

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Youth Talks – Transitional Skills for Decent Jobs

#### QUESTIONS

- What do we define as skills of the future?
- What should be done to promote apprenticeships, internships, and other forms of training as an investment and not a cost to the businesses?
- How has the digitalization process started by covid-19 affected young people's access to internships and apprenticeships?
- How can we bridge the digital skills gap among young people in developing countries?

#### DESCRIPTION

Technological transformation, changing globalization trends and the industrial transition towards sustainability fast-tracked the need to reskill people and equip emerging young workforce with adequate skills to future-proof their careers and acquire decent jobs. In a time of major global changes, investing in human capital is needed to create a fairer world and ensure young people are prepared for the new labour market.

Equipping the young generation of workers with appropriate skillset requires cross-cutting strategies and collaboration between multiple partners: governments, businesses and education institutions. Global industries are faced with a collective test to begin re-skilling the skilled, build the right educational programs for young professionals and provide necessary pathways for adequate job training. We find ourselves in a moment of opportunity where strengthened collaboration between public and private players can help tackle the youth employment challenge and build quality jobs that will stimulate the economy and advance inclusive societies, without leaving anyone behind.

*Youth Talks is a project that is part of the preparations for the UNCTAD15 Youth Forum. Its outcomes will be fed into a report addressed to UNCTAD member States and contain the views of the youth. It will run until 3 October 2021. Participation guidelines to the Youth Talks online discussion platform and the subscription link are available on the Youth Talks webpage.*