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ITUC-Africa Statement on the Plight of Turkish Construction Workers on Strike in Tanzania

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation - Africa (www.ituc-africa.org) stands in solidarity with the Turkish construction workers employed by Yapı Merkezi in Tanzania, who have been on strike since the 5th of August 2023.

We express our deep concern over the challenging conditions these workers have been enduring, including the non-payment of wages for seven months, which has compelled them to strike. Reports reaching us suggest that the workers have been comporting themselves peacefully and ready to engage in genuine negotiation.

ITUC-Africa notes that the situation the Turkish workers face in Tanzania is a glaring example of one of the abuses that migrant workers face wherever they live and work. The fundamental rights of workers, regardless of their nationality or race, are paramount and must be respected in law and practice.

Workers' rights are human rights, and the dignity of labour must be upheld in all circumstances. ITUC-Africa reiterates its unwavering commitment to defending workers' rights across the African continent and beyond. We stand united with the Turkish construction workers in their quest for fairness and justice.

We affirm that the demands and concessions put forth by the striking workers to their employer, including the payment of four months' worth of salaries and a commitment to subsequent regular payments, are well-founded and legitimate. We, therefore, call on the management of Yapı Merkezi Construction to address their grievances without further delay.

ITUC-Africa recognizes the significance and effectiveness of open dialogue and peaceful negotiations in resolving labour disputes. We call upon Yapı Merkezi and the relevant authorities in Tanzania to engage in meaningful dialogue with the striking workers and their representatives to find a swift and equitable solution to this pressing issue.

Kwasi Adu-Amankwah

General Secretary

16th August 2023.