

GIZ PRIVATE SECTOR VOICES

Private sector roundtable at the heart of the Africa Talks Jobs conference on October 30/31, 2018

Given Africa's continued population growth, creating decent employment for its youth is one of the epochal challenges in shaping the continent's future. As part of the African Union Commission's wide-ranging efforts for creating the appropriate environment for employment creation and job growth, the conference series Africa Talks Jobs! (ATJ) was launched in 2017. The second Africa Talks Jobs! – conference took place from 30 to 31 October 2018 in Addis Ababa and more than 60 private sector

representatives from all African regions participated. During a roundtable discussion dedicated to the private sector, the discussants exchanged views on how to equip Africa's youth with the relevant skills to fill the skills gaps, increase business productivity and foster overall growth. Three main themes were discussed by the private sector representatives in particular: Partnerships for training and employment, increasing private sector participation in training and improving labour market information.

Partnerships for training and employment



The discussants agreed during the discussion that the private sector's contribution towards training and employment can only be effective if they are embedded in functioning partnerships. The following recommendations were formulated with a view to forming successful partnerships.

Recommendation 1: Establish and foster coordinated stakeholder collaborations involving private sector, government, TVET providers, NGOs and international partners in all AU Member States.

Recommendation 2: Involve youth systematically in the multi-stakeholder dialogue on TVET and employment creation.

Labour Market Information



The need to improve labour market data was emphasized repeatedly during the discussions. The availability of good data is important to close the so-called "skills gap" but also to anticipate future skills need. The following recommendations were formulated in regard to improving labour market information.

Recommendation 1: Strengthen data gathering and access to the use of accurate, relevant and reliable labour market information for decision making and job matching.

Recommendation 2: Make both the formal and informal sectors part of labour market surveys to TVET policy frameworks.

Increasing Private Sector Participation in Training



While the importance of private sector participation in training was shared among all speakers, the following recommendations on approaches and mechanisms for increasing the involvement of the private sector in training design and provision were made:

Recommendation 1: Involve private sector systematically in regular curriculum reviews in line with the dynamic changes in the labour market.

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