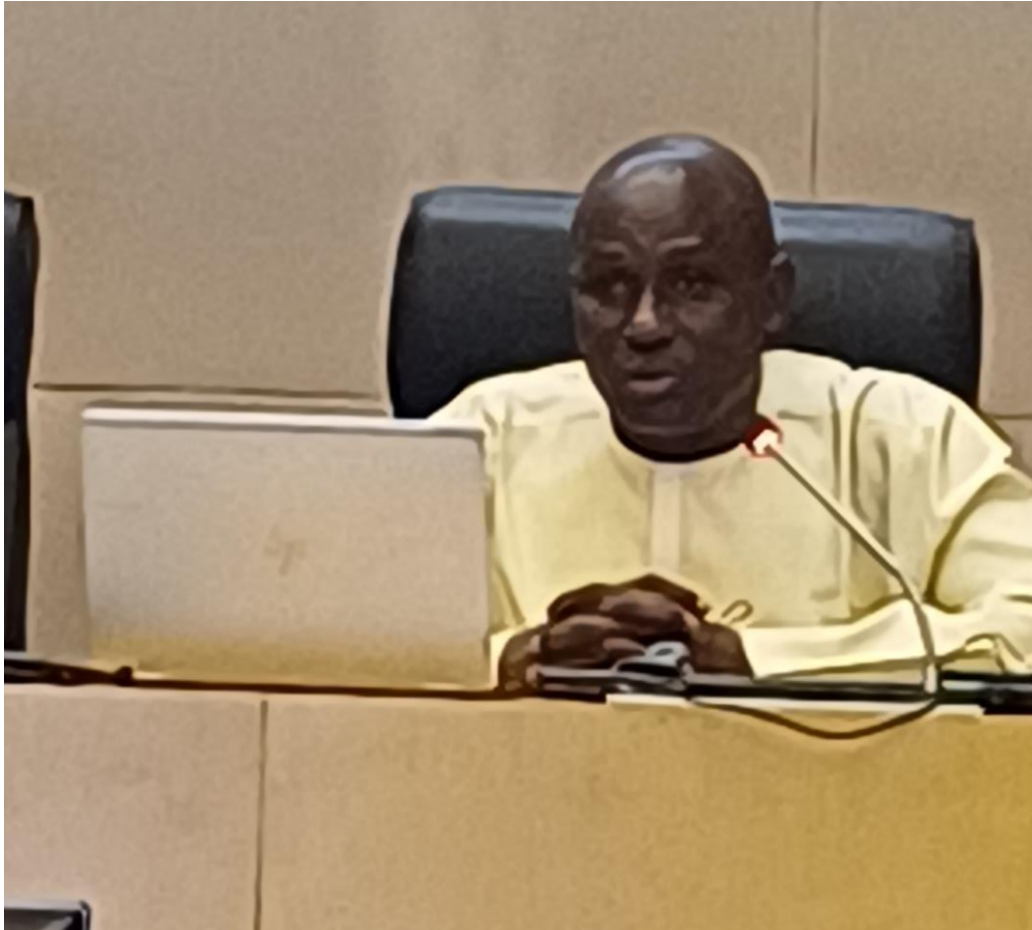


SASASNET PARTICIPATES IN DRAFTING OF REVISED AFRICA CONTINENTAL TVET STRATEGY 2025-34



Hon. Ousman Sillah, Secretary General, Sub-Saharan Africa Skills and Apprenticeship Stakeholders Network (SASASNET)

As part of a small multidisciplinary group of technical experts in education, skills development and employment policy formulation, management, and governance, Hon. Ousman Sillah, Secretary General of the Sub-Saharan Africa Skills and Apprenticeship Stakeholders Network (SASASNET), was invited by the Education Division of the African Union Commission (AUC) to serve as a member of the Drafting Team for the Development of the Revised Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) 2025-34.

This Drafting Team, comprising representatives from the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, GIZ, AfDB, Private Sector, Education and Skills Development Experts and Practitioners; Legal and Policy Specialists; and Communications and Advocacy Specialists, converged at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from the 6-8 August, 2024, to develop the Revised Continental TVET Strategy for the next ten years.

“The mandate of the Drafting Team established by the African Union Commission is to draft the Revised Continental TVET Strategy which should be comprehensive and forward-thinking and aimed at transforming the skills development and employment systems in Africa and to align it with labour market needs, the AU Agenda 2063, and other relevant continental and global frameworks,” said the Secretary General of SASASNET.

Hon. Sillah said the Drafting Team was given the task to translate the findings and recommendations of the Taskforce Team into a revised Continental TVET Strategy to serve the main working document from which other stakeholders shall debate and improve.

SASASNET Secretary General noted that specific objectives of the Drafting Team are to 1. Synthesize and consider the findings and recommendations from the TVET Review process, 2. Articulate a comprehensive framework for TVET development across Africa, encompassing strategic objectives, key priorities, and implementation mechanisms, and 3. Facilitate the validation and adoption of the Revised Continental TVET Strategy 2025-34 by the relevant AU organs and bodies.

According to the Secretary General of SASASNET, the existing Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to Foster Youth Employment 2015-24 was developed to address the growing problem of youth unemployment and underemployment in Africa. He said its aim was to provide a comprehensive framework for the design and development of national policies and strategies that will enhance skills development and employability and that the main thrust being a paradigm shift through development of TVET systems that prepare young people to be job creators rather than job seekers.

“It is because of the changing economic and social landscape that a review of this Strategy became necessary to be undertaken in order to assess the extent of the progress made in terms of the current CTVET Strategy 2015-24 meeting the set goals, objectives and priorities and to also identify for the revised strategy concrete

options and strategies for improving TVET policies and systems in Africa,” said the SASASNET Secretary General.

He said the review was meant to provide recommendation of actions that would seek to realign the next phase of implementation to emerging continental and global skills development trends and priorities.

In her remarks during the closing ceremony, Sabine Claus, Head of GIZ Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) Programme, described the exercise as very productive as it brought together a team with diverse expertise and that passionately worked as a family with a common purpose and sense of mission. She thanked the members of the Drafting Team for coming and for supporting the strategy. She said the next step is getting all stakeholders on board to support the process to evolve the revised strategy and make the youths to benefit from TVET with the creation of job opportunities in Africa and even Europe which has an aging population and needs skilled workers.



Left – Right: Dr. Dan Baffour-Awuah, Lead Consultant of the AU commissioned consultancy for the development of the Revised Continental TVET Strategy 2025-34, presenting the report to the Drafting Team, Mr. Nicholas Ouma – Senior Youth Advisor, AUC, Mrs. Sophia Ashipala, Head of Education Division, African Union Commission, and Mr. Emmanuel Chigozie Okonkwo, AUC.

Mrs. Sophia Ashipala, Head of Education Division, African Union Commission, in delivering the closing statement, thanked the GIZ for its support in bringing together the team of experts and practitioners of the Drafting Team in a very short period of time and which is a demonstration of its strong partnership with the Commission. She also appreciates all the members of the team for accepting their invitation considering their busy schedules and the quality time and work they have given to the task at hand. She added that they will still be coming back to the members of the team to get further information for the finalisation of the document.

She said they are looking forward to the road map defining the next steps for the adoption and implementation of the revised CTVET Strategy.

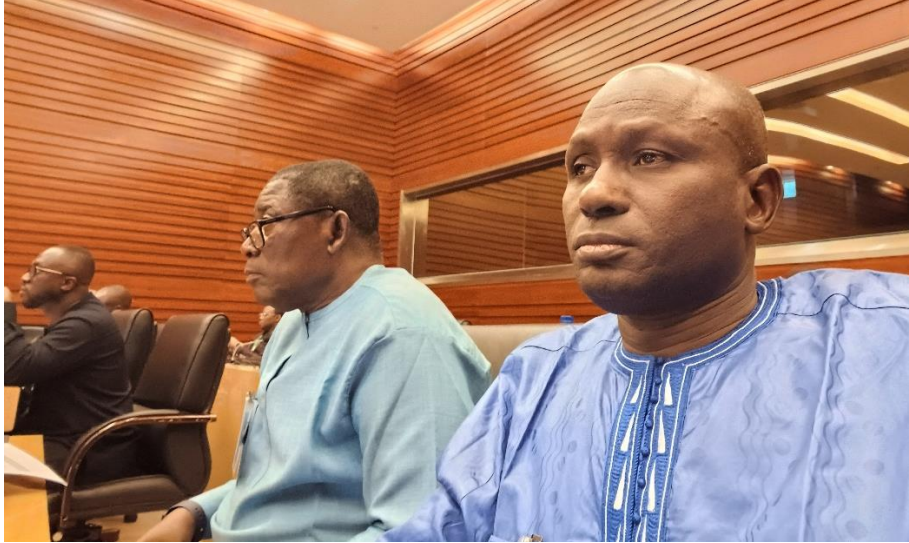
“On behalf of the Commissioner for Education and the Director, let me say thank you to each and every one of you and wishing you safe journey back to your destinations,” concluded Mrs. Ashipala.

Speaking earlier, Mr. Nicholas Ouma – Senior Youth Advisor, AUC, and Coordinator of the sessions, in outlining the next steps, said the Drafting Team will complete its work within two weeks. He said a detailed work plan with specific timelines for each activity will be developed by the Drafting Team in consultation with the AU Commission, adding that after this the draft revised continental TVET strategy document will be submitted for technical review by Member States of the African Union in October 2024 and adoption by the relevant AU policy organs, including the Heads of State Summit.

Hon. Sillah served as the Rapporteur who presented the recommendations or report of one of the four Working Groups reviewing and drafting the Revised Africa Continental TVET Strategy 2025-34.

This review of the Drafting Team of experts and practitioners in TVET is coming on the heels of the online Open Forum held on 17th July, 2024, that was organised by the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, GIZ and STEP Innovations Africa (the Consulting Firm leading the review) in collaboration with SASASNET to discuss the review for comments and input from its members. The lead Consultant is Dr. Dan Baffour-Awuah, TVET Specialist/Expert and SASASNET Country Focal Person for Ghana.

The other participating experts and practitioners represented organisations such as the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA, Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA)), Step Innovations Africa, Don Bosco Tech Africa, Commonwealth of Learning, etc.



Right to Left: Hon. Ousman Sillah, SG SASASNET, and Dr. Dan Baffour-Awuah, Lead Consultant and SASASNET Country Focal Person for Ghana