



Position of the Mediterranean - Subsaharan Migration Trade Union Network (RSMMS) on the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration"

Marrakech, December 5th, 2018

The members of the Mediterranean-Subsaharan Migration Trade Union Network (RSMMS) reaffirm the fundamental character of the right to migrate, to decent work and the workers' protection regardless of their status.

Considering this document, the trade union organizations members of the Network highlight their common position with respect to the final version of the Compact in view of the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech on 10-11 December 2018. The RSMMS recalls the main elements of our advocacy in favor of decent work for all through contributions addressed to Louise Arbor, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for International Migration and Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Conference on international migration¹ :

RSMMS members support the statement of the International Trade Union Confederation – ITUC/CSI on “the recognition of the important role of trade unions in ensuring decent work for migrant workers in the Global Compact on Migration, but denounced the potential for exclusion of millions of workers” from rights enshrined in the core Conventions of the ILO, concerning the most vulnerable people and undocumented workers in the informal sector.

We deplore the poor protection provided to migrant workers, in particular the lack of an "essential social rights and service list" that should be provided to migrants, and the "weakening" of the principle of non-criminalization of the migrants' irregular situation, as highlighted by the ITUC² and the absence of a clear commitment to respect the principle of non-refoulement by States.

We take note with disappointment of the absence in the Compact of a specific section related to labour migration and its governance as recommended by the ILO in its input document about the draft Compact³. We have also noticed that several central terms related to decent work agenda, such as social dialogue, tripartism, or collective bargaining, are not mentioned at all in the Compact document.

¹ The document "Advocacy of the Trade Union Mediterranean Sub-Saharan Migration Trade Union Network - RSMMS, within the GCM framework" (January 2018), and the technical note of the RSMMS review of the GCM "Zero Draft Plus" version (March 2018).

² Communiqué on 18/07/2018

³ UN Secretary-General's report on the Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Inputs of the International Labour Organization (Nov. 6th, 2017).

We, the trade union organizations members of the Mediterranean - Sub-Saharan Migration Trade Union Network,

1. Reaffirm the primacy of international conventions related to migration issues, mainly the ILO Conventions C97 and C143 and the 1990 UN Convention as highlighted in the preamble of the draft outcome document for the Intergovernmental Conference for the Global Compact adoption;
2. Reaffirm the basic mission of the trade union organizations to defend, inform and help documented and undocumented workers to enjoy the same rights as national workers;
3. Emphasize the need to strengthen co-operation among trade unions from countries of origin, of transit and of destination in order to promote solidarity links related to workers' mobility and exchange information and best practices on assistance to be provided to migrants workers;
4. Encourage migrant workers' affiliation to trade unions, regardless of their status in independent organizations or in associations to ensure a better coordination of their demands;
5. Encourage trade unions to further invest in dialogue with national state institutions with respect to the setting up and evaluation of governmental labour and social conventions, as well as partnerships and free trade agreements;
6. Reaffirm the need for a social dialogue for a better governance of migration and reiterate our call to public authorities and to local authorities to be committed to involve trade unions in developing and monitoring policies affecting migrant populations;
7. Reiterate our request to mandate the ILO as a specialized technical agency to monitor the Pact implementation in terms of labor migration and decent work for all;
8. We reaffirm our commitment to the principle of tripartism and its preservation;
9. Insist on the importance of developing alliances with civil society stakeholders in order to provide complementary assistance to workers that are facing difficulties as well as their families;
10. Highlight the importance of a space for dialogue between labor unions, civil society organizations and employers' organizations and encourage the active participation of trade unions in this space to enhance the convergence of voices and actions among these actors;
11. Call on all actors to organize local mobilizations, to put pressure on their country's public authorities, to carry out public awareness raising campaigns in order to integrate migrants in employment and in the society. These actors should also counter xenophobic and racist attitudes and encourage an evidence-based dialogue;
12. Welcome the establishment within the United Nations of the "Capacity Building Mechanism" and the "UN Migration Network", and commit ourselves to contribute to them in order to ensure the rights of migrant workers and of their families throughout the Compact implementation and monitoring process.

Trade Unions members of the RSMMS

Unions members of the network :

Country	Name	Acronym
General coordination of the RSMMS (& member)		
Tunisia	1. Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail	UGTT
Trade unions members of the RSMMS		
Algeria	2. Confédération Générale Autonome des Travailleurs en Algérie	CGATA
Benin	3. Union nationale des syndicats des travailleurs du Bénin	UNSTB
Burkina Faso	4. Union Syndicale des Travailleurs du Burkina	USTB
Ivory Coast	5. Union Générale des Travailleurs de Côte d'Ivoire	UGTCI
Spain	6. Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras	CCOO
	7. Unión Sindical Obrera	USO
	8. Unión General de Trabajadores	UGT
France	9. Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail	CFDT
	10. Confédération Générale du Travail	CGT
Italy	11. Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro	CGIL
Mali	12. Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs du Mali	CSTM
	13. Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Mali	UNTM
Morocco	14. Confédération Démocratique du Travail	CDT
	15. Union Marocaine du Travail	UMT
Mauritania	16. Confédération Générale des Travailleurs de Mauritanie	CGTM
Niger	17. Union des Syndicats des Travailleurs du Niger	USTN
	18. Confédération Nigérienne du Travail	CNT
Portugal	19. União Geral de Trabalhadores	UGT-P
Senegal	20. Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal	CNTS (CARISM)
	21. Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal - Forces du changement	CNTS-FC (CARISM)
	22. Confédération des Syndicats Autonomes	CSA (CARISM)
	23. Union Démocratique des Travailleurs du Sénégal	UDTS (CARISM)
	24. Union Nationale des Syndicats Autonomes du Sénégal	UNSAS (CARISM)

(according to the fourth RSMMS General Assembly, Feb. 2018)

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