****11:10 - 12:15****Panel 2 - Digital Transformation**

Moderator: Ms. Mona Laroussi, Director, Institut de la Francophonie pour l'Education et la Formation (IFEFF-OIF)

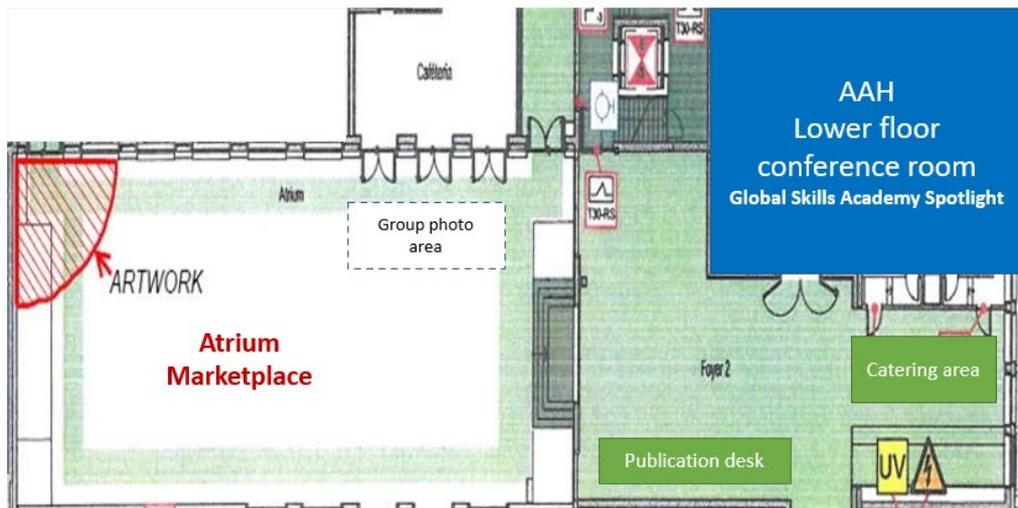
- **Ms. Hary Lala Razafimpiasa**, Director General, Training Engineering, Madagascar
- **Mr. Benjamin Marteau**, Director, Pix

<p>12:15 - 12:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Teng Leng Lim, Deputy Director, International Relations, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore • Mr. Robert Okinda, Adviser, Skills for Work, Commonwealth of Learning • Mr. Matt Sigelman, Founder, Burning Glass Technology Institute, USA (online) <p>Closing session <i>Host: Ms. Sumi Somaskanda</i>, Journalist</p> <p>Feedback from participants (online poll)</p> <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO
<p>12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH BREAK</p>	
<p>12:30 - 14:00 MARKETPLACE</p> <p>Venue: <i>Atrium, AAH Building.</i></p> <p>The Marketplace hosts a range of ideas and initiatives that contribute to transforming TVET systems, programmes, and activities. The segment features UNESCO projects and partners, aiming to facilitate small-group interaction and networking. It is open to all participants on both days during lunchtime. A list of exhibitors will be available in the conference programme.</p>	
<p>SIDE EVENTS 13:30 - 19:30</p>	
<p>13:30 - 14:30</p>	<p>Informality Revisited – UNESCO and OECD Development Center (hybrid) <i>Host: Ms. Sumi Somaskanda</i>, Journalist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hervé Huot-Marchand, Chief, Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO • Ms. Mariya Aleksynska, Development Economist, OECD Development Centre (online) • Mr. Zafiris Tzannatos, Senior Consultant for Development Strategy and Social Policy and Fellow, Lebanese Center for Policy Studies
<p>14:30 - 15:30</p>	<p>Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) - Innovation and Learning Practices <i>Presented by the BILT Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Inigo Araiztegui, TKNIKA, Basque Country, Spain
<p>15:45 - 17:25</p>	<p>Better Education for Africa’s Rise (BEAR) II Project closing phase event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Seungjae Huh, Head of the Embassy, Republic of Korea, Bonn Office • Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO • Mr. Hubert Gijzen, Regional Director and Representative, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa • Mr. Young-Saing Kim, KRIVET, Republic of Korea • Senior representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Uganda
<p>18:00 - 19:30</p>	<p>Cocktail reception hosted by the Bonn City Mayor Address: <i>Bundesstadt Bonn, Altes Rathaus (City of Bonn, Old City Hall)</i> <i>Markt 2, 53111 Bonn</i></p>

Conference area layout



AAH Entrance



AAH Entrance

