



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA SKILLS AND APPRENTICESHIP STAKEHOLDERS NETWORK [SASASNET]

C/O National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) Liaison Office:
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Motto: *Skills for Development*

SASASNET IN BRIEF

The African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (AU CESA 2016-2025); the Continental Strategy for TVET to Foster Youth Employment (African Union 2018); the ECOWAS and SADC Protocols on Education and Training; the Abidjan Declaration adopted at the ILO 14th African Regional Meeting; the International Labour Organization (ILO), the African Development Bank's Skills for Employability and Productivity in Africa (SEPA) Action Plan, 2022-2025; and the respective national strategies, are all concerned about the need to promote skills development and Africa's informal economy, especially the Informal Apprenticeship Training System.

The ILO, World Bank and other development partners, under the auspices of the Government of Benin, organised a regional workshop on 'Strengthening Apprenticeship Systems in the Informal Economy in Africa' to promote quality, innovation and transitions to formality that took place in Cotonou, Benin, in February, 2023

The main outcome of this regional workshop was a resolution by participants and their representative organisations that Governments and non-state stakeholders must join hands to upgrade and formalise all informal apprenticeships in the region. Taking cue from the outcome of this regional convergence and the realisation that skills development is relatively more advanced in French speaking African and Maghreb countries, the participants from the English-speaking countries resolved to establish the Sub-Saharan Africa Skills and Apprenticeship Stakeholders Network (SASASNET).

Sub-Saharan Africa Skills and Apprenticeship Stakeholders Network (SASASNET) was formally launched by HE Kashim Shettima, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with the unveiling of the Network's logo and maiden conference/workshop held in Abuja, from 23 - 25 July, 2023.

SASASNET is a registered and independent continental organisation with the objective of promoting skills and apprenticeship development across Sub-Saharan Africa and the whole continent. The continental organisation, with its Secretariat domiciled in Abuja, currently has presence in 32 African countries with five regional chapters and still expanding. In each member country, the Network designates a Country Focal Person (CFP), who is responsible for coordinating the operations or activities of the SASASNET Country Focal Committee (CFC) or National Chapter, which comprises all the stakeholders in the skills ecosystem at the national level. These national stakeholders include the relevant government institutions, regulatory authorities, public and private TVET providers, employers, professional/skills associations and workers associations, independent experts and researchers, etc.

With focus on quality, standard, relevance, attractiveness and harmonisation, the SASASNET regional and national chapters are constituted as strategic structures and mandated to serve as platforms or mechanisms to facilitate the participation of all the relevant stakeholders at the national level, including development partners, through dialogue and coordination in the development and implementation of continental, regional and national TVET policies and programmes.

In line with its objectives of standardising, promoting, coordinating and supporting the skills and apprenticeship development agenda in Africa, SASASNET has acknowledged the importance and need to fully collaborate with the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD and the other regional organisations as well as the development partners including ILO, AfDB, World Bank, UNESCO, GIZ, Commonwealth of Learners, National Skills Development Corporation of India, etc., for the realisation of our shared objectives. SASASNET's collaboration and partnership with these international and regional organisations and flagship initiatives such as WorldSkills Africa, SIFA, etc., will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the workforce in Africa through the enhancement of skills and apprenticeship development and engender socio-economic development.

Current SASASNET Member Countries: Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Chad, Gabon, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, South Africa, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Senegal, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

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