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## AFRICAN WORKERS' CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST THROUGH DIALOGUE, DIPLOMACY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa, [www.ituc-africa.org](http://www.ituc-africa.org)), representing over 18 million workers across 52 African countries, expresses its unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine in the face of the ongoing humanitarian crisis and devastating war.

We align ourselves with the spirit of international trade union solidarity reflected in recent global actions and appeals, including the call to action demonstrated through initiatives such as the Global Sumud Flotilla, which underscores the urgency of humanitarian response and global worker solidarity.

We echo the earlier statement of the ITUC and the recent statement by HAK-İŞ Turkey that *“the blockade of Gaza has created an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, disproportionately affecting workers, women, and children,”* and reaffirm the urgent need to *“amplify the global demand for an immediate end to the siege.”*

We recognise that the current crisis is not confined to Palestine alone but is part of a broader and deeply concerning escalation across the Middle East, including in Lebanon and Iran. These developments, especially those beyond and around the Strait of Hormuz, are already affecting Africa, spiking inflation, skyrocketing the cost of living, and burdening almost all Africans. There are also cases of growing suffering of African migrant workers caught in the crossfire of the avoidable wars.

We recall that the Palestinian question is not only a geopolitical issue, but fundamentally a matter of human dignity, justice, and workers' rights. The current situation reflects decades of dispossession and suffering, rooted in the historical injustice of the Nakba, whose consequences continue to reverberate across generations.

As African trade unions, we speak not only in solidarity, but from lived historical experience. African workers and peoples have endured systems of exclusion, dispossession, and inequality. We understand the pain of marginalisation, the denial of rights, and the long struggle for dignity and self-determination. It is from this shared history that we stand firmly with the people of Palestine and all those affected by conflict and injustice in the region.

ITUC-Africa strongly reaffirms its support for a just and lasting solution based on the two-state framework, with Israel and Palestine coexisting in peace and security, and with full respect for the rights, sovereignty, and self-determination of the Palestinian people.

We call on the international community to:

- Uphold international law consistently and without double standards, ensuring accountability for violations and protection for all civilians;
- Reject selective diplomacy, which undermines trust, fuels resentment, and prolongs conflict;
- Guarantee unimpeded humanitarian access and the protection of humanitarian corridors, including protection for African and other migrant workers trapped in these conflict areas;
- Promote immediate de-escalation across the region, including in Lebanon and Iran, to prevent further loss of life and regional instability;
- Support inclusive and honest dialogue and diplomacy as pathways to sustainable peace, involving workers' organisations, civil society, and all relevant stakeholders.

As trade unions, we emphasise that peace cannot be achieved without justice, and justice cannot be sustained without dialogue, diplomacy and mutual consensus. Social dialogue and diplomacy are critical instruments for reconciliation, nation-building, and the rebuilding of trust between peoples.

We further stress that a durable peace in the Middle East requires a renewed multilateral commitment to honest dialogue, diplomacy, and readiness to make consensus, anchored in the principles of the United Nations Charter and international labour and human rights standards.

We reaffirm: **No to war. No to occupation. Yes to peace, justice, and dignity.**

**Issued in Lomé, Togo, for and on behalf of the ITUC-Africa,**



Akhator Joel Odigie  
General Secretary