



ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS UNION
 UNION PANAFRICAINNE DES ETUDIANTS
 UNIÃO DOS ESTUDANTES DE TODA A ÁFRICA
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CAPACITY BUILDING
 WORKING GROUP



Green Jobs Youth Pact

A collaborative initiative by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), working with young people, governments and other stakeholders to create meaningful opportunities for youth by 2030.

Championing the Three Green E's:

1. Green Employment and Entrepreneurship
2. Greening Education and Skills
3. Green Empowerment and Youth Engagement

Green Jobs for Youth Pact Targets

- Develop 1 million new green jobs.
- Transform 1 million existing roles into green roles.
- Support 10,000 young green entrepreneurs in starting their businesses.

Report on Green Skills & Green Jobs Youth Consultation

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Preamble

As Secretary-General of the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), I am honored to present this comprehensive report detailing our significant contributions to the Green Skills Workshop organized by SOS International and the United Nations Environmental Programme. Our involvement in this initiative underscores AASU's unwavering commitment to environmental and climate action, as well as our dedication to capacity building for African youth and students.

AASU has been instrumental in organizing and facilitating two of the five planned workshops under the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, a collaborative endeavor by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). These workshops, conducted in the Netherlands and Kenya, are pivotal to our advocacy efforts. They have provided a platform for over 750 young individuals to engage in meaningful dialogue and contribute to the global understanding of green skills and green jobs.

Our workshops have not only empowered young people with the knowledge and tools necessary to champion green jobs but have also fostered a deeper understanding of the just transition to a sustainable economy. The insights and recommendations gathered from these engagements are integral to shaping policies, educational curricula, and industry practices that reflect the unique perspectives and needs of youth.

AASU's leadership in these workshops aligns seamlessly with our broader mission to advocate for environmental sustainability and climate resilience. By amplifying the voices of African youth and students, we are driving forward a vision of an inclusive and sustainable future. Our efforts are crucial in ensuring that young people are at the forefront of the green economy, equipped with the



skills and opportunities to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all the participants, moderators, and partner organizations who contributed to the success of these workshops. Together, we are making significant strides towards a greener, more sustainable world for future generations.



Secretary General
All-Africa Students Union



Introduction

SOS International, in partnership with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), has embarked on a global initiative to engage young people aged 18-35 in defining learning and skills necessary for green jobs. This effort aims to develop actionable recommendations for policymakers, educators, and industry leaders. The initiative is part of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, a collaborative effort by UNEP, UNICEF, and the International Labour Organization (ILO), with the ambitious goal of creating 1 million new green jobs for young people and transforming an additional 1 million existing jobs to be environmentally sustainable.

The All-Africa Students Union (AASU), a key member of SOS International, played a pivotal role in organizing two of the five planned workshops. AASU successfully led workshops in the Netherlands and Kenya. The five regional workshops engaged over 750 young participants from various regions, including Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, and South America. The online survey that was distributed in Africa through AASU's networks also reached 380 respondents. These workshops aimed to cultivate a global understanding of green skills and jobs among youth.

Objectives of the Green Skills Workshop

- 1. Explore Youth Perspectives on Green Skills and Green Jobs Globally:**
 - Understand how young people from diverse backgrounds define and perceive green skills and green jobs.
 - Identify commonalities and differences in these perceptions across different regions.
- 2. Develop a Shared Understanding of Green Skills and Jobs Through a Youth-Defined Framework:**
 - Facilitate discussions that lead to a unified definition of green skills and jobs, incorporating the unique insights and experiences of young people.
 - Create a youth-driven framework that can be used to inform educational curricula, policy development, and industry practices.
- 3. Deepen Young People's Understanding of a Just Transition:**
 - Educate youth on the concept of a just transition, emphasizing the need for equitable and inclusive approaches to environmental sustainability.

- Highlight the social and economic dimensions of transitioning to green jobs, ensuring that no community or demographic is left behind.

4. Empower and Support Young People to Advocate for Green Jobs:

- Provide young people with the knowledge and tools needed to champion green jobs within their communities and beyond.
- Encourage active participation in policy dialogues, industry forums, and educational settings to promote sustainable employment practices.

Workshop Questions

To achieve these objectives, workshop attendees were engaged in discussions around the following questions:

1. Definition of Green Skills:

- How do you define 'Green Skills'?
- What specific skills do you believe are essential for green jobs?

2. Definition of Green Jobs:

- How do you define 'Green Jobs'?
- What characteristics distinguish green jobs from other types of employment?

3. Importance of Youth Involvement:

- Why is it important for young people to be more involved in shaping the understanding of green skills and green jobs?
- How can youth perspectives enhance current definitions and approaches to green jobs?

4. Actionable Recommendations for Stakeholders:

- What top three actions should the formal education system (schools, colleges, universities) take to support young people in developing green skills and accessing green jobs?
- What top three actions should policymakers at local, regional, national, and international levels take?
- What top three actions should employers and industry leaders take?



The Netherlands Workshop

The workshop in the Netherlands was held during the SOS International Summit at the University of Twente from March 14-16, 2024. Moderated by Peter Kwasi Kodjie (Secretary-General of AASU), Bismark Amefianu Kudoafor (Chief Technical Officer of AASU), and Quinn Runkle (Director of Education, SOS-UK), the workshop engaged 25 youth participants from various European climate action organizations. Through discussions, group exercises, and the use of Slido for real-time feedback, attendees shared their perspectives and contributed to the collective understanding of green skills and jobs.





The Kenya Workshop

The Kenya workshop took place during the Inaugural Green Jobs and Skills Development Workshop at the Kenya International Convention Centre (KICC) on May 3, 2024. Moderated by Bismark Amefianu Kudoafor, the workshop featured a panel discussion and interactive engagement with the audience. Panelists Sumaiya Abdikadir from Kenya Green Universities Network and Jeremy Kaburu from Sustainable Inclusive Business (SIB) spoke to over 500 young attendees from higher education institutions, NGOs, public sector organizations, and businesses. Slido was used to gather real-time responses and insights from participants.



Online Survey in Africa

To ensure comprehensive representation from across Africa, AASU conducted an online survey distributed via its networks. This survey supplemented the Kenya workshop, capturing responses from 380 individuals across 28 African countries. The survey provided additional data to create a more inclusive understanding of green skills and jobs in the African context.

The survey was shared using the link https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Green_Skills

Excerpts of the survey questions are shown in the images below.

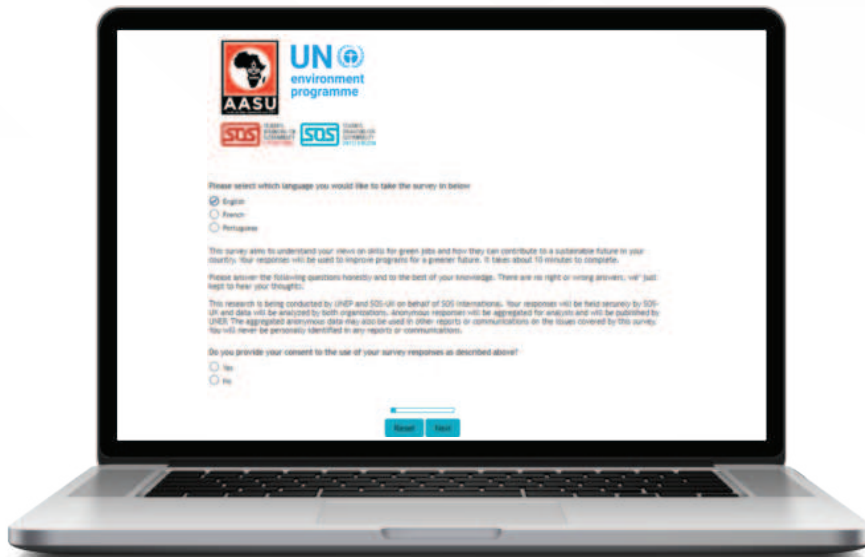


Figure 1: Excerpts of the survey

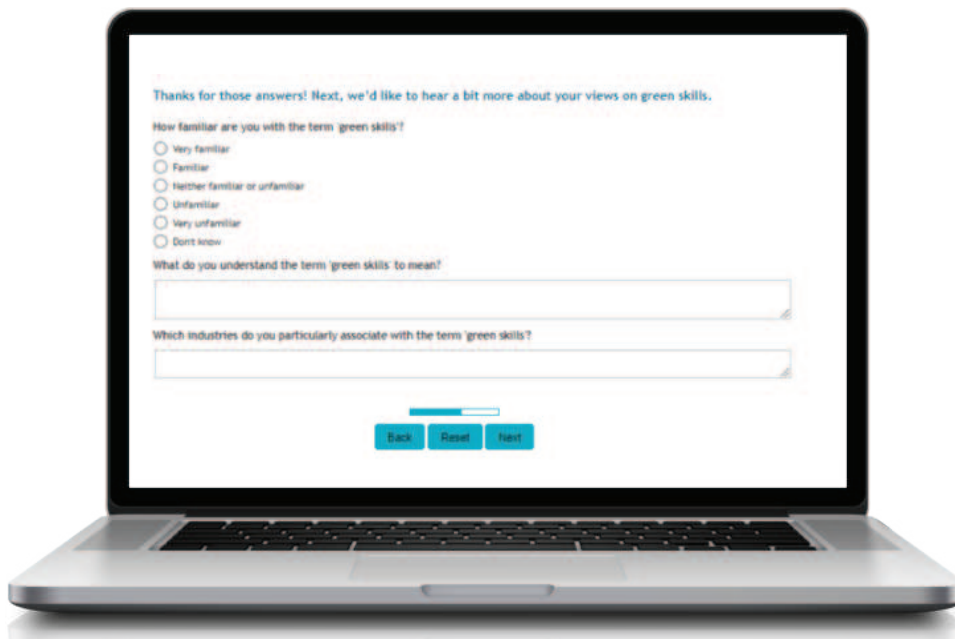


Figure 2: Excerpts of the survey

Key Outcomes

01 Interdisciplinary Nature of Green Skills:

- Young people view green skills as interdisciplinary, encompassing both technical and soft skills such as critical thinking, systems thinking, and adaptability.
- They recognize the potential for all jobs to be transformed into green jobs through the integration of sustainable practices.

02 Broad Definition of Green Jobs:

- Green jobs are defined as those that are environmentally sustainable, promote long-term sustainability, and meet the needs of both current and future generations.
- Young people emphasize that green jobs should contribute to environmental preservation and economic stability.

03 Youth Involvement is Crucial:

- Young people possess a broader and more inclusive understanding of green jobs, which goes beyond the technical focus of many industry and policy approaches.
- Their involvement is essential for creating policies and practices that are truly sustainable and equitable.

04 Calls to Action for Stakeholders:

- **Educators:** Need to be aware of the urgency of climate action, receive training, and incorporate a green curriculum that prepares students for green jobs.
- **Industry and Employers:** Should integrate sustainability into all levels of their operations and invest in reskilling and upskilling employees.
- **Policymakers:** Must drive investment in educational and economic reforms, support institutions and industries in the just transition, and ensure that youth voices are central to these efforts.



Summary of All Workshops

Table 1: Tabular representation of all workshops

Region	Venue	Modality	Lead Organization(s)	No. of Attendees
Europe	University of Twente, The Netherlands	In-person	AASU and SOS-UK	25
Africa	The Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, Kenya	In-person	AASU	500+
	Online Survey	Online Survey	AASU	380
South America	Teams	Online	SOS International	20
North America	Teams	Online	SOS International	60
Asia	Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC), Bangkok, Thailand	In-person	SWITCH	70

Conclusion

The Green Jobs for Youth Pact, championed by the UN Environment Programme, UNICEF, and the International Labour Organization, has set the stage for a transformative approach to environmental sustainability and youth empowerment. The All-Africa Students Union (AASU), as a pivotal member of SOS International, has played an instrumental role in this initiative by organizing and facilitating key workshops in the Netherlands and Kenya. These workshops have been integral to our advocacy efforts in environmental and climate action, as well as in building the capacity of African youth and students.

Through these workshops and the accompanying online surveys, we have gathered invaluable insights from over 750 young participants across various regions. The collective voices of these young people have emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of green skills, the expansive definition of green jobs, and the critical importance of youth involvement in shaping sustainable futures. Their perspectives have broadened our understanding of what it means to transition to a green economy, highlighting the necessity for inclusive and equitable approaches.

The key outcomes of this initiative underscore the need for concerted efforts from educators, industry leaders, and policymakers. Educators must integrate green curricula and climate action urgency into their teaching. Industry leaders are called upon to embed sustainability at all levels of their operations and invest in reskilling and upskilling their workforce. Policymakers must drive investments in educational and economic reforms to support this transition, ensuring that youth voices are central to these processes.

AASU remains committed to continuing this vital work. We will leverage the insights and recommendations from these workshops to further our mission of advocating for sustainable development and empowering African youth. Our ongoing efforts will focus on amplifying the voices of young people, fostering international collaboration, and driving forward policies and practices that promote a just transition to a green economy.

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

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