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# Opening & Welcoming Remarks:
# Setting the Global Stage

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the International Forum on Skills Intelligence (IFSI). We extend our sincere thanks to all speakers and participants for your presence today—and, more importantly, for your willingness to generously share your expertise, practices, and insights. Your contributions are the foundation of this event.

IFSI emerged from a shared recognition: the need for a dedicated space—now more than ever—where cutting-edge practices, policies, and partnerships in *skills intelligence* can come together. Not only in theory, but in action. Not just at the systems level, but also within institutions whose missions and strategies are increasingly aligned with a **skills-first agenda**. The purpose of IFSI is threefold:

1. **To establish a global platform** for advancing the emerging, interdisciplinary, and multi-actor field of skills intelligence in post-secondary and higher education. As the field evolves—methodologically, technologically, and operationally—it demands a space for co-creation, reflection, cross-pollination, and community-building.

2. **To address long-standing challenges**: fragmentation, siloed initiatives, and structural barriers that hinder the integration of skills intelligence into education and training systems. The tools and data exist, but they remain underutilized, disconnected, or misunderstood. We aim to change that.

3. **To seed a sustainable network** that extends beyond today's forum. We envision a global community of practice that maintains momentum, facilitates ongoing knowledge exchange, and supports the next generation of applied skills intelligence initiatives.

This conversation is urgent. We are living through a moment of profound uncertainty and transformation—shaped by macroeconomic volatility, geopolitical instability, the rise of AI, and a redefinition of higher education's role in society. These forces are driving the need for more agile, evidence-based, and future-ready education and training systems. At the same time, the global micro-credential movement is gaining traction, reinforcing the importance of **lifelong learning for employability**—not as a distant goal, but as a present imperative.

Yet despite growing interest and innovation, the skills intelligence landscape remains fragmented. Actors from universities, training providers, employers, public agencies, social partners, and civil society are often working in isolation, speaking different "languages," and missing opportunities for alignment and collaboration. This limits our collective capacity to support learners and workers through the uncertain decade ahead.

**What we need is an ecosystemic response.**

IFSI invites you to think beyond your institution or sector. To share openly. To engage critically. And above all, to work together in addressing the structural challenges that continue to hinder progress toward a genuinely skills-first education and training ecosystem.

Video