



SAi20 technical meeting – Theme 2 deliberations summary

6 February 2025

SAI20 2025 technical meeting session 2



6 February 2025



11 am – 15 pm (SAST)



Online

Theme 2: Collaborative and integrative efforts for a future-ready workforce – Bridging the skills gap in sustainable economic growth

Supreme audit institutions represented

AFROSAI-E, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Arab Emirates

Observers: Japan, Spain

Introduction and overview

The second day of deliberations continued against the backdrop of the G20 theme: "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability," which served as the guiding principle for discussions. Mr Jan van Schalkwyk, corporate executive in the Office of the Auditor-General of South Africa, delivered the opening remarks, emphasising the significance of this platform as a vital space for collaboration. He reiterated the opportunity it provides for SAIs to engage meaningfully and make a tangible impact on the G20 agenda, reinforcing the need for active contribution towards global economic and social progress.

Theme 2 deliberations and focus

Theme 2 focuses on the collaborative and integrative efforts needed to bridge the skills gap in achieving sustainable economic growth. Investment in education and skills development is crucial for enhancing employability, labour productivity, competitiveness and economic growth, as such education plays a pivotal role in sustainable development, serving as a fundamental human right and a catalyst for positive societal change. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, changing job market demands and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have had an immeasurable impact on skills levels and workforce readiness across nations. The International Labour Organization (ILO) reported that one in five young people, or 20,4% globally, were not in education, employment or training (NEET). Two of three were also women.

The session was characterised by a robust and engaging discussion, during which SAIs shared their country experiences and insights. The meeting participants mutually agreed that it was

essential to bridge the skills divide in order to resolve a variety of societal issues, such as unemployment rates and workforce adaptability. The following were identified as some of the areas of concern that affect all nations, albeit to various degrees:

- Current skills set and workforce not keeping up with the evolving technological advancements
- Mismatch between skills required by the job market and those that are available
- Ageing population that requires reskilling to participate in the job market, while in contrast, other countries grapple with high youth unemployment.

The meeting also afforded the opportunity to exchange perspectives on the manner in which these challenges are being addressed in the respective countries, as well as critical recommendations for governments. There was a meeting of minds and open sharing of best practices. The following were some of the key areas of focus to drive tangible improvement in closing the skills gap:

- Increased focus and revitalisation of vocational skills and training
- Increased focus on public-private partnerships (PPPs) to drive greater impact and investment
- Target support informed by market analysis to ensure government programmes and focus are aligned with the job market
- Greater focus on performance audits to provide in-depth insights on progress made in addressing the skills gap.

Way forward and next steps

Supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play a crucial role in promoting transparency, accountability and good governance, making their engagement in the G20 process through SAI20 essential. The discussions during this technical meeting will shape the next phase of SAI20's agenda, which will include the compilation of a consolidated theme document. In the coming months, SAI20 members will work towards drafting a communique/declaration that translates these discussions into concrete, actionable recommendations.