



EMPOWERING ALL

Leveraging Technology to Promote Diversity, Inclusion, and Peace at Jimma University in Line with Agenda 2063



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Hasselt
May 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwna7NCGQv8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaaEtTnKn-s&t=67s>



Presentation Framework overview



Core: Culturally Responsive Teaching

- Culturally grounded pedagogies
- Local knowledge and languages
- Learner identity, heritage, and context

Component	Culturally Responsive Teaching Principle	Technology Role	Outcomes Aligned with Agenda 2063
1. Identity-Affirming Pedagogy	Value students' cultural identities and lived experiences	Digital storytelling tools (e.g. Adobe Express, Flip) for students to share narratives in their languages and styles	Strengthened African cultural identity and pride (Aspiration 5)
2. Inclusive Content Delivery	Adapt content to diverse learning needs and contexts	LMS (Google Classroom, Moodle, Open Edx) with multimodal, multilingual resources (text, audio, video)	Equitable access to education (Aspiration 1)
3. Collaborative Dialogue Spaces	Encourage cross-cultural interaction and empathy	Forums, breakout rooms, digital whiteboards (Padlet, Jamboard) for peer-led discussions and peace dialogue	Peaceful and inclusive learning environments (Aspiration 4)
4. Justice-Oriented Critical Thinking	Empower students to analyze social issues and power structures	Simulations, digital debate platforms, or online civic engagement tools	Empowered citizens and just societies (Aspiration 3)
5. Community and Global Connections	Link learning to local realities and global goals	Virtual exchanges, local storytelling mapped via GIS tools, social media campaigns	Continental and global solidarity (Aspiration 7)
6. Reflective Teaching Practice	Constantly adapt based on student feedback and cultural context	E-portfolios, peer feedback tools, surveys (Google Forms, Mentimeter)	Continuous improvement of inclusive teaching

Technology Functions

These show how technology supports the core:

- Expression – digital storytelling, multimedia presentations
- Collaboration – online group work, shared documents
- Adaptation – differentiated tools, accessibility features
- Exploration – simulations, virtual field trips
- Feedback – formative assessments, instant responses

Aspirational Goals (Aligned with Agenda 2063)

- Diversity – embracing linguistic, cultural, and ethnic pluralism
- Inclusion – access for all learners regardless of background or ability
- Peace & Citizenship – promoting unity, civic education, and tolerance

<https://au.int/en/videos/20210131/what-agenda-2063>

<https://au.int/en/videos/20210131/goals-agenda-2063>



**Diversity and Inclusion
in Jimma University**



**Technology for Culturally
Responsive Teaching**



**Jimma University's
Context and Practice**



Agenda 2063



Challenges



Call to Action

Diversity and Inclusion in Jimma university

- ❖ JU actively promotes multiculturalism by attracting primarily students and faculty members from various parts of the country.
- ❖ Besides, it attracts students and faculty members from Africa and other parts of the world through initiatives like the African Student Mobilization program.



Diversity and Inclusion...

International Student Representation

JU hosts international students enrolled in full-time undergraduate, master's, and PhD programs. These students hail from diverse countries, including South Sudan, Ghana, Rwanda, Benin, Nigeria, Namibia

Academic staff

Faculty: JU employs over 120 international faculty members. These educators come from countries such as India, the Philippines, Cuba, Nigeria, Kenya, China, South Korea, Canada, and the USA, bringing a wealth of global perspectives to the university.

Commitment to Internationalization

Global Partnerships: JU has established partnerships with institutions worldwide, including universities in Belgium, the USA, Canada, Germany, the UK, and the Netherlands.

Exchange Programs: The university participates in programs like Erasmus+, offering students opportunities for international study and cultural exchange.



Technology for CRT...

Tech offers powerful ways to:

1. Personalize Learning Based on Cultural and Linguistic Needs

- ❖ **Digital technologies** can support personalized learning by offering adaptive content and language supports tailored to learners' cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- ❖ Reference:
 - ❖ UNESCO (2023). Technology in Education: A Tool on the Right Track.
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385395>

2. Bridge Cultural Gaps by Integrating Diverse Voices and Content

- ❖ **Culturally responsive digital curricula** can include multiple narratives and perspectives that reflect the diverse experiences of students.
- ❖ Reference:
 - ❖ Gay, G. (2018). Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Research, and Practice. Teachers College Press.
 - ❖ Banks, J. A. (2016). Cultural Diversity and Education: Foundations, Curriculum, and Teaching. Routledge.

3. Amplify Student Voice Through Multimedia, Storytelling, and Collaboration Tools

- ❖ **Digital storytelling** empowers students to express their identities and experiences in meaningful ways, enhancing engagement and empathy."
- ❖ Reference:
 - ❖ Robin, B. R. (2008). Digital Storytelling: A Powerful Technology Tool for the 21st Century Classroom. Theory Into Practice, 47(3), 220–228.
 - ❖ Mitra, D. (2004). The Significance of Students: Can Increasing Student Voice in Schools Lead to Gains in Youth Development? Teachers College Record, 106(4), 651–688.

4. Connect Classrooms Globally, Fostering Intercultural Understanding

- ❖ **Global collaboration tools** allow students to learn with peers across the world, building intercultural competencies and empathy.
- ❖ Reference:
 - ❖ Reimers, F. M. (2020). Educating Students to Improve the World. Springer.
 - ❖ Oxfam (2015). Global Citizenship in the Classroom: A Guide for Teachers. <https://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/handle/10546/620105>

5. Improve Access Through Different E-learning and Mobile Platforms

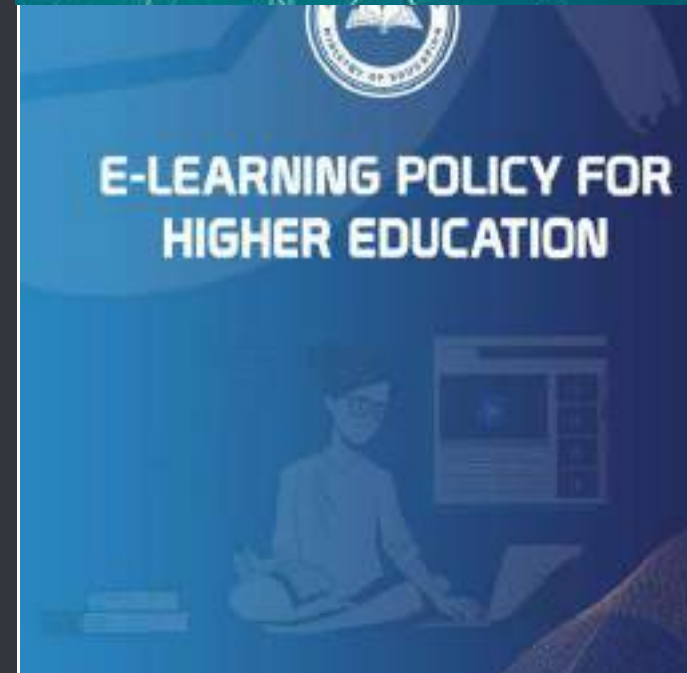
- ❖ **Mobile learning and open educational resources** reduce barriers to access for learners in remote or marginalized communities.
- ❖ Reference:
 - ❖ ITU & UNESCO (2020). The State of Broadband: Tackling Digital Inequalities.
 - ❖ West, M. (2012). Mobile Learning for Teachers in Africa and the Middle East: Exploring the Potential of Mobile Technologies to Support Teachers and Improve Practice. UNESCO.

Tools and their functions

Educational Role	Tool	Function
Personalize learning based on cultural and linguistic needs	Google Classroom	Differentiated assignments; supports multilingual add-ons.
	Khan Academy	Adaptive content in multiple languages.
	Duolingo for Schools	Personalized language learning at student pace.
	Read&Write (Texthelp)	Text-to-speech, translation, and literacy support tools.
Bridge cultural gaps by integrating diverse voices and content	Newsela	Diverse articles at different reading levels.
	Book Creator	Create digital books with local stories and language.
	Google Arts & Culture	Access to global culture and history via virtual tours and exhibits.
	StoryWeaver	Open-access, multilingual storybooks with regional relevance.
Amplify student voice through multimedia and storytelling tools	Flip (Flipgrid)	Video reflection and student voice sharing.
	Adobe Express	Visual storytelling through video, graphics, and web pages.
	Padlet	Collaborative board for student reflections and projects.
	Canva for Education	Design posters, presentations, and visual narratives.
Connect classrooms globally to foster intercultural understanding	ePals / PenPal Schools	Global classroom connections and project-based learning.
	Zoom, Meet, Team	Live virtual exchanges and cultural sharing.
	Empatico	Connects young learners with classrooms worldwide.
	Google Meet + Jamboard	Virtual meetings with collaborative whiteboards.
Improve access through e-learning and mobile platforms	Moodle / Moodle Mobile	Open-source LMS with offline and mobile learning features.
	Kolibri	Offline access to curated learning content for underserved areas.
	WhatsApp / Telegram	Low-data tools for lesson sharing and group communication.
	YouTube EDU	Educational videos in many languages, free and globally accessible.

Jimma University's context and Practice

- Currently, leveraging technology has become a key reform agenda for the Ministry of Education, which has identified it as one of its core reform initiatives(JU's Strategic Plan)
- Jimma University is committed to the comprehensive adoption and development of digital technologies across all operational areas(JU's strategic plan)



Sample research works at JU



Intercultural Education



Intercultural sensitivity of instructors in Ethiopian public universities

Tariku Gutu & Worku Tsegaye

To cite this article: Tariku Gutu & Worku Tsegaye (2023) Intercultural sensitivity of instructors in Ethiopian public universities, *Intercultural Education*, 54(4), 472–505, DOI: 10.1080/14675986.2023.2198179

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14675986.2023.2198179>



Interactive Learning Environments



The impact of a blended learning approach on students' academic achievement in Ethiopia: Jimma College of Teacher Education in focus

Abraham Bekele, Wudu Melese & Tariku Sime

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Improving student engagement with a flipped classroom instruction model in Ethiopian higher education institutions: The case of Mattu University

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Empowering Higher Education through e-Learning

e-Learning for Strengthening Higher Education (e-SHE) is a pioneering five-year Program implemented by the Ministry of Education in partnership with Mastercard Foundation, Arizona State University, Shegashone PLC, and the 59 Ethiopian public universities. e-SHE aims to revolutionize the landscape of higher education in Ethiopia by using digital technology. Through thoughtfully selected e-learning interventions, e-SHE empowers Ethiopian public universities to embrace a blended (online and face-to-face) learning approach, delivering dynamic and engaging education experiences powered by advanced learning management and student information systems.



E-learning Directorate

Office of the vice president for Academic Affairs

Institutional e-Learning Guideline



Jimma university

STRATEGIC PLAN (2026-2030)

RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Internationalization & Networking

ACADEMICS

RESEARCH

ENGAGEMENT

Digital Transformation

Institutional Autonomy for Institutional Sustainability

JU's context and Practice

Shift from face to face to blended and online learning

LMS

Empowering Higher Education through e-Learning

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SS 6 How to Study Effectively

e-SHE-CE101

🕒 1 Hour

📄 Certificate Issued

Description

Go To Course

SS 3 Academic Integrity

e-SHE-CE105

🕒 1 Hour

SS 5 How to Evaluate Resources

e-SHE-CE102

🕒 1 Hour

📄 Certificate Issued

Description

Go To Course

SS 2 Keeping Yourself Safe Online

e-SHE-CE106

🕒 1 Hour

SS 4 Set Goals to Manage Your Time

e-SHE-CE104

🕒 2 Hours

📄 Certificate Issued

Description

Go To Course

SS 7 Strategies for Successful Online Learning

e-SHE-DS201

🕒 1 Hour



e-SHE-CE101

How to Build in Open edX Studio

[Course](#) [Progress](#) [Dates](#) [Discussion](#) [Learn More Resources](#)

How to Build in Open edX Studio



Congratulations! Your certificate is ready.

View my certificate

Pick up where you left off

Resume course

We have exciting updates to share! The e-SHE platform has been upgraded to the latest version of Open edX, which improves many tools and activities in the Studio (course authoring environment) and the LMS (Learning Management System). To help you make the most of these new features, we strongly recommend completing the updated 'How to Build in Open edX Studio' course. If you score 80% or higher, you'll be able to request your own course development shell at the end of the course! If you've already completed the course, please revisit the sections labeled 'Featured' to learn about the...

Thanks

Show More

Expand all



Introduction to the Studio Course-Authoring Platform



Building in Studio



Refined: Requesting a New Course Shell (3 Questions)
Participation

Capacity development

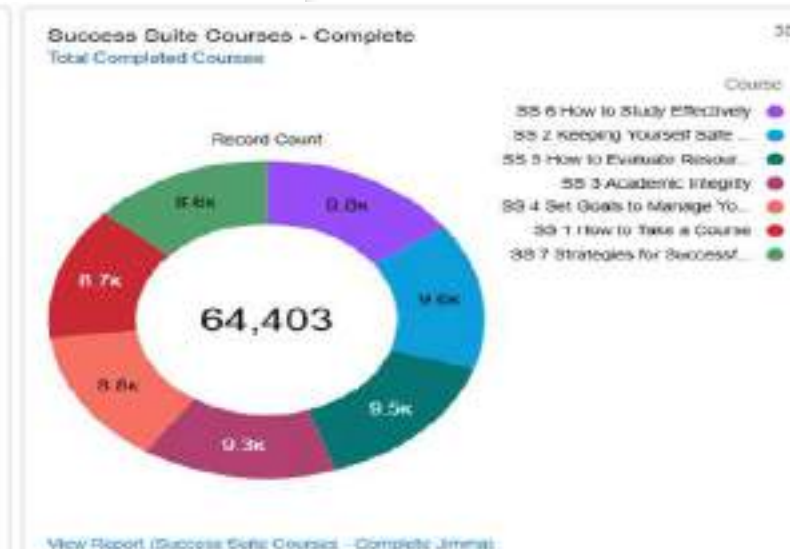
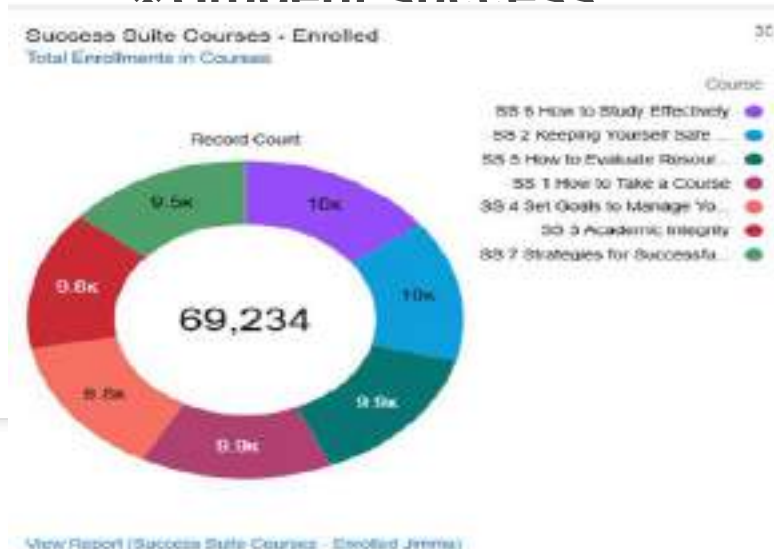
Instructors

- ❖ Master Class: Foundations for Excellence in Teaching Online

Students

- ❖ Student success

College/Institute	Total academic staff of the college/institute
JIT	480
IH	591
CNS	200
JUCAVM	199
CSSH	241
BECO	132
CEBS	65
CLG	54
SA(Sport Academy)	19
Agaro Campus(AC)	33
Total Staff number	2014
Total Certified	704

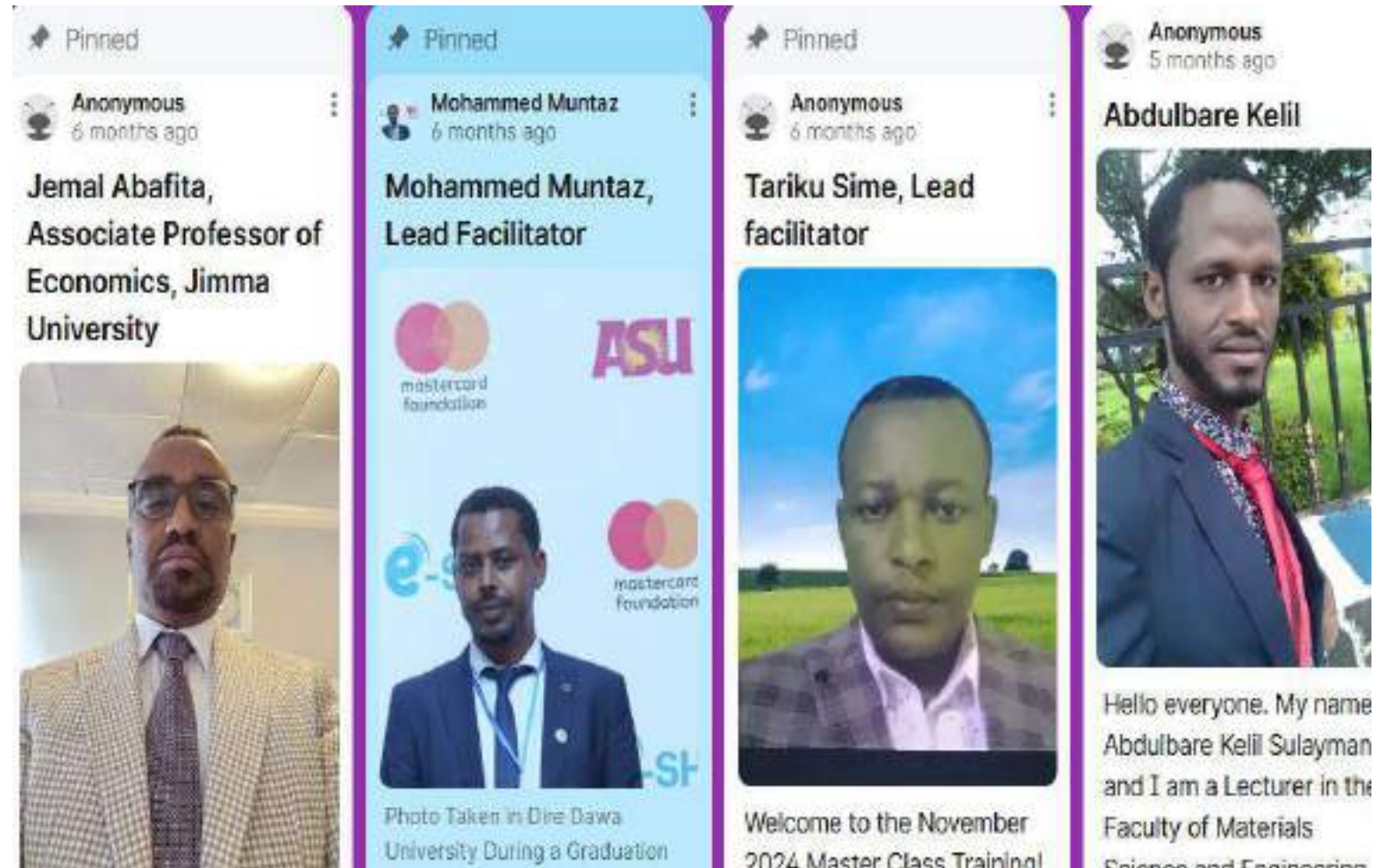
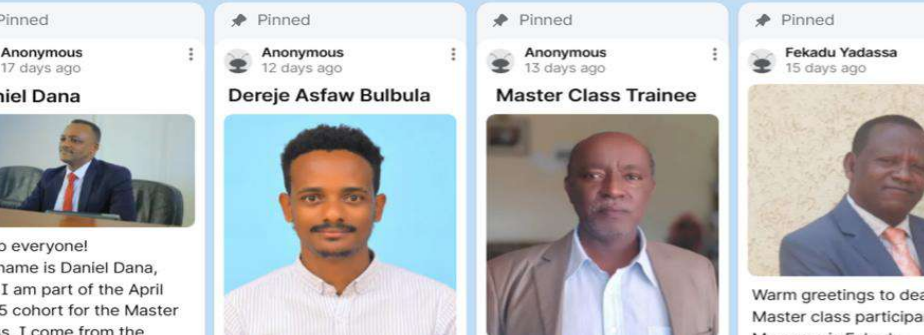


padlet



Master Class-April 2025 Cohort

Please tell us your 1) name (or nickname/initials), 2) institution, 3) field of study, along with any other interesting things we know about you (e.g., online teaching and learning experience, hobbies, favorite food). Comment on two of your colleague and add your name in a bracket at the end of the comment. Save a copy of your original post and take notes of the names people for whom you left a comment. ==REMEMBER: == You need all the information you post here in the next page for first open response assessment (ORA). We kindly request you not to edit other participants' posts.



Discussion forum

Course

Progress

Exercises

Discussion

Course Syllabus

Optional Live Learning Sessions

Instructor

Master Class: April 2025: Foundations for Excellence in Teaching Online

Pick up where you left off

Resume course

Good News Again!

All assignments from Modules 4 to 5 are extended to May 13, 2025, by 11:59 PM (last Africa Time). This includes the quizzes in Modules 4 to 5 and the open response assignments in Modules 4, 5, and 6.

You can ask general questions in the Community Forum throughout the training. It can be accessed in the "Discussion" tab on the upper left of your page.

Done

Expand all

Welcome! Start Here for Important Course Information

Module 0: Start Coursework

Module 1: Online Student Success

Module 2: Foundations for Excellence in Teaching Online

Course Tools

Feedback

Updates

Launch tool

Important dates

Hi May 10, 2025

Course ends

After the course ends, the course content will be archived and no longer active.

View all course dates

Course Handouts

33 MC201

Master Class: April 2025: Foundations for Excellence in Teaching Online

Help

tarikus

Course

Progress

Dates

Discussion

Course Syllabus

Optional Live Learning Sessions

Instructor

My posts

All posts

Topics

Learners

Search all posts

Add a post

obinang

12

Instructor Presence Video Script I have finished this part still it is no...

gulin2

12

Instructor Presence Video Script? How can I publish my video for stu...

gulin2

12

About the deadline How many days are left to finish the course exact...

abdulkhalim13

24

question Can we provide our students with digital literacy experien...

getacheva278

36

How could technology impact student-to-student interaction? The...

devind335

24

Incorporating hands-on clinical training into online courses: What a...

guguan

36

question

getacheva278

14

Can we provide our students with digital literacy experiences that strengthen their peer-to-peer interaction?

Related to: Module 4: Course Design and Content Development / Module 4 Discussion: Course Content Problem-Solution Group Work / Problem-Solution Discussion

Showing 1 response

devind335

14

Yes, we can!

Add a response

Agenda 2063 Aspirations and Goals

1

A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development

Goal 1: High standard of living
Goal 2: Educated and skilled citizens
Goal 3: Healthy and nourished citizens
Goal 4: Transformed economies jobs
Goal 9: Modern agriculture
Goal 6: Blue/ocean economy
Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable development

2

An integrated continent, politically united, based on Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance

Goal 8: United Africa
Goal 9: Key continental financial and monetary institutions
Goal 10: World-class infrastructure

3

An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law

Goal 11: Democratic values and human rights
Goal 12: Capable institution and transformative leadership

4

A peaceful and secure Africa

Goal 13: Peace, security, and stability
Goal 14: Stable and peaceful Africa
Functional African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

5

Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics

Goal 16: African cultural renaissance

6

An Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth

Goal 17: Full gender equality
Goal 18: Engaged and empowered youth and children



Aspiration 1

A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development

Aspiration 2

An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance

Aspiration 3

An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law

Aspiration 4

A peaceful and secure Africa

AGENDA 2063 The Africa We Want



Aspiration 5

An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics

Aspiration 6

An Africa where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth

Aspiration 7

Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner



The Welding Federation (TWF) & Agenda 2063: Strategic Alignment

TWF, as a Pan-African initiative to develop welding and related skills across the continent, plays a critical role in advancing several key aspirations and goals of the **African Union's Agenda 2063**:



1

Aspiration 1: A Prosperous Africa Based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development



- TWF boosts industrial capacity by standardizing welding practices and supports African-led solutions to reduce reliance on imported technical expertise



Aspiration 6: An Africa Whose Development is People-Driven, Especially Relying on the Potential of Women and Youth

- Promotes vocational training and certification pathways for African youth; recognizing local skills enabling mobility of certified welders, support inclusive employment and entrepreneurship

2

Goal 2: Well-educated Citizens and a Skills Revolution Underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation



- TWF partners with TVET institutions to upgrade training, align with international standards, and promote technology transfer
- Creating a skilled workforce needed to implement Agenda 2063 infrastructure and industrial plans

10

Goal 10: World-Class Infrastructure Crisscrosses Africa



- Welding is fundamental to building transport networks.

Challenges

1



1. Digital Divide

Limited access to internet, devices, and digital literacy across rural and marginalized communities.

Disproportionately affects women, youth, and people with disabilities.

2

Bias in Technology Design

Algorithms and platforms may unintentionally reinforce existing social, cultural, or economic biases.

Lack of local data often means solutions aren't contextually appropriate



3



3. Cybersecurity and Misinformation

Technology misuse (e.g., hate speech, fake news) can incite conflict and undermine social cohesion

Weak cybersecurity policies and enforcement increase vulnerability

4

Limited Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

Many countries lack comprehensive digital inclusion policies or enforceable frameworks to ensure equity

Absence of standardization hinders regional integration



CALL TO ACTION



INVEST IN INCLUSIVE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ensure affordable, reliable internet and devices for all, especially in underserved regions.

Expand public digital learning spaces and mobile tech hubs.



PROMOTE INCLUSIVE DESIGN AND LOCAL INNOVATION

Support development of tech solutions by and for diverse African communities.

Encourage ethical AI and culturally-aware platforms.



STRENGTHEN DIGITAL LITERACY AND SKILLS

Integrate digital skills training into formal and informal education.

Target underrepresented groups with programs to build capacity in tech and innovation.



SUPPORT PEACEBUILDING THROUGH TECH

Use digital platforms to promote intercultural dialogue, civic education, and early conflict warning systems.

Align with Agenda 2025 responsibly for peace-driven and inclusive development

Summary

TECHNOLOGY FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Accessibility• Multilingual Platforms• Inclusive Education• Gender Equity in Tech 	TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEBUILDING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Warning Systems• Social Media Monitoring• Digital Dialogue Platforms• E-Justice Platforms 
TECHNOLOGY FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Financial Inclusion• Smart Agriculture• SME Digitalization• Remote Work Infrastructure 	TECHNOLOGY FOR CULTURAL INTEGRATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Museums & Libraries• Afro-centric Content Platforms• Cross-border E-Learning• Tech for Language Preservation 





Reflections and Questions



Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.” Ryunosuke Satoro