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African Workers Salute Togo's Bold Pan-African Visa-Free Policy

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa, www.ituc-africa.org) representing over 18 Million African workers, commends the Government of Togo for its historic decision to grant visa-free entry to all African citizens holding valid national passports for stays of up to 30 days.

This bold and progressive step demonstrates genuine commitment to Pan-Africanism, African unity, and continental integration as envisioned under Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). At a time when Africa must strengthen solidarity and cooperation, the removal of barriers to the movement of Africans across Africa is both timely and necessary.

ITUC-Africa also recognises other African countries that have taken similar measures, including Rwanda, Benin, Seychelles, The Gambia, Ghana, and Kenya. We call on all African governments that have not yet embraced similar reforms to act decisively in the interest of African integration and shared prosperity.

However, visa liberalisation alone will not be enough. Africa must move beyond rhetoric and market discussions to build regional developmentalism that promotes industrialisation, regional value chains, and production systems that manufacture goods in Africa for Africans.

For too long, Africa has remained trapped in the export of low-value raw materials while importing expensive finished products — a model that has failed to industrialise the continent, create decent jobs, or improve workers' livelihoods.

At a time of growing global uncertainty and neoliberal pressures, Africa must stand together economically and politically. The decision by Togo is therefore not only a migration reform, but a powerful statement for African dignity, solidarity, and economic transformation.

Issued in Lome, Togo, on this 19th Day of May 2026

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