

A cross-industry National summit spotlighting how AI, Cybersecurity, Data Science, are reshaping SA's digital economy from policy to practice, inclusion to innovation



25 OCTOBER, 2025

JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA

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FETSI IMPACT HUB

FETSI DIGITAL FUTURES

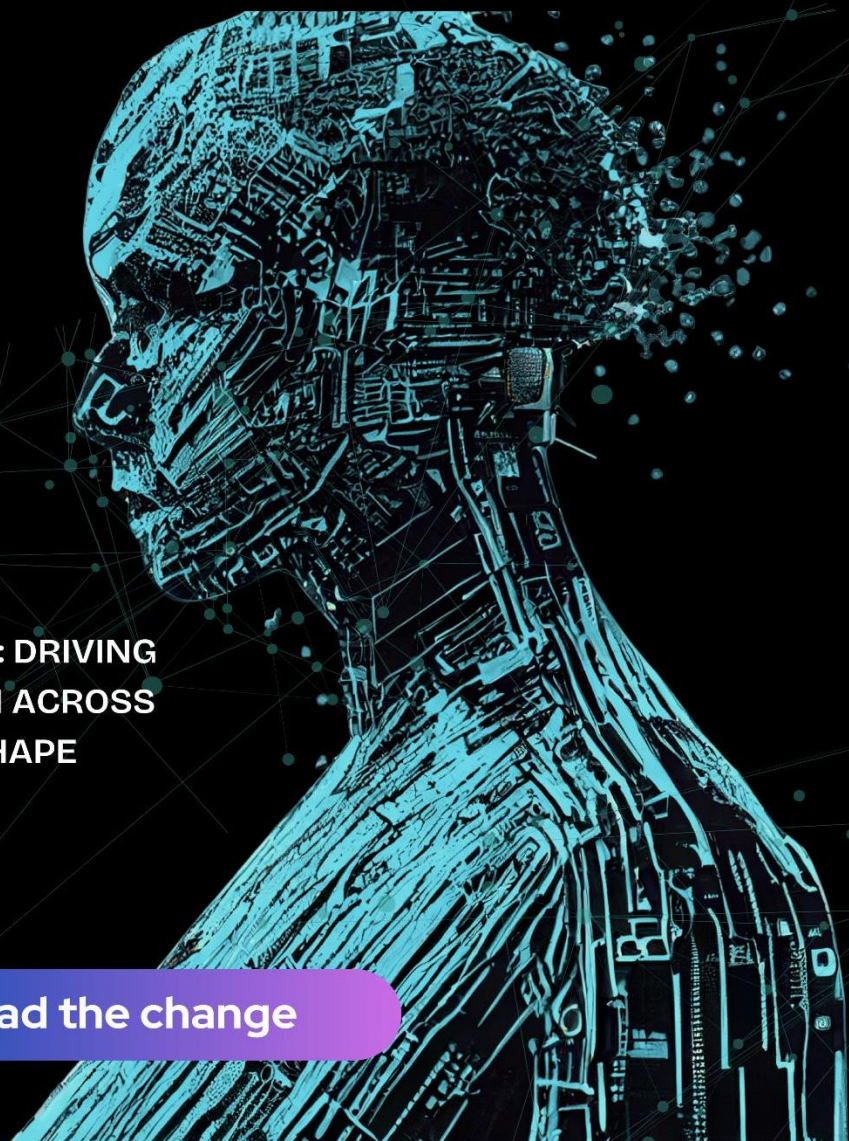
Summit

HOSTED BY: FETSI IMPACT HUB

25 October 2025 | Johannesburg

POWERING AFRICA'S DIGITAL FUTURE: DRIVING INCLUSION, EQUITY, AND INNOVATION ACROSS ALL INDUSTRIES. JOIN US AND HELP SHAPE AFRICA'S DIGITAL FUTURE!

Lead the change



Partnerships & Exhibitions : Summit@fetsiHub.co.za fetsidatatechnologies.co.za/summit/

*Tentative programme: themes, speakers, dates, and times may be changed.



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About Fetsi Digital Futures Summit:

FETSI Digital Futures Summit is a national platform that brings together Global leaders, Industry innovators, and changemakers from across Africa to exchange ideas, showcase transformative solutions, and drive action on the continent's most pressing digital and economic challenges.

This milestone gathering, taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa, aims to amplify African voices, foster cross-industry collaboration, and accelerate progress toward a digitally inclusive and economically equitable future with youth empowerment and disability inclusion at the heart of the agenda.

Under the theme "Powering Africa's Digital Future: Driving Inclusion, Equity, and Innovation Across All Industries", the summit will convene C-suite executives, policymakers, youth innovators, and global partners to explore how emerging technologies such as AI, data science, cybersecurity, and advanced analytics can unlock new opportunities, break down barriers, and close critical development gaps.

The FETSI Digital Futures Summit will focus on five priority themes aligned with South Africa's digital transformation agenda, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals reinforcing Africa's commitment to inclusive growth, future-ready skills, and technology-driven economic equity. The agenda has been developed through extensive consultation with experts across technology, policy, and education. The focus of the summit is to accelerate Africa's digital transformation while ensuring inclusion, equity, and economic empowerment remain at the core.

In 2025, the summit will feature 5 key focus tracks designed to address the continent's most pressing priorities:

1. AI, Data, Cybersecurity for Operational Transformation
2. Inclusive Economic & Innovation Growth Through Technology
3. Digital Inclusion & Accessibility in Corporate Strategy
4. Cross-Industry Tech Disruption & Smart Infrastructure
5. Youth, Leadership, Ethical Innovation & the Future Workforce

In addition to these tracks, there will be pre-summit focus days Via webinars will spotlight:

1. Future of Skills & Digital Equity
2. Tech for Disability Inclusion

Join over 70+ visionary speakers & 2,000 in-person participants at South Africa's most impactful tech inclusion summit

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DAY 1 –Saturday, 25 October 2025

Setting the Scene

06:00-08:00	<p>Registration (Get your Badge) & Networking</p> <p>Exhibition Hall opens – live demos, partner showcases, and networking</p>
08:00-09:00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Welcome Address: Summit Host & Partners</p> <p>Keynote Address by the Minister</p> <p>The Opening Ceremony will feature keynote speeches by the Minister to set the tone for the Summit addressing Africa's Digital Future – Inclusion as a National Imperative & retaining talent in ICT to ensure the sector's future sustainability and resilience.</p> <p>Speaker: HONOURABLE MINISTER</p>
09:00-09:28	<p>CEO Keynote Address:</p> <p>Powering Africa's Digital Future: Insurance, AI, and Skills Development for Inclusive Growth</p> <p>The Future of Insurance in the Digital Economy – AI, data, and automation reshaping risk, products, and customer experiences.</p> <p>Skills for the Future Workforce – The role of SETAs in building digital and future-fit skills for youth, professionals, and industry stakeholders. Driving Inclusion & Policy Influence – Bridging equity and accessibility gaps in the insurance sector and aligning with national skills development policies.</p> <p>Speaker: SETA CEO</p>
09:30-10:00	<p>Session 1:</p> <p>Digital Inclusion & Accessibility in Corporate Strategy</p> <p>Digital transformation has often prioritised efficiency and profitability while overlooking accessibility, leaving millions excluded from opportunity. This session will unpack structural challenges, including the absence of accessibility in corporate governance, uneven adoption of international design standards, and the lack of executive accountability for inclusivity. It will also address how exclusion undermines competitiveness by sidelining diverse markets and talent pools.</p> <p>The second segment will spotlight strategies to reposition accessibility as a strategic advantage. Corporate leaders will share how inclusive governance, workplace adaptations, and accessible technologies can drive both profitability and social impact. Participants will examine case studies of companies embedding accessibility into digital roadmaps, frameworks for scaling inclusive design training, and policies that elevate accessibility from compliance to core strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding accessibility into digital transformation roadmaps. • universal design, and ESG compliance. • Accessibility as both a moral imperative and business advantage. • Policy alignment, investment, and cross-industry growth.

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09:30-10:00

Rebatho Madiba – Executive Director, Maribe Pty Ltd, Cheryl Jacob : Chief of Growth and Impact-Reasonate. Dr Sylvia Sathekge :Chief Information Officer-NHLS, Dr. Makaziwe Makamba, Digital Transformation Director-NSG , Kgaogelo Sebola Managing Director, CIO Monk(Moderator)

10:00-11:10

Session 2

Cross-Industry Disruption & Smart Infrastructure: Transforming SA's Sectors

Emerging technologies are reshaping industries across Africa, yet their adoption remains fragmented and uneven. This session will examine systemic barriers including outdated infrastructure, limited digital skills pipelines, regulatory bottlenecks, and the risk of automation displacing vulnerable workers. These challenges limit Africa's ability to harness disruptive technologies to strengthen resilience, competitiveness, and sustainability across all sectors

The panel will focus on solutions that drive inclusive disruption. Leaders will showcase how AI, data, cyber, IoT, and automation are being successfully applied in key industries, while discussing policies that protect workers and communities during transitions. The session will highlight cross-sector partnerships that create integrated smart ecosystems and training pathways for future jobs. By positioning Africa as a leader in tech-enabled infrastructure, this panel will show how disruption can advance equity and sustainability.

How AI, Data, and Cybersecurity are disrupting and reshaping traditional sectors — from mining, Transport agriculture, energy, and transport to construction, healthcare, and finance — while creating new opportunities in Africa's evolving digital economy.

- Strategies for Driving Bold Digital Transformation in Africa
- AI in Healthcare: Transforming diagnostics, patient management, and access to care.
- AI In Finance:
- AI in Telecoms
- AI in Agriculture: Precision farming, crop monitoring, and ensuring food security.
- AI in Energy: Smart grids, predictive maintenance, and renewable energy optimisation.
- AI in Transport & Logistics: Autonomous systems, supply chain efficiency, and mobility solutions.
- Cross-sector Disruption: How AI, data, and cybersecurity are reshaping traditional and emerging sectors to drive efficiency, sustainability, and new business models.

SPEAKERS:

Lindelani Matumba – Principal Enterprise Architect, Exxaro Resources, Dr Murendeni Liphadzi – Director, Built Environment Innovative Network, Mahlatse Mamaila :CEO, INO-Biodiesel, Vebashini Naidoo: Chief Data Scientist-SARS, Jabulani Khumalo, Chief Information Officer(CIO)-Bidvest Prestig, Vukosi Sambo: Group Chief Information Officer (GCIO)- STM Healthcare Investments, PHA & Marara Group ,Tshepo Mokgotso Data and Cloud Transformation Lead-Sasol.

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11:00-11:20	Networking Coffee Break
11:30-12:00	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Cybersecurity for Africa's Digital Decade: Trust, Talent, and Ethical Leadership</p> <p>This discussion will explore how cyber resilience, cloud adoption, and ethical leadership are shaping Africa's digital transformation. From protecting Organizational Digital Assets and future workforces, to building trusted cloud ecosystems, to embedding inclusion and equity in cybersecurity strategies this panel unites technical, strategic, and human-centered perspectives.</p> <p>Key talking points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber resilience as a foundation for knowledge economies and youth empowerment. • Building trust in Africa's cloud-first future through robust security frameworks. • Cybersecurity & AI for Risk Management • The role of ethical leadership in safeguarding vulnerable communities and driving inclusive growth. • Developing the next generation of cybersecurity talent to secure Africa's digital decade and retaining it. <p>Speakers: Zakiyya Cassimjee: Head of Cyber, Risk and Governance -Mpact. Sara Banda: Information Security Officer -SafetySA. Ga leboe Mogotsi: Vice President- Cloud Security Alliance South Africa (CISO) Wendy Ngongo: Cybersecurity Architect & Ethical Hacker-Code200. Kenneth Matau: Technology Head-La Kenza Cybersecurity. Doctor Ngobeni: Information Security Officer-Standard Bank Group.</p>
12:00-12:30	<p>Session 4</p> <p>Digitally Bound: Law, Rights, and Justice in the Age of Transformation</p> <p>Digital transformation is reshaping legal systems and redefining the boundaries of rights, justice, and accountability. As AI, data-driven platforms, and digital technologies become more embedded in everyday life, legal professionals are encountering a new wave of complex cases from data privacy breaches and algorithmic discrimination to cybercrime and digital labour disputes.</p> <p>This session will explore the legal implications of digital transformation on human rights, constitutional protections, and access to justice. It will highlight real-world legal cases emerging across sectors, unpack how existing laws are being tested or reinterpreted, and identify critical gaps in current legal frameworks. Key discussion points will include evolving jurisprudence on digital harms, regulatory responses to AI and platform governance, and strategies to build a more inclusive legal system that safeguards vulnerable populations in a tech-driven society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing regulation with innovation, • Case studies of legal disputes arising from digital assets • Protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring data justice in Africa. • Regulating Digital Economies with Equity <p>Speakers: Leah Houston: Legal Queries Exec, WTax, Maboi Mashabela: Senior Legal Advisor- Standard Bank, Junior Moremi :Attorney-TWB and Partners, Terrence Rapetswa:Director& Attorney-MT Rapetswa INC , Mpho Chitapi -Head: Legal Group Technology-Netbank Limited</p>

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12:30-13:00

Session 5

Collaborating for Skills & Digital Equity – Building a future ready Digital Workforce for Africa

Africa faces a pressing digital skills crisis: by 2030, over 230 million jobs will require digital skills, yet access to training remains uneven & inaccessible for youth, women, rural communities, and people with disabilities. Without urgent intervention, these divides risk entrenching inequality and excluding millions from the digital economy.

This session will unpack the systemic challenges in workforce readiness, including weak corporate academic partnerships, limited access to digital education, and persistent gender and geographic divides. Leaders will also explore how regional and global collaboration between industry, academia, government, and development partners can align strategies, pool resources, and create common frameworks for workforce resilience.

Through case studies and dialogue, participants will highlight scalable corporate academic partnerships, inclusive training pipelines, and long-term coordination mechanisms that prepare Africa's workforce for the demands of AI, data science, cloud, and cybersecurity. Case studies will demonstrate how organisations are aligning workforce development with national and continental agendas.

The emphasis will be on equity and collaboration: ensuring women, youth, career switchers, and underrepresented groups are not left behind, while strengthening Africa's position in shaping a global digital workforce.

Focus:

- Closing digital divides through skills acceleration.
- Embed AI, Data Science, Cybersecurity, and adaptive EdTech into national education frameworks and higher education curricula to reduce dropout rates, align skills to jobs, and create lifelong learning pathways. University industry partnerships for future-ready curricula and apprenticeships,
- Cross-sector strategies for workforce in emerging technologies.
- Break barriers by **digitizing access to training and certification**, especially for rural and underserved youth.
- Retain young professionals through **career mobility, mentorship, and industry-academia partnerships** that ensure relevance and growth.
- Building talent pipelines via regional and cross-sector partnerships.
- Are universities producing graduates with the right competencies for AI-driven economies?
- Safeguard research originality and academic standards by addressing risks of AI-generated content, ensuring ethical use of AI tools, and upholding integrity across institutions and journals.

Celemusa Thusi: Board Director, Royal Science & Technology Park (Eswatini), Vinoliah Martin – CTO, PwC South Africa Technology & Innovation Centre (SATIC). Prof Osden Jokonya: Professor- University of the Western Cape,

Amazement Nemaungane: Managing Director, Unfolding Capacity, John Reign: CEO, MeWork, Jacqueline Nkadameng: CCO-Indalo Robotics , Boipelo Soko: Recruitment Manager -Baker McKenzie South Africa,

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<p>13:01-13:30</p>	<p>Session 6</p> <p>Leadership, Ethics, and the Future Workforce</p> <p>The acceleration of AI and digital technologies has created an urgent need for ethical leadership that balances profit with people and planet. This session will explore the challenges of weak governance structures, ethical blind spots in algorithmic decision-making, and limited youth and mid-career representation in digital leadership. Without responsible leadership, Africa risks widening inequalities, eroding public trust, and missing opportunities to shape ethical standards globally. The second segment will highlight solutions to embed ethics into strategy. Executives and policymakers will discuss governance frameworks, intergenerational councils, and shared standards that prioritise privacy, equity, and accountability. The session will also explore leadership development pathways for youth and career-switchers, ensuring ethical competencies are core to Africa's future workforce. Real-world examples will demonstrate how ethical leadership can drive innovation, competitiveness, and trust in Africa's digital economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance frameworks for emerging technologies. • Ethical risks: AI bias, cybersecurity, privacy, responsible innovation. • Executive Leadership in balancing innovation with accountability • Future of work, AI ethics, and how leadership will guide organizational change through human-technology integration • Biological vs non-biological <i>workforce: how AI impacts new job entrants and workforce design</i> • Culture & Security in a Connected Africa <p>Gerhard du Plooy: Executive Consultant, Enterprise Architect, <i>Knotion Consulting</i>, Noluthando Mbangeleli : Academic Lecture at University of Johannesburg Business School and Vice Chairperson, Association for Skills Development in SA Gauteng Region.</p> <p>Hylton Gudmanz: Director, <i>Focused People</i>,</p> <p>Dr. Khensani Xivuri: AI Lab Research Lead, <i>Vodacom</i></p> <p>Naomi Molefe: Talent Acquisition Lead: Group Compliance-Standard Bank Group,</p>
<p>13:30-14:14</p>	<p>Lunch & Exhibition Walkabout</p> <p>Interactive demos: AI tools, assistive tech, smart infrastructure, and partner booths.</p>

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14:15-14:45

Session 7

Breaking Barriers: Tech for Disability Inclusion in Africa's Digital Future

As South Africa accelerates its digital transformation journey, are we leaving people with disabilities behind?

This powerful session unpacks the invisible digital barriers faced by people living with disabilities from inaccessible platforms, lack of corporate adoption of assistive technologies, limited policy enforcement, the underrepresentation of disability voices in innovation strategies and unrepresentative AI models to the lack of inclusive design in tech ecosystems. It will also highlight the economic and social costs of failing to build inclusive systems, including lost productivity, stunted innovation, and deepened inequality. The second segment will showcase actionable solutions that reimagine accessibility as a driver of growth. Leaders will explore inclusive design standards, assistive tech innovations, and inclusive hiring practices that enable diverse talent to thrive. The discussion will also emphasise entrepreneurship pathways, financing models for accessible innovation, and cross-industry strategies to ensure disability inclusion is embedded in Africa's digital transformation roadmap.

Speakers will explore:

- The state of digital accessibility in Africa
- Position Accessibility as both a moral imperative and business advantage.
- Policy gaps and practical roadblocks
- Success stories and scalable solutions
- The role of AI across industries, and innovation in enabling inclusive digital futures
- Embedding access and disability inclusion into ESG and corporate strategy.

Tyron Harding: Data analyst & Inclusion Activist - *The Pivot point*, Emily Mabasa: Author, Founder & Inclusion Activist - *Phoenix Alexandra*, Lubabalo Mbeki- Disability Inclusion Specialist - *Access Human Solutions*, Mosa Kaupe- Network Engineer & Inclusion Activist- *Vodacom (Lesotho)*, Dr Babalawo Tyabashe- *Phume- Disability Rights Advocate & Lecture (UJ)*

14:45-15:15

Session 8

Economic Equity Through Innovation

Despite Africa's growth potential, economic inequalities and systemic barriers continue to hinder broad participation in the digital economy. This session will address persistent challenges such as wage disparities, barriers to entrepreneurship, limited access to capital, and the exclusion of youth and women from high-growth industries. These inequities slow innovation and weaken the continent's ability to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. Africa's economic future will be defined by how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies are adopted and made accessible to all.

The second segment will showcase how innovation can unlock economic equity. Speakers will highlight inclusive entrepreneurship models, innovation ecosystems that empower youth and women, and policies that drive equitable access to emerging industries such as green tech, AI, and digital services.

Understanding the Barriers:

- Wage disparities and limited access to capital.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender gaps in STEM and entrepreneurship access. • Exclusion of rural communities and people with disabilities from high-growth digital sectors. • Unlocking Innovation for Equity • Inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystems — incubators, accelerators, and mentorship models for youth and women. • Policies that enable equitable access to AI and digital services across various sectors. • Creative financing mechanisms (impact investments). • Public-private partnerships that scale access to markets and capital. • Regional collaboration for innovation-led economic inclusion. • Building innovation ecosystems that reflect Africa's diversity. • Developing inclusive capital pathways for underrepresented entrepreneurs. • Aligning corporate and government strategies with Agenda 2063 and the G20's economic equity priorities. <p>Thenzie Stewart – Women in IT Chapter Chair, - IITP SA, Dr Hamilton Mphidi: Director: Technology Transfer Office- University of Johannesburg, Boitumelo Makgabo: Competition Economist and Founder- Acumen Business Consulting, Khensani Nyambi: Group Executive: Enterprise Solutions -African Entrepreneurship Development Corporation, Danie Schoeman: Managing Director-Danie Schoeman &Company (Pty)Ltd, Siphosethu Sehlabaka: Industry Community Strategist, Africa Government & Infrastructure-EY.</p>
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<p>15:16-15:45</p>	<p>Session 9</p> <p>AI, Data & Cybersecurity for Operational Transformation</p> <p>While AI, data, and cybersecurity hold transformative potential, their adoption in Africa faces structural gaps that threaten resilience and inclusivity. This session will highlight challenges such as the lack of robust cybersecurity frameworks, uneven data governance, limited cross-sector collaboration, and ethical risks including algorithmic bias and data privacy breaches. These barriers risk undermining public trust, reinforcing inequities, and slowing innovation. The speakers present pathways for secure, inclusive transformation. Leaders will explore scalable frameworks for ethical AI adoption, public-private partnerships for cybersecurity, and data strategies that align with Africa's socio-economic realities. Practical case studies will show how AI and analytics can enhance efficiency while safeguarding privacy. Policy recommendations will address digital trust, citizen protection, and cross-sector partnerships that accelerate Africa's operational resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI& Data as a growth driver (economic equity + inclusion). • AI&Data as a governance challenge (security, trust, ethics). • Skills & Workforce Readiness • Strategies for inclusive digital transformation and future-fit policies • Building a resilient digital economy driven by African innovation <p>Sasha Beharilal: Director: Group Data Privacy and Protection, NTT DATA Inc , Lubabalo Dyantyi: Co-Founder- Deviare ,Tumelo Zwane: Chief Information Officer(CIO)-Special Investigating Unit , Greg Morley: Chief Data Evangelist -Nekst, Rodney Koch:-ICT Board Chairman-Rhodes University</p>
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<p>15:46:16:16</p>	<p>Session 10</p> <p>Reimagining Insurance: How Data and AI are Redefining Risk, Relevance, and Relationships</p> <p>The insurance sector is undergoing a fundamental transformation as data and AI reshape every aspect of the value chain. This session will examine how insurers are leveraging advanced analytics, machine learning, and digital platforms to generate smarter risk insights, accelerate product innovation, and personalize services. It will highlight case studies of inclusive product design, AI-driven claims management, and predictive modeling that enhance customer trust and relevance in the African market. Emphasis will be placed on balancing innovation with ethical considerations, ensuring regulatory alignment, and creating solutions that expand access while deepening resilience across the industry.</p> <p>Speakers: Helena Viljoen: Head: Data Analytics -Guardrisk Life, Faith Sithole: Senior Manager: Data Regulatory Reporting -NEDBANK, Brenton Pillay Team Lead: Senior Data Science -Telesure Investment Holdings. Matshidiso Tau: Senior Data Scientist Lead -FNB</p>
	<p>No Break- Sessions continue. Coffee available in the plenary room</p>

Saturday, 25 October 2025

Addressing Barriers and Highlighting Solutions

<p>16:17-17:15</p>	<p>Session 11</p> <p>Wrap-Up – From Dialogue to Action: Roundtable Reflections and Next Steps</p> <p>This final session will gather moderators and rapporteurs from each panel for a collective roundtable to reflect on key insights, recurring themes, and shared priorities. Rather than ending with dialogue alone it will focus on consolidation of actions identified throughout the Summit into a unified Call to Action, a set of concrete proposals and policy recommendations, and partnership pledges that will guide Africa's digital future. This Call to Action will highlight: Policy Recommendations: Africa-focused strategies to accelerate AI, data, cybersecurity, and digital inclusion. Corporate & Government Commitments: Concrete pledges from C-suites and policymakers to integrate Economic equity, accessibility, and innovation into strategy. Youth & Disability Inclusion Outcomes: Specific commitments to skills development, job readiness, and accessible tech adoption. The outcomes of this session will be compiled into the FETSI Digital Futures Summit 2025 Outcome Report, which will be shared with government partners, industry stakeholders, and global networks to influence national strategies and global discussions on digital inclusion, innovation, and equity launching a shared Africa-focused roadmap for inclusive digital transformation.</p>
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Transforming Insights into Action: Advancing the National ICT Talent Agenda

Breaking Barriers to Emerging Digital Careers – Funding, Inclusion, and Accessible Solutions

AI, Data Science, and Cybersecurity are among the fastest-growing career fields worldwide, yet entry barriers remain high from costly education and certifications to limited awareness, lack of role models, and unequal access to training opportunities. For Africa, these barriers disproportionately affect youth, women, people with disabilities, and career-switchers looking to enter the digital economy. This session targets emerging professionals who intend to transition into digital careers. Panelists will share their stories to provide real, relatable roadmaps for delegates, showing how to navigate cross-industry shifts, fund training, and build networks to enter high-demand digital roles.

The discussion will be structured into two parts:

1. Understanding the Barriers – systemic challenges such as training affordability, lack of mentorship, and geographic gaps in access to opportunities.
2. Unlocking Pathways – practical solutions including innovative scholarships, inclusive training programs, and corporate-academic partnerships that expand access to AI, data, and cybersecurity careers
3. Driving equitable growth and multilateral cooperation positioning youth in policymaking and global governance.
4. Entrepreneurship opportunities for young people

Someleze Diko: Cloud Advocate - Microsoft,

Conrad Ndlovu: Pre-Incubation Consultant - Deviare,

Jabulani Sarila : Executive Director - eTihuku Pty Ltd,

Thabang Mkhuma: Technical Advisor: 4IR - MICT SETA

Qawekazi Luke: Programmes and Initiatives - UN Global Compact Network South Africa

Networking Cocktails

End of the summit - Departure of Delegates

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