



Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF)

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STATEMENT: Technology and Innovation Platform for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Southern Africa.

The **Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF)** is honored to be invited by the **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA-SARO)** in partnership with **SADC Business Council** on the **Brainstorming Meeting on the Technology and Innovation Platform for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Southern Africa**. The meeting came at a time when SAYoF announced the **5th SADC Youth Forum** theme, “**Accelerating Regional Integration and Youth Participation in AfCFTA.**”

The overall objective of the Brainstorming meeting scheduled for 19-20 June 2023, taking place in Cape Town, South Africa is to provide a space to brainstorm on the relevance, suitability, value-added, sustainability, and potential for upscaling of TechniAfrica, concerning existing digital-based platforms. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for Government institutions, private sector actors including MSMEs, the STI community, technology incubators, academia, and other relevant stakeholders to share their ideas on how to enhance the usefulness and relevance of TechniAfrica and to explore the type of partnership arrangements and needed support.

SAYoF will also attend the **Regional Meeting on Technology and Innovation for MSMEs in Southern Africa** starting from 21-23 June 2023. The overall objective of the meeting is to provide a platform for participants to critically examine the four draft study reports to identify gaps, provide comments and inputs and propose recommendations, including revisions to inform their finalization. The meeting will aim to facilitate exchanges on how MSMEs could harness STI and become important drivers of industrialization and trade in Southern Africa. It will also provide a platform for Government institutions, private sector actors including MSMEs, STI community, technology incubators, academia, and all relevant stakeholders to share experiences, including best practices and lessons and partnership arrangements in strengthening the capacity and enhancing the competitiveness of MSMEs to thrive in a post-Covid era.

SAYoF delegation is being led by **Mr. Tshepo Magoma the Head of Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cluster** accompanied by selected young entrepreneurs from the region and other representatives from the Regional Secretariat. SAYoF is advocating for an empowered generation of young people who own resources, and use technology and innovation for sustainable development.

Issued by the Media, Advocacy & Communications Department of the SADC Youth Forum (SAYoF) #SADCYout #SADouthForum #SADCYouthParliament