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Dear Comrade Secretary General,

ITUC-Africa Solidarity message to Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU)

ITUC-Africa on behalf of its over 16 million members wishes to extend to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) and its entire membership our profound solidarity and support, as you plan to organize demonstrations on 11 April 2015 in the country's six major regional centres of Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare, Masvingo and Chinhoyi.

We are informed that the demonstrations are meant to draw urgent attention to economic, social and community issues. In particular, the demonstrations aim to protest against the decision of the government to freeze and cut salaries; the amendment of the Labour Act in order to introduce a repressive labour market flexibility regime that will give powers to employers to fire workers at will, which will in turn worsen employment relationship and pose ready danger to industrial relations.

We also know that the demonstrations will protest the collapse of the Zimbabwean economy highlighted by massive company closures and the attendant loss of thousands of jobs. We are confident that workers and their unions will be pointing government to better and doable options in the quest to rescue the economy and put people back to work.

The rights to associate and to assemble are some of the civil liberties at the heart of the African Charter (1981) of the African Union, which Zimbabwe as a signatory and currently the Chair must be seen to effectively uphold.

ITUC-Africa also urges the Zimbabwean government to take urgent actions to address the current socio-economic issues that the workers are protesting about. To do the needful will be consistent with seeking effective and genuine implementation of the spirit and letters of the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), which Zimbabwe has also endorsed. We join the ZCTU in demanding for guarantees that will provide and secure the wellbeing and welfare of Zimbabweans.

Solidarity forever!

Kwasi Adu-Amankwah
General Secretary