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ITUC-AFRICA SOLIDARITY STATEMENT WITH CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA TRADE UNIONS (COSATU) ON THE OCCASION OF HER NATIONAL STRIKE ACTION

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) representing over 17 million workers in 51 of the 55 African countries conveys her full solidarity and support for the 27 September 2017 National Strike Action called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) against a range of national issues.

We note that the National Strike Action seeks to target selected national institutions, agencies and private operators that need to urgently address pertinent issues affecting workers, South Africans and their communities.

Notably, this national strike action will be telling the City of Johannesburg to reverse the scrapping of basic water supply to the people; halt employment discrimination and stop the suspension of workers. To the Department of Labour, the call is to urgently address the issue of labour brokers and take the necessary steps to halt casualisation of work. Similarly, this strike will be asking the Chambers of Mines to swiftly and commence genuine efforts at halting avoidable retrenchment, job losses and to improve health and safety conditions in the mines. The banking sector is being rallied against to end financialisation of the economy.

Importantly, this strike seeks to address the twin issues of corruption and corporate capture that have strained the political, governance and economic architectures of South Africa in recent times.

ITUC-Africa considers the National Strike Action as a clear expression of the deep discontent that many workers and other deprived sections of the South African population have against the social injustices being perpetrated against them.

We salute the resoluteness of COSATU leadership and their members as well as their allies to mobilize for and enforce this strike action.

We affirm our support for this national action and recall that indeed 'An Injury to one is An Injury to All'!

A M A N D L A !!!

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General Secretary, ITUC-Africa

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