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AJCF

AFRICA JOB
CREATION FORUM
2026

Programme Agenda

4th Edition

9–11 December 2026 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

THEME: PATHWAYS TO DECENT JOBS
AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
YOUTH THROUGH LOCAL AND GLOBAL
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, WITH
EMPHASIS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
WAGE EMPLOYMENT, LABOR MOBILITY,
DIGITAL AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION



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Programme at a Glance

DAY 1

9 DECEMBER 2026

Where will the jobs come from?

Job-rich structural transformation, productive sectors, finance, trade and labour mobility.

DAY 2

10 DECEMBER 2026

How do we connect youth to jobs?

Employment pathways, skills, entrepreneurship, digital solutions and financing for job-creating projects.

DAY 3

11 DECEMBER 2026

How do we move from evidence to action and scale?

Inclusive employment, implementation, investment, recognition, city tour and selected field visits.

Programme Components

Ministerial
Dialogue

Investment
Showcases

Skills &
Employment

Digital &
Financial Inclusion

The Forum will also include exhibition and networking opportunities, with selected field visits on Day 3.

DAY 1

Where will the jobs come from? Job-rich structural transformation, productive sectors, finance, trade and labour mobility

Objective: Identify sectors, financing mechanisms, market opportunities, policy reforms and labour mobility pathways to translate economic growth into more and better jobs.

Time	Session / Topic	Session Focus / Expected Outcome
08:30–09:00	Registration and Networking	Participants arrive, register, and connect across government, AU, private sector, development partner, DFI, youth and women entrepreneur groups.
09:00–09:45	Opening Ceremony: Africa's Youth Jobs Challenge and Opportunity	Focus: Set the ambition for a practical, implementation-oriented forum focused on job-rich growth and youth employment.
09:45–10:30	Framing Keynote: From Growth to Jobs — Promoting Job-Rich Growth: What Needs to Change?	Focus: Identify what must change so sector growth, trade, finance and technology translate into work opportunities for young people. Expected Outcome: Common framing for the Forum.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	Networking, media interactions, and exhibition visits.
11:00–12:30	Plenary I: Ministerial Dialogue — Economic Implications of Unemployment and Promoting Job-Rich Growth: Growing the Sectors that Create Jobs at Scale	Focus: The economic opportunity of a youthful and growing population, as well as the economic cost of inaction and the policy, infrastructure, market access, investment and skills barriers that must be addressed. Expected Outcome: Priority sectors and constraints identified.

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DAY 1

Time	Session / Topic	Session Focus / Expected Outcome
12:30–13:30	Lunch	Networking and informal bilateral meetings.
13:30–15:00	Plenary II: Financing Young Entrepreneurs, Unlocking Access to Finance for MSMEs and Value Chains, and Building Competitive MSMEs	Focus: Financing instruments that can reach youth enterprises and MSMEs, including blended finance, guarantees, digital payments, insurance, savings and business development services. Expected Outcome: Financing options and partnership leads.
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break	Networking and exhibition viewing.
15:30–16:45	Plenary III: High-Level Dialogue: Labour Mobility and the AfCFTA as Drivers for Youth Employment	Focus: National, regional and continental mobility priorities, risks and safeguards. Expected Outcome: Shared mobility context and policy issues.
16:45–17:30	Plenary IV: Implementation Commitments for Job-Rich Transformation	Focus: Commitments that can be taken forward after the Forum. Expected Outcome: Inputs for the Addis Ababa Declaration 2026.
17:30–17:45	Day 1 Wrap-Up	Focus: Confirm three to five messages to carry into Day 2.
18:30	Reception	

DAY 2

How do we connect youth to jobs? — Employment pathways, skills, delivery systems, digital solutions and investment in job-creating projects

Objective: Identify practical pathways that connect young people to wage employment, self-employment, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship; strengthen the skills, delivery systems and digital solutions that support those pathways; and connect flagship country projects with financiers and strategic partners to accelerate job creation at scale.

Time	Session / Topic	Session Focus / Expected Outcome
09:00–09:20	Recap and Bridge from Day 1	Focus: Link sector transformation to delivery systems and beneficiary pathways.
09:20–10:30	What Works in Youth Employment? What Should be Scaled? Evidence and Lessons	Focus: Identify which interventions work, for whom, under what conditions and at what scale. Expected Outcome: Evidence priorities and knowledge gaps.
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break	Networking and bilateral follow-up.
11:00–12:30	From Aspiration to Opportunity: Differentiated Pathways to Decent Work	Focus: First-work experience and the incentives and services that help firms hire, train and retain youth, with pathways tailored to the different needs of school leavers, graduates, informal workers, young women, refugees and youth with disabilities. Expected Outcome: A practical framework linking participant profiles to services, employer engagement, and measurable employment outcomes.
12:30–13:30	Implementation Showcase: Integrated Ecosystem for Sustainable Business Growth and Job Creation	Focus: The role of integrated digital platforms in de-risking SME lending, improving enterprise productivity, expanding financial inclusion and market linkages, and boosting intra-African trade. Expected Outcome: Pathways to job creation at scale.
13:30–14:30	Lunch	Networking lunch and informal partner discussions.

DAY 2

Time	Session / Topic	Session Focus / Expected Outcome
14:30–15:30	Investment & Financing for Job Creation I: Flagship and Legacy Projects — Country Showcase I	Focus: Identify financing opportunities, potential partners and concrete follow-up actions for flagship projects with significant job-creation impact.
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00–17:00	Skills Without Borders: Building Talent Pipelines for Domestic, Regional, and Global Labour Markets	Focus: Building talent pipelines for domestic, regional and global labour markets.
17:00–18:00	Digital Solutions for Jobs: Innovation Dialogue and Live Solution Showcase	Focus: The role of digital platforms in improving job matching, market access, payments, training delivery, AI-enabled services and continental labour market information. Expected Outcome: Digital inclusion priorities and demonstration opportunities.

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DAY 3

How do we move from evidence to action and scale?

WDR consultation, inclusive employment, investment, recognition and practical implementation

Objective: Translate evidence and policy discussion into practical action by advancing inclusive employment approaches and connecting flagship country projects with finance and strategic partners.

Time	Session / Topic	Session Focus / Expected Outcome
09:00–09:10	Day 3 Opening and Framing	
09:10–10:10	Inclusive Employment: Expanding Employment for Those Facing the Greatest Barriers	Focus: Expanding employment opportunities for those facing the greatest barriers.
10:10–10:40	Coffee Break	
10:40–12:10	World Development Report 2027 Consultation: Jobs, Growth, and the Future of Work in Africa	Focus: Structured consultation on jobs, growth and the future of work in Africa through the World Development Report 2027.
12:10–13:10	Lunch	
13:10–14:10	Investment & Financing for Job Creation II: Flagship and Legacy Projects – Country Showcase II	Focus: Identify financing opportunities, potential partners and concrete follow-up actions for flagship projects with significant job-creation impact.

DAY 3

Time	Session / Topic	Session Focus / Expected Outcome
14:10–15:10	Closing Ceremony and Recognition Awards Presentation <i>Organized by the Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS), Ethiopia</i>	
15:10 onwards	Field Visits	

Expected Forum Outcomes

- Addis Ababa Outcome Note capturing key commitments, responsible institutions and agreed follow-up actions.
- Technical Annex summarizing scalable youth employment approaches, sector priorities, financing mechanisms, digital solutions and mobility/skills pathways.
- Partner and Follow-up Matrix identifying lead institutions, potential financing and technical partners, and immediate next steps.
- Communications Note linking AJCF 2026 outcomes to the AfCFTA, Agenda 2063, the Decent Jobs agenda and Ethiopia's youth employment priorities.

