

**DECLARATION ON THE TRANSITION PROCESS AND STATE OF HUMAN AND TRADE
UNION RIGHTS IN GUINEA BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ITUC-AFRICA, 20
October, 2010**

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC-Africa):

Noting the difficult democratic, human and trade union rights situation in Guinea particularly since 2006 after the demise of the last civilian ruler and the subsequent military interregnum that led to perpetration of varying rights abuses, especially the killings of hundreds of protesters on September 2008 who were demanding for the return to constitutionality and civil rule;

Further noting that inspite of the series of civil liberties abuses and forceful threats to democracy, the people have remained resolute on their desire and demand to have and restore participatory democracy and civil rule grounded on the pillars of constitutionality, rule of law and accountability as demonstrated by the commitment to the transition process;

Commending the spirit, sacrifices, contributions and commitment of the Guinean people and the trade unions to work to restore the country to the path of peace, democracy and constitutionality;

Observing, however, that the current transition process and its success is encumbered by issues of ethnicity, tribe, religion and other divisive attributes that hamper the attainment of a successful outcome to the current transition process;

Emphasizing the desire to realise a smooth and successful transition to democratic governance in Guinea that is necessary for the effective mobilisation and engagement of the citizenry for nation-building and the attainment of an equitable society;

Desiring to contribute to and see to the attainment of a free and plural Guinean society that protects and promotes civil liberties and opportunities for the attainment of individual, household and community progress;

In accordance with the foregoing declaration, the General Council of the ITUC-Africa therefore calls on the Guinean Trade Unionists, Politicians and the Military to recommit themselves to ensuring that the popular will and wish of the Guinean people to come out of the current political situation successfully and triumphant is realised.

The General Council further calls on the Guinean trade unions to appreciate the need for greater show and demonstration of unity and solidarity in these critical times and to shun ethnic, tribal and religious sentiments that do not represent our values as organised labour.

In the same vein, the General Council also calls on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union Commission to provide the necessary support, assistance and effective monetary mechanisms to achieving a thorough and successful transition to democratic rule in Guinea.

Finally, the General Council wishes to declare the total support, solidarity and best wishes of the entire African trade union community to the Guinean people and trade unions towards the attainment of a popular, peaceful and successful people-participatory on-going transition process.