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A central graphic consisting of a dark red circle containing a dotted map of the African continent. This circle is surrounded by a glowing blue network of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a digital or industrial network, set against a dark blue background with light streaks.

AISMA

Alliance for I4.0 and Smart
Manufacturing in Africa

UNLOCKING THE FUTURE FOR INDUSTRY 4.0 AND SMART MANUFACTURING IN AFRICA
FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



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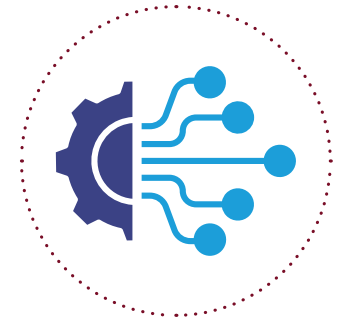
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Industry 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing in Africa

The potential of Industry 4.0 in the African continent is crucial for advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development and paving the path for greater integration. Such progress can only be achieved through adopting new and smart production models built on emerging frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, big data, 3D printing or blockchain, to name a few. However, Africa has been left behind during the past industrial revolutions, despite its affluent population and natural resources. Now is the time to change that.

Industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing offer significant opportunities and challenges to manufacturing companies in the African continent. But failure to harness these opportunities and overcome the

challenges will undoubtedly impose considerable risks on the socio-economic development of African countries, especially for youth at risk of unemployment. Hence, without efforts to coordinate, develop and improve the existing policies, institutional and legal frameworks, physical/digital infrastructure, innovation models, education/vocational training programmes and funding schemes on the continent, African manufacturing companies risk falling further behind, exacerbating the global “digital divide” and lowering Africa’s global competitiveness.



In this context, the adoption of the “**Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030)**” by the African Union, which aims to harness digital technologies and innovation to transform African societies and economies, represents a critical milestone and stresses the strong commitment of African countries to strengthen their capabilities in this strategic field.

Who We Are

The Alliance for I4.0 and Smart Manufacturing in Africa (AISMA) is a cooperative network of experts in the field of industry 4.0, working together as a think tank and hub for connecting the different stakeholders, generating initiative and approaches and implementing them with the aim of unlocking the potential of industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing in Africa.

AISMA was launched in November 2023 by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with the support of several experts on a voluntary basis. The Alliance aims to expand progressively to include all relevant stakeholders from the African continent, taking into consideration the different progress stages, needs and priorities on the continental, regional and national levels.

UNIDO, in coordination and with guidance from the African Union Commission, will facilitate regular meetings between the core experts, while gradually expanding the Alliance to include additional members from the technology, academia, policy making, financial, private and public domains.



Mission and Goal

AISMA aims at unlocking the potential of smart manufacturing in Africa by raising awareness on Industry 4.0, fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders within the Industry 4.0 ecosystem and facilitating the adoption of frontier technologies in manufacturing companies across the continent. AISMA ultimately aims to promote Africa's integration, generate inclusive and sustainable development, stimulate job creation, empower people and break the digital divide, in accordance with the UN Secretary-General's call to establish a Global Digital Compact that upholds shared principles for an open, free, and secure digital future for all. The Alliance will contribute to the implementation of the "Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030)" by supporting the implementation of a number of recommendations and actions directed at creating a thriving industry 4.0 ecosystem.

Through this pioneering initiative, UNIDO is committed to further developing cooperation and strong partnerships at regional and global levels for pursuing the digitalization agenda of the African Union in the AfCFTA context, and more generally promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the continent.

Activities

AISMA is expected to provide a platform for information sharing, consultations, knowledge creation and innovative proposals on industry 4.0 related themes, while offering a number of tools and functions to its members. The Alliance will focus on the thematic areas depicted in the graph to the right.

The developed tools and concepts will be piloted in selected countries in the African continent for demonstration purposes. The initiative will then be promoted and shared with different stakeholders, in order to upscale and duplicate the successes achieved on a wider range in different countries.



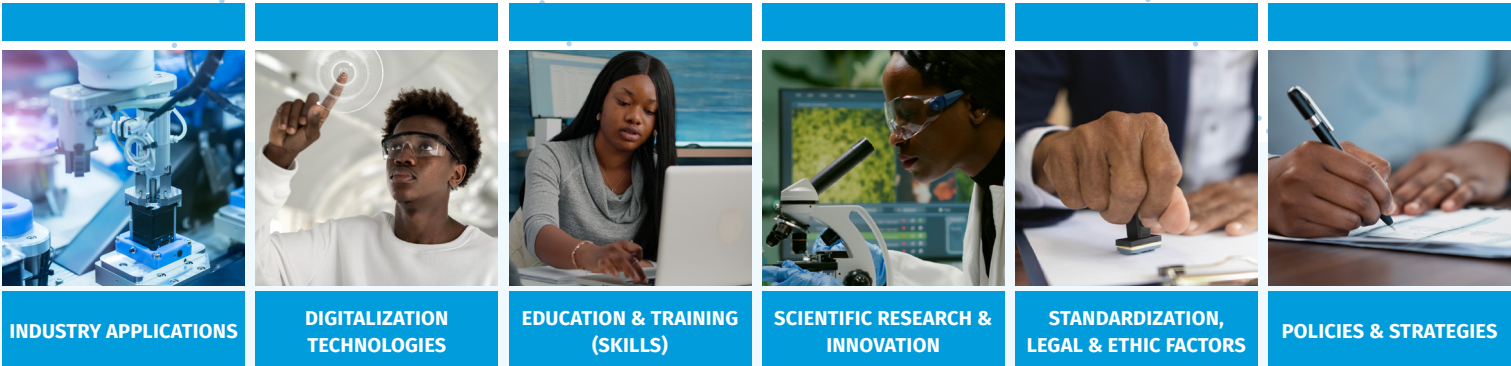
Sustainable Development (Economic, Environment & Social)



Communication, Event



Partnerships & Cooperation





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