



International Trade Union Confederation

GENERAL COUNCIL

Brussels, Belgium, 29 November – 1 December 2017

Agenda item 14:

The Regions

(a) Africa

The General Council is requested to approve the report of ITUC Africa.

17GC/E/14(a)

ITUC-Africa

Highlights - 2017

The organisation continued to pursue its priorities set within the framework of its Strategic Plan and also carried out activities linked with the Frontlines and priorities of the ITUC.

In the course of the year there was an upscaling of the #Stop the Bleeding Campaign as part of the effort to halt Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) out of Africa and to achieve Tax Justice. This campaign is being supported the American Center for International Labour Solidarity (Solidarity Center). As part of boosting the campaign the issue of IFF was one of the main themes of ITUC-Africa's **New Year School** at the beginning of 2017. The NLC in Nigeria, TUCOSWA in Swaziland and ZCTU in Zambia are the affiliates that were actively and fully engaged in this campaign at national level. Opportunities were used during various ITUC-Africa activities during the year to continue raising awareness about IFF and to encourage more affiliates to join the campaign.

In pursuit of the objective of building strong trade unions in Africa the regional organization launched a **study on the "state of trade unions" that was supported by the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN)**. The study covered nine countries including Chad, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Uganda. Three main areas deserving of attention for building trade unions that emerged from the study had to do with membership, governance and financial sustainability. It is intended to follow up with the affiliates at national level to explore ways to address the range of issues relating to the areas of concern that came up.

In response to growing extremism and instances of terrorism in Africa, ITUC-Africa identified work on peace and security as another area of work to benefit workers and their unions, especially in those countries where some terrorist groups operate. This included ITUC-Africa engagement with some African Union as well as the fostering of dialogue and exchange of ideas among our affiliates in countries like Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Mali. The work culminated in a successful Conference on Peace and Security that made recommendations for the elaboration of a plan of action on the framework for the implementation of ILC Resolution 205 [R205] on promoting the agenda for decent work in peace and resilience.

ITUC-Africa also worked closely with the ITUC and the ETUC in the holding of a Conference on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that reaffirmed the dangers that the EPAs pose for industrialization and regional integration in Africa.

Frontlines - 2017

Climate Justice and Industrial Transformation

The concern to enhance African trade union contribution to addressing climate change and environmental crises was the guiding objective for ITUC-Africa work in this area. Work was undertaken with the support of FES in training focal persons for affiliates engagement on the issues of climate change and environment.

Taming Corporate Power in Supply Chains

On taming corporate power in supply chains, ITUC-Africa worked with the ITUC in agreeing on a number of countries to focus on for building the campaign. The campaign is being built on improving the working conditions of workers in a number of multinational companies that are active in Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Zambia. The ITUC campaign for living wage to which ITUC-Africa is fully committed has also been linked to taming corporate power. For this component on living wages, our affiliates in Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda have also been drawn in to broaden the reach of the campaign.

Eliminating Slavery

ITUC-Africa teamed up with ITUC for a joint mission to Mauritania where modern slavery is well known to exist. Advocacy against slavery contributed to getting the government of Mauritania to ratify ILO Protocol 29 on Forced Labour and to establish three courts to try cases of slavery. Commitment to end slavery remains weak in Mauritania, however, with weak enforcement of the law. Besides, victims of slavery have little or no protection even after reporting their situation. Worse still, there are no economic and social provisions for the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of former slaves. The campaign to defeat modern slavery, especially in Mauritania must continue to remain a priority.

Priorities – 2017

Countries At Risk

There was considerable work in monitoring and reporting on human and trade union rights situation across the continent

ITUC-Africa worked with TUCOSWA (Swaziland) and ZCTU (Zimbabwe) to prepare for High Level Technical Missions to those countries agreed in the ILO's Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS). ITUC-Africa has also supported the work of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) which has been consistent in highlighting the violations of human and trade union rights in Somalia. Special appreciation is expressed to the TUC (UK), LO-Sweden, Olof Palme Foundation and the LO-Denmark for their support for the work of FESTU in Somalia.

Global Coherence and Development

During the period under consideration ITUC-Africa continued to input into the work of TUAC and the ITUC, particularly as it related to positions that were canvassed with the G20. Also through the work of the African Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN) which is linked to the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) ITUC-Africa made contribution to raising awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of trade unions in advancing the goals. ITUC-Africa was also participated actively in the regional United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) SDGs Forum and the UN High Level Political Forum and contributed to advance trade union priorities in SDGs.

Global Governance of Migration

ITUC-Africa worked with the Solidarity Center to convene a migration conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the beginning of 2017. The conference amongst other things presented the opportunity to launch the report of UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association and Assembly and to discuss non-state actors' processes to the UN Global Compact on Safe, Fair and Orderly Migration.

ITUC-Africa launched a migration project with FGTB that involves a number of affiliates from Francophone countries.

African Trade Union Migration Network and their civil society allies met in Accra (Ghana) on 11 – 12 September 2017 to campaign for visa on arrival which has registered some gains: Benin Republic – no visa fee for All Africans; South Africa: transit visa removed; Ghana, Togo, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania: visa on arrival for all; etc.

The capacities of the focal persons for the migration Network has been reinforced this year again through various trainings. So is the cooperation with the Sub-Saharan and Mediterranean Migration Network.

Count Us In!

Objective: Capacity building in collective bargaining and Care Economy (Senegal), women's rights and leadership

National workshops have been held in Senegal, Benin and Burkina Faso to reinforce the capacities of the women leaders in collective bargaining and Care Economy (Senegal), women's rights and leadership (Benin, Burkina Faso).

Domestic Workers

Objective: Setting up a domestic workers network and reinforcing their capacity in workers' rights and social protection

Regional Workshop on the Protection of Rights, dedicated to migrant and domestic workers; workers in the informal economy and the extension of social protection

Support was provided to the strengthening and implementation of the network on social protection for the protection of domestic workers from Mauritania, Togo and Benin Networks on the protection of domestic workers are operational

A Sub-regional Workshop on "Promoting the right to social protection of domestic workers in West Africa has been held in collaboration with partners of World Solidarity for the benefit of affiliates in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

In Nigeria, Trade union leaders have been informed and sensitised on the issue of domestic workers and support provided to organise them.

In Mauritania, National workshop on domestic workers and gender based violence and networking has been held for the benefit of the trade union leaders and women committees of the ITUC-Africa affiliates in this country. 3 networks comprising 20 persons each were boosted and a plan of action and a collaboration charter developed.

Organising

The Annual Regional Organising Academy from 30 August to 3 September 2017 in Accra (Ghana). 20 trade union leaders from 08 countries and 05 countries at risk were trained which increased the pool of lead organisers from 72 to 93 in 39 African countries and African GUFs.

Unions of the different professional sectors of affiliates in the five Organising pilot countries (Togo, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Senegal) drafted and implemented their own organising campaigns to recruit new members.

Significant results are reported in many countries: Togo, Sénégal as well as Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Rwanda. These countries have now put organising campaigns as a priority at the heart of their actions.

Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia have reinforced their Organising departments by training new lead organisers.

The regional Academies and the national plan of action of the pilot countries will continue for 4 years within the framework of the new TUDCN programme (Capacity development). The objective is to continue the training in order to increase the pool of lead organisers in the affiliate organisations in order to implement more organising campaigns at national level.

Other Regional Issues

The ITUC-Africa democratic management of trade union project will continue with CFDT support and will cover affiliates in six countries: Benin, Burkina, Congo Brazzaville, Mali, Niger and Togo. Six priority areas have been identified for the elaboration of the next programme, including democratic functioning, unionisation, reinforcement of trade union unity of action, trade union training, development strategies in for the formal/informal sector and social dialogue.

ITUC-Africa's Africa Labour Research and Education Institute (ALREI) brought together a number of trade union educators and researchers at the end of October to plan towards the development of a training programme for emerging trade union leadership and cadre. Coming months are to be devoted to working to begin this training programme by the end of 2018.

The 17th meeting of the ITUC-Africa General Council held in Lome from 12 – 13 October 2017 accepted **three national centers into affiliations, namely CSIPB/Benin, Humanism/Côte d'Ivoire and UGSL/Togo.** These 3 organisations are already affiliated to ITUC.
