



Webinar

Best practices in job creation in North Africa

November 3rd, 2020
12:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Rabat time

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Context

1. Scheduled to take place on 17 November 2020, the thirty-fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICE) for North Africa takes place in a global context characterized by slower economic growth due to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to UNDESA, in worst case scenario, North African economies will contract by 5.4% in 2020, while the best-case scenario indicates that North Africa will barely grow by 0.3% (UNDESA, 2020). The consequence will be significant increase in underemployment and unemployment.

2. In the past two decades, North African economies have achieved a reasonable growth trend, and made huge progress in terms of human development. Some countries, like Egypt, Morocco or Tunisia have managed to engage their economies on the road of diversification. However, the sub region still faces some major issues, as slow productivity growth or high unemployment rates.

3. Formal private sector job creation has not kept up with the rise in young labor force in the region. Among 123 countries, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia are among the countries with the lowest formal sector entry densities, suggesting difficulties for young firms to enter the markets (Rijkers 2014). Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a critical role in driving economic growth, creating jobs and building a competitive private sector. In North African countries, SMEs together with Micro-enterprises (MSMEs) account for more than 90 per cent of total firms and between 50 to 90 per cent of total employment. But SMEs account for only 2 to 11 percent of firms and 24 to 46 per cent of total employment.

4. Promoting sustainability in the context of economic development strategy must be done in conjunction with job creation, otherwise it will not have any chance of success in labor-abundant countries. Given the rapid growth of the labor force in North African countries, employment creation in the shorter term has emerged as a critical imperative of development strategy. Accordingly, it is no longer appropriate to ignore the employment implications of sustainable development.

5. To feed the discussions during the ICE meeting, a webinar will be organized on “Best practices in job creation in North Africa”.

II. Objectives of the webinar

6. The webinar on “Best practices in job creation in North Africa” will build on the results of research work and analysis undertaken by the ECA, other partner institutions, think tanks and academia working on this important issue for North Africa’s development. The webinar will promote best practices in job creation in North Africa and what governments and other key actors are doing to ensure that employment policies achieve meaningful results for youth. Thus, the webinar will showcase studies in Africa that provide best practices for promoting youth employment and empowerment that is sustainable. The webinar will aim at showcasing experiences and lessons learned by discussing, identifying and replicating lessons learned from past successes and on-going efforts.

III. Expected results

7. A set of policy recommendations that will be presented and discussed during the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for North Africa.

IV. Organization and operational details of the webinar

8. The webinar will be organized around the presentation and discussions of the following main themes:

- Best practices in job creation- private sector;
- Best practices in job creation- public sector;
- Best practices in job creation- public- private initiatives;
- Best practices in job creation- access to finance;
- Best practices in job creation- skills for economic development and for innovation.

V. Participation

9. Participation in the webinar is open particularly to high-level representatives of national ministries, administrations and institutions responsible for employment and economic and social development; representatives of the private sector; universities and research institutions; United Nations agencies; and other development partners engaged in the subregion.

VI. Date of the webinar

10. The webinar will take place on November 3rd, 2020.

VII. Working languages

11. There will be simultaneous interpretation into Arabic, English and French.

VIII. Contacts

12. For further information regarding the organization of the webinar, please contact:

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