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ITUC-AFRICA SOLIDARITY STATEMENT
Spain's Workers Are Right to Strike: Economic Growth Must Pay a Living Wage

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa, www.ituc-africa.org) stands firmly with Comisiones Obreras (CCOO), Unión General de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores (UGT) and the workers of Spain in their general strike scheduled for 11 November 2026. There is something fundamentally unjust about an economy that celebrates growth while the workers responsible for that growth struggle to pay their rent, feed their families and meet their basic needs. When wages cannot sustain a decent life, the promise of economic progress rings hollow.

The demands of Spanish workers for better wages, affordable housing, fair prices, effective collective bargaining and quality public services are legitimate. We support their determination to defend social gains against the growing power of organised capital and the relentless pressure to subordinate workers' welfare to corporate profitability.

For Africa's workers, this struggle is painfully familiar. We have seen how inflation eats away at wages, how speculation places housing beyond the reach of working families, and how austerity shifts the burden of economic adjustment onto those least able to bear it. These outcomes reflect political and economic choices that can, and must, be challenged.

ITUC-Africa rejects the proposition that workers must accept declining living standards to preserve business profits. The wealth generated through labour must provide those who produce it with a decent standard of living.

We call on Spanish employers to end their obstruction of collective bargaining and urge the government to safeguard the right to strike, defend hard-won labour protections and address workers' demands through genuine social dialogue.

To our sisters and brothers in Spain, your struggle commands our respect and full solidarity. You are defending a principle that belongs to workers everywhere: those whose labour sustains the economy have the right to share fairly in its prosperity.

¡La lucha sigue! ¡Viva la solidaridad internacional de la clase trabajadora!

Issued in Lome, Togo on October 26, 2026

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ITUC-Africa