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President William Ruto
Samoei,
President of Kenya,
Nairobi,
Kenya.

09 January 2024

Dear Your Excellency President William Ruto Samuei,

African workers appreciate the Kenyan government's commitment to Africa's integration and call for more inclusive actions.

On behalf of the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa www.ituc-africa.org), we extend our heartfelt commendation for your recent announcement and subsequent implementation of the abolition of visa requirements for all visitors to Kenya, effective January 2024.

Your decisive action in making Kenya a visa-free country signifies a monumental step towards fostering Pan-Africanism and facilitating free movement across borders. By eliminating visa requirements for visitors regardless of their global origins, your government has demonstrated a commitment to unity, integration and progress within the African continent.

This bold decision aligns harmoniously with the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) vision, accentuating the importance of allowing the free movement of goods and people. We firmly believe that such an initiative will enhance economic growth and enable African citizens to harness the AfCFTA's benefits fully.

Moreover, we request your government to consider ratifying the Africa Union Free Movement of People protocol (AU-FMP). Embracing this protocol will further solidify the efforts towards fostering intercontinental unity and collaboration, enabling the African populace to experience enhanced opportunities for growth and development.

Furthermore, Kenya is among the 14 African champions of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM). Therefore, ratifying the AU-FMP is a fitting and marked commitment towards championing pro-rights migration governance.

Mr President, our organisation - ITUC-Africa, will continue to encourage and canvass other African nations to emulate the examples of some African countries, notably Benin Republic, Rwanda, Mauritius, Seychelles and Kenya, that have taken this laudable initiative to improve visa openness. By uniting in similar endeavours, Africa will undoubtedly witness a more integrated and prosperous future, benefiting the workforce and the entire African citizenry.

We express our unwavering support and enthusiasm for your vision of a more united Africa and extend our commitment to collaborate and support initiatives that promote unity, integration, and progress for the continent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Akhator Joel Odigie', written in a cursive style.

Akhator Joel Odigie
GENERAL SECRETARY