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ITUC-AFRICA CONDEMNS THE COUP D'ETAT IN GABON.

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade union Confederation (www.ituc-africa.org) condemns the military coup in Gabon and affirms that military take-overs do not resolve political problems posed by disputed elections. The announcement by soldiers on 30th August, 2023 proclaiming the "end of the regime in place" directly targets the outgoing President Ali Bongo and undermines the democratic process.

ITUC-Africa believes in the principles of multi-party democracy and active citizen participation as the cornerstones of peaceful and inclusive national development across the African continent and calls upon the military to take immediate steps to restore the country to the path of constitutional democracy.

On the other hand, African workers and citizens are troubled by the growing reports of manipulated elections that tend to create disaffection among electorates and create the environment for political instability.

Equally we are concerned by the tampering with national constitutions that enable leaders to extend their tenure in power, disregarding the democratic will of the people.

The cumulative effects of these challenges to democracy management in Africa are evident in the growing frustration, anger and disillusionment among people. Many are losing faith in democracy as a vital vehicle for safeguarding and enhancing their welfare, well-being and safety.

The coup in Gabon underscores the pressing need for the African Union to convene an inclusive solemn assembly, where African leaders can engage in a candid discussion about the state of democracy on our continent. This assembly must exhibit courage in exploring how Africa can establish and effectively implement a social contract that truly serves the interests of all its citizens.

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