



# August 2025 ATUPA International Conference &

*Theme : Empowering Africa through TVET: Driving Sustainable Development, Youth Empowerment, and Economic Integration in the Era of Industry 4.0*

## The 7th Pan African Youth Forum

*Theme: Innovate, Lead, and Thrive:  
Empowering Africa's Youth for Sustainable  
Development and Digital Transformation*



— Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, Durban, South Africa —

AUGUST 25 -29, 2025

### INVITATION TO STUDENTS: THE 7<sup>TH</sup> PAN AFRICAN YOUTH FORUM AS PART OF THE 2025 ATUPA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

This is a clarion call for Africa's youth to showcase their inventions!

The University of South Africa (Unisa) cordially invites Africa's brightest young minds to attend the ATUPA 7<sup>th</sup> Pan African Youth Forum scheduled to take place from **25 to 26 August 2025** at the **Southern Sun Elangeni and Maharani Towers in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal**. There will be a number of activities such as panel discussions led by youth, and keynote addresses delivered by industry leaders and business people. This year's Youth Forum theme, **"Innovate, Lead, and Thrive: Empowering Africa's Youth for Sustainable Development and Digital Transformation,"** will offer a platform for young leaders to discuss and engage in sessions to develop solutions to the continent's challenges. This exclusive event aims to unite young innovators, industry leaders, and policymakers across Africa to discuss skills development, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities for African youth.

One of the key highlights of the Youth Forum is the **Skills pitching competition**, which provides a platform for young innovators to present their sustainable initiatives and entrepreneurial solutions addressing community and industry challenges.

#### Eligibility and submission of innovative concepts for the competition

When making a submission, students are advised to adhere to the following:

- Concept submission deadline: 20 June 2025
- Participants may register either individually or in groups consisting of 2 to 5 members
- Participants must be students currently enrolled in a TVET institution, a technical university, or any other institution of higher learning
- The submission must be a concept proposal document saved in PDF format, with a maximum length of 5 pages
- Supporting materials such as images, videos, and links may be included as external references
- Concepts to be submitted to ATUPA via email to [papers@atupa-sec.org](mailto:papers@atupa-sec.org). A registration fee of \$100 (**R1 900**) is required to process the submission

For more important information regarding the evaluation criteria, and other prerequisites that will make your presentation stand out, [click here](#)

To register for the main conference and Youth Forum, [click here](#)

To view the website, [click here](#)

Selected participants will be assigned an exhibition booth at the youth forum, which will include:

- A poster display summarising the innovation
- A table for prototypes, devices or demo materials
- Space for live demonstrations and audience engagements.

After the judges have made their decision, participants who submitted the top three innovations will be invited to present at the main conference. Finalists will have 10 minutes to showcase their innovation on stage. This will be followed by a brief final question-and-answer session with the audience and judges.

The prizes for the competition winners are as follows:

- **Winner: \$4 000 (R72 000)**
- **First runner-up: \$3 000 (R54 000)**
- **Second runner-up: \$2 000 (R36 000)**

### **Guaranteed confidentiality**

By submitting your innovation concepts to ATUPA, entrants retain full ownership and intellectual property rights over their submissions. ATUPA shall only use the submitted concepts for the purposes of the innovation exhibition and potential sponsorship or mentorship opportunities. All submissions will be handled with strict confidentiality, and ATUPA commits to respecting privacy, intellectual property ethics, and all applicable legal protections.