



18 December 2023

## Act Today

### ITUC-Africa Statement on the 2023 International Migrants Day

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On this International Migrants Day (18 December 2023), the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa: <https://www.ituc-africa.org/>) acknowledges and celebrates the invaluable contributions of millions of migrants worldwide.

The journey of migration is often marked by formidable challenges that migrants courageously face, particularly on the African continent. These challenges encompass multifaceted issues, from social integration hurdles to inadequate social protection coverage, labour rights violations and lack of legal protections.

To lessen these hurdles, we urgently call upon the African Union member states to ratify the AU Convention on the Free Movement of People and pertinent International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions pertaining to migration. This crucial step is vital in ensuring comprehensive protections and rights for migrant workers across Africa.

Furthermore, we implore African governments to prioritize the rights of migrant workers in Bilateral Labour Agreements (BLAs), emphasizing the significance of fair and equitable treatment within these agreements.

To enhance governance in labour migration, it's imperative to involve tripartite social partners, fostering inclusive decision-making processes that consider the perspectives of all stakeholders.

For nations intending to export labour, establishing Migrant Information Centres can serve as essential resources to provide guidance, support, and information to individuals embarking on migration journeys.

Migrants represent a powerful force for development in both their home and host countries. Their diverse skills, knowledge, and contributions enrich societies and economies. Managed effectively, migration stands as a cornerstone for sustainable development, offering opportunities for progress and prosperity.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals outlined during the 2030 Agenda, we emphasize the urgency for people-centred and evidence-based solutions that empower individuals to remain in their communities or facilitate safe and dignified migration when desired or necessary.

The recent COP28 summit in Dubai underscored the imperative to address the impact of climate change on migrants. ITUC-Africa, alongside other global trade unions, advocated for inclusive partnerships that champion the rights of migrants, women, persons with disabilities, and communities during the COP28. Furthermore, ITUC-Africa believes that youth involvement is pivotal in shaping these discussions.

On this International Migrants Day, ITUC-Africa reaffirms its commitment to positioning migration as a solution to global challenges, including climate change adaptation and fostering better economic opportunities for communities.

Every individual possesses the capacity to effect positive change. By uniting our actions today, we pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow.

*ITUC-Africa stands united with migrants in advocating for their rights, dignity, and the realization of their full potential!*



**Akhator Joel Odigie**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**

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