

Report of Day 1 of the 2nd Ordinary Congress of the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation

The meeting commenced on 25th November, 2011 as scheduled at Birchwood, Johannesburg - South Africa with over two hundred and fifty (250) delegates, guests, observers, partners, local and international media.

The meeting began with various speeches by:

The General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)-
Zwelinzima Vavi

The President of ITUC-Africa – Mody Guiro

The Minister of labour of South Africa – Mildred Olifant

The President of the Republic of South Africa (video message) – H.E. Jacob Zuma

Solidarity messages by:

- ILO
- OATUU

The General Secretary of ITUC – Brussels

These speeches and messages covered and highlighted a whole range of important issues:

- The global financial crises which affected the continent gravely
- The resilience of the African continent
- A call for all African workers to re-mobilise
- The need to build internal democracy among National Centers
- Intensify the struggle against re-domination
- The need to industrialize
- The urgent need for unification especially at the Regional level and also at the National centers

- A strong solidarity for both workers and Trade Unions is very important

The message from President Zuma particularly congratulated the efforts of the Trade Union and highlighted the critical role of the labour movement in sensitizing the government in policy making, legislation etc...

The afternoon saw the General Secretary of ITUC-Africa – Kwasi Adu-Amakwah make a presentation on the theme document which touched on various areas including:

- The Global Crises and its impact on Africa
- Africa's political economy
- Mining and Drilling
- Incomes and levels of inequality
- Climate Change
- Unity at all levels
- Etc....

The presentation was followed by a panel on the Social Protection Floor comprising panelists from:

ILO, ITUC-Africa and ALRN.

This panel enabled participants have a clearer view and further understanding of Social Protection.

The first day ended with a GALA organized by COSATU, being the host of this Congress.