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**Commemorating the 2018 International Human Rights Day: Use the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) as a multilateral approach to drive a pro-rights based approach for migration governance**

Today, 10th December is the International Human Rights Day and is also the 70th anniversary of the declaration of the Universal Human Rights Declaration as endorsed by the United Nations. Today is also the day that the United Nations' Global Compact for Migration (GCM) is being signed in Marrakech, Morocco.

The African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa [www.ituc-africa.org](http://www.ituc-africa.org)) is commemorating this year's International Human Rights Day with a focus on the human rights of migrants and their families.

First, we use this occasion to reaffirm the fact that migration is not a crisis, and that it is the governance of migration driven largely by the isolationist, marginal and exclusionist agenda that has engineered and fueled the crisis narrative linked to migration.

Secondly, we hold it as true that migration is a historical, natural and progressive human phenomenon that cannot be stopped.

Thirdly, we are excited that the GCM has been signed to demonstrate a commitment to a multilateral approach in addressing the governance deficits of migration so that workers can effectively take advantage of the benefits that migration offers.

Fourthly, we reject the current extremist and populist politics, policies and actions that demonize migration and criminalize migrants. These actions are fueling discrimination, xenophobia and hate crimes against migrants, refugees and foreigners.

Finally, we reiterate our call to governments to take clear and effective actions to address push factors that drive and exacerbate forced migration and displacement. There must be the willingness and a sense of urgency to deal with push factors such as poverty, youth unemployment, low wages, especially in the global supply chains, political persecution, insecurity triggered by violent conflicts, and climate change effects. These push factors aside do not only intensify forced migration, but also undermine the human and labour rights of people and migrants.

Governments must, therefore, commit to the genuine implementation of the Compact in a holistic and inclusive manner. Democracy must work for all people and not just a privileged few. Placing profits ahead of people is an approach that should be discontinued.

We also urge countries and governments that have pulled out and declined to endorse the Compact to rethink and rescind their stance.

ITUC-Africa will continue to collaborate with progressive and committed governments and institutions in the quest for defending, protecting and promoting the rights of migrants and members of their families.

**Signed by Kwasi Adu-Amankwah, General Secretary ITUC-Africa.**

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