

Tianjin Consensus on World Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development: Declaration of Ministers of 32 Countries

1. We, ministers from 32 participating countries, gather in Tianjin, China, in November 2024 to attend the Ministerial Roundtable of the 2024 World Technical and Vocational Education Development Conference to jointly outline a blueprint for developing world technical and vocational education and training (hereinafter referred to as “TVET”).
2. We acknowledge that TVET is vital in promoting inclusive employment and driving sustainable economic development through the adoption of new technologies, methodologies, and codes, thereby strengthening social resilience. To this end, we are committed to moving forward together by deepening international communication and cooperation with an open and inclusive attitude, and jointly advancing the concept, vision, initiatives, and actions for TVET development worldwide, through releasing the *Tianjin Consensus on World Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development* (hereinafter referred to as “Tianjin Consensus”).

Common Concept

3. We recall the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*

Development (2015), the *Vision Statement* from the United Nations Transforming Education Summit (2022), and the United Nations *Pact for the Future* (2024), recognize the significance of the Global Development Initiative (2021) and the outcomes of the 2022 World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference, and reaffirm the essential value of TVET for global sustainable development.

4. We believe that in response to the current trend of technological innovation, industrial upgrading, and labour market changes, all countries should strive to build more interconnected, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable TVET systems and steadily strengthen the exchanges and cooperation in TVET worldwide.

Shared Vision

5. Mastering skills is the foundation of a better life. Skills not only support personal survival and growth but also empower individuals to excel in their careers. We emphasize that skill training provides transformative opportunities for individuals, particularly those who are disadvantaged, to enhance their employability and entrepreneurial ability, to help them overcome poverty and offer strong support for their career development, ultimately enabling them to achieve self-fulfillment.

6. Investing in skills is investing in the future. Skills are the hard currency in the labour market and the key to promoting industrial upgrading, enhancing economic diversification, and strengthening national competitiveness. We stress that a skilled labour force is the driving force behind economic growth, essential for improving production efficiency, promoting industrial upgrading, and accelerating global economic recovery.

7. Skill is the common language that connects all humanity. It is a universally recognized value and ability that transcends region, race, or country. The learning and exchange of skills promote understanding and respect among different cultures and enhance international friendship and cooperation. We emphasize that all countries should not only improve the assessment of their own TVET systems to identify opportunities and challenges, but also work to dismantle barriers, collaborate on developing skill standards, and foster the optimal distribution of global skill resources, injecting new vitality into the creation of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Joint Initiatives

8. We propose that governments, educational institutions and all the other significant sectors of society place high importance on skills development, increase investment, optimize resource allocation, and establish a flexible and diverse TVET system to

ensure that learners acquire the skills needed for survival and growth.

9. We propose that in response to global challenges, governments, international organizations, businesses, and all sectors of society collaborate actively to establish an open, fair, inclusive, and mutually beneficial mechanism and platform for skills development, and address the needs of the disadvantaged. This joint effort will promote the global economy and society towards a path of greater prosperity and sustainable development.

10. We propose cooperation to enhance youth's green and digital skills and to incorporate modules on the rational use of resources into educational standards.

11. We propose collaboration in the implementation of specialized modular programs aimed at developing vocational skills for youth in self-employment and entrepreneurial activity, with the goal of expanding their opportunities to secure a place in the labour market.

Joint Actions

12. Prioritizing skills development. We are committed to improving the modern TVET system, enhancing its adaptability, innovations, green-skill training and other essential skills, and raising the overall quality and employability of workers. This

will lay a solid foundation for enhancing people's well-being and promoting sustainable economic and social development.

13. Promoting dialogue and cooperation. We are dedicated to mutual understanding and learning, communication and sharing, as well as international collaboration, establishing a mechanism for experiences and achievements sharing in cultivating highly skilled talents, collaborating in talent development projects, establishing a mutual recognition mechanism for TVET qualifications and skill levels, and working together to raise TVET standards worldwide.

14. Promoting integration between industry and education. We commit to promoting international and national capacity cooperation through innovation, facilitating the deep integration between industry and education, and continuously enhancing the key competencies in TVET so as to provide robust talent support for economic and social development worldwide.

15. Strengthening teacher training. We firmly believe that improving education requires prioritizing teacher development. To this end, we will establish national standards and a comprehensive training system that effectively supports the continuous improvement of teachers' professional capabilities and enhances orientation and professional training. This will accelerate teachers' ability to adapt to the demands of cultivating

highly skilled talents in the context of industrial transformation and technological change. Furthermore, we will actively pursue international cooperation, share best practices, support regional development, and collaborate to elevate the professional competencies of teachers worldwide.

16. Enhancing quality standards. We are committed to promoting the high-quality development of TVET and continuously improve the quality assessment and monitoring standards system oriented towards labour market demand in each country. We urge all nations to come together, cooperate, and work toward developing quality standards for TVET that are aligned with global sustainable development and universally acknowledged. This will lead to the promotion of high-quality development. At the 2026 World Technical and Vocational Education Development Conference, we will jointly initiate an agreement to achieve substantial equivalence in TVET quality standards worldwide.

17. The Tianjin Consensus represents a historic commitment made by all parties involved. Based on this, we will strengthen cooperation, take more effective follow-up measures, and work together to build a fair, inclusive, and high-quality TVET system, creating a prosperous and sustainable future for all.