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Attention:

**Presidents and Secretaries
general of all ITUC-Africa
affiliate organisations**

Lomé, 07 April 2021

Dear Comrade Secretary General,

**WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION 2021 (28th April, 2021) under the
theme “Save Lives At Work”**

I convey to you the warm courtesies of the ITUC-Africa and wish to refer to the subject matter, please.

International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD) or International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured, brings together workers and their representatives from all over the world to remember the dead, workers injured, made unwell or disabled by their work. Workers' Memorial Day also marks the fight for the living and is an opportunity to highlight the preventable nature of most workplace incidents and ill health and to promote campaigns and union organization in the fight for improvements in workplace safety.

IWMD takes place annually around the world on April 28.

For the ITUC and ITUC-Africa, the theme for this year's commemoration is '**Save Lives At Work**'.

This comes in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with daunting evidence of its impacts on workers and the world of work. Largely, COVID-19 has exposed **the prevalence of grossly inadequate** protection for workers at the workplace and made visible the threats associated with an unsafe workplace.

Besides, the 2019 ILO Centenary Declaration, adopted unanimously by governments, employers and unions, includes a pledge that all workers will have their safety and health protected at work. The ILO Constitution includes a similar promise, and the World Health Organization already defines health as a fundamental human right.

The trade union movement is now making a global push to lift the status of occupational health and safety to the highest level at the ILO. Unions are campaigning for the ILO to adopt occupational health and safety as a fundamental right at work. As a fundamental ILO right, it will mean a greater level of accountability for governments and stronger obligations on them to ensure employer compliance.

ITUC-AFRICA is, therefore, inviting its affiliates to make visible this campaign at National level as we commemorate IWMD on the 28th of April.

Under the overarching theme of **'Save Lives At Work'**, we encourage affiliates to actively mobilize and carry out various actions to drive home the central theme of 'Save Lives At the Workplace' at National level. These may include:

- Rallies
- Photo Ops
- Webinars
- Press Releases and Statements
- TV Appearances
- Dialogue between Employees and Employers
- Etc...

These activities should focus on drawing visibility to the following key demands:

- Occupational Health and Safety as A Fundamental Right At Work
- COVID-19 as a Workplace Disease
- Compensation for affected COVID-19 victims at the Workplace
- Adequate and Quality PPEs for Workers at the Workplace
- COVID-19 Safety Protocols Reinforced at all Workplaces

Lastly, noting that several workers have lost their lives during this pandemic, we encourage affiliates to observe and honor the memory of departed souls in addition to the different actions to be executed.

These may be in the form of:

- Candle Light Possession
- One Minute Silence At the Place of Work
- A Mass or Service in Memory of Departed Souls
- Tributes through poems and hymns and songs in memory of departed souls

We appeal to affiliates to share updates of activities organised at National level with us for further dissemination at Regional level.

Media involvement in all activities is also largely recommended.

All communication on IWMD 2021 should be directed to:

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We look forward to an active commemoration of International Workers Memorial Day 2021!

In Solidarity,



Kwasi Adu-Amankwah
General Secretary