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Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

If African countries don't take decisive steps to change this reality, the digital revolution will become a new divide. In fact, it has already increased inequalities.

For example, while half of the world turned into new technologies to overcome the challenge of school closures, in Africa, 32 million children dropped school in Eastern and Southern Africa during 2021 due to school closures.

This means that 40 per cent of all school-aged children in the two sub-regions were out of school. Can you imagine the devastating impact of this reality on Africa's human capital ?

This growing divide is not just separating countries. It is creating more and more inequalities within countries, with stark differences in access along socioeconomic

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