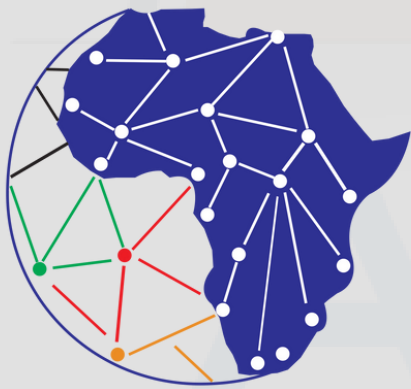




ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES
AND POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA



2025 ATUPA International Conference & The 7th Pan African Youth Forum

Concept Note for Youth Forum

Theme:

*Innovate, Lead, and Thrive: Empowering Africa's Youth for Sustainable
Development and Digital Transformation*

ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES
AND POLYTECHNICS IN AFRICA

Conference Proudly hosted by :

UNISA





1. Rationale

This theme emphasizes the critical role of Africa's youth in driving sustainable growth and adapting to the challenges of the digital age. As a generation poised to benefit from and contribute to Africa's economic development, young people need practical skills, innovative mindsets, and leadership opportunities that will enable them to thrive in an interconnected, digital world. Through this forum, young leaders, entrepreneurs, and students will engage in sessions focused on innovation, sustainability, and resilience—core elements that will prepare them for active and impactful roles in Africa's transformation.

2. Objectives

- To inspire youth-led innovations that contribute to sustainable development in Africa.
- To equip young people with digital and entrepreneurial skills aligned with Industry 4.0 and AI.
- To provide a platform for youth to network, share ideas, and collaborate on projects that address African challenges.
- To encourage leadership development, resilience, and social responsibility among African youth.

This theme aligns with the broader conference, ensuring that youth are actively involved in the dialogue on sustainable development and economic integration, making them key players in Africa's present and future progress.



3. Proposed Activities

A. Panel Discussions

Led by youth, these discussions will focus on innovative solutions and collaborative approaches to pressing challenges in Africa.

- **Sub-theme 1: Harnessing Technology for Sustainable Agriculture**

Explore how digital tools and technologies can enhance agricultural productivity, food security, and sustainable farming practices among African youth.

- **Sub-theme 2: Youth Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Business Models**

Discuss innovative business strategies that promote sustainability and social impact, with a focus on the role of youth in entrepreneurship.

B. Keynote Addresses

Industry leaders will provide insights and inspiration on the intersection of innovation, leadership, and sustainable development.

- **Sub-theme 1: The Future of Work in a Digital Age**

Address the evolving job market influenced by digital transformation and the skills necessary for youth to thrive in this landscape.

- **Sub-theme 2: Leadership in the Age of Sustainability**

Highlight the importance of responsible leadership and ethical practices in driving sustainable development across Africa.

- **Sub-theme 3: Innovations in Health and Education**

Explore how digital innovations are transforming health and education sectors, creating new opportunities for youth engagement and participation.



C. Skills Pitching Competition

- **Overview:** A platform for participants to pitch their innovative ideas and solutions aimed at addressing specific challenges in their communities or industries.
- **Format:** Participants will present their projects to a panel of judges comprising industry experts and entrepreneurs, showcasing their creativity and feasibility.
- **Objective:** To encourage practical application of skills, foster entrepreneurship, and provide feedback from experienced professionals, potentially leading to support or funding for promising projects.

4. Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness of the importance of youth involvement in sustainable development.
- Enhanced skills and capacity among participants for leadership and innovation.
- Creation of a network of engaged youth ready to collaborate on impactful projects.
- Concrete action plans and pitches for sustainable initiatives developed by youth.



5. Conclusion

The "Innovate, Lead, and Thrive" Youth Forum presents a unique opportunity to empower African youth, fostering innovation and leadership in the face of contemporary challenges. By engaging in meaningful discussions and practical activities, participants will be equipped to drive sustainable development and transformation in their communities.

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