



Deadly flooding in Spain: ITUC-Africa expresses solidarity with the People, Workers, Trade Unions, and Government

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa: <https://www.ituc-africa.org/>), on behalf of its 18 million members, extends our deepest condolences and solidarity to the people, workers, trade unions, and government of Spain following the catastrophic flooding that has claimed the lives of 158 people, left dozens missing, injured hundreds, and rendered countless others homeless. Our hearts go out to all affected by this unprecedented disaster, particularly those in Valencia and other regions hardest hit by the storms.

We recognise the bravery and dedication of the emergency workers and volunteers who tirelessly respond to this crisis, save lives, rescue those trapped, and support recovery efforts. Their courage is a beacon of hope during these challenging times.

This tragedy underscores the urgent need for global cooperation in tackling climate change and rethinking urbanisation strategies. Spain's devastating floods remind us of the extreme weather patterns increasingly exacerbated by climate change. These events know no borders, and the global community must act swiftly and collaboratively to mitigate the impact of such disasters.

ITUC-Africa calls on governments, international organisations, and civil society to discuss solutions promoting resilient, forward-looking, and environmentally sustainable urban planning. Together, we must invest in climate adaptation, prioritise disaster preparedness, and ensure that our cities are built to withstand the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Our prayers of comfort and healing are with the families that lost loved ones and the injured in the hospital as we wish them a speedy recovery and for those displaced and had their homes, livelihoods and properties destroyed to stay strong even as we call on the government and the international community to show support to mitigate their loss and assist them to bounce back.

In solidarity, we stand with Spain in this time of loss and rebuilding, advocating for a united global response to protect our people and planet from the escalating threats of climate change.

In Solidarity

Akhator Joel Afolabi Odigie
General Secretary
ITUC-Africa
Date: October 31, 2024