



INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

GENERAL COUNCIL

Brussels, 2 – 4 February 2011

RESOLUTION ON TUNISIA

After decades on corrupt and dictatorial rule, the people of Tunisia have mobilised for democracy, fundamental rights and an end to corruption, causing Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and members of his entourage to flee the country, and the installation of a transitional government. The ITUC salutes the courage of all those who have taken part in the mass mobilisation, and deeply mourns the loss of more than 100 lives due to the violent repression by Ben Ali's security forces. It supports the aspirations for social justice, democracy and dignity of the Tunisian people.

The ITUC commends the key role played by its Tunisian affiliate the UGTT in coordinating and supporting mobilisation across the country, in expressing the demands of the people, and in establishing civil protection committees to guard individuals, property and production facilities against attacks by the militia of former regime. It supports the UGTT's stance in demanding the exclusion of former regime ministers from the transitional cabinet, which it has carried out with determination and success in the face of threats and smear campaigns and of militia attacks against its premises. It further recognises the essential role of the UGTT as a key force for transition to genuine democracy through political reform and full respect for human rights, including fundamental rights at work.

Equitable and sustainable economic development, with decent work at its heart, will be essential to meeting the aspirations of the Tunisian people, in particular the vast numbers of young unemployed whose exclusion from economic opportunity was a driving force in the movement for change. The Tunisian trade union movement has a critical role to play in bringing this about, building on its ongoing fight against poverty and for job creation, social protection and balanced nationwide development. It will also have a crucial role in consolidating democratic change in Tunisia and ensuring compliance with the commitments made by the transitional government on political reforms with a view to fulfilling individual and public liberties and fundamental rights.

The General Council therefore:

INSTRUCTS the General Secretary to continue to closely monitor the situation in Tunisia;

DECIDES that an international trade union delegation, to be organised in cooperation with the Amman Office and ITUC-Africa, be sent to Tunisia in the near future to help establish the needs and assistance required to support the UGTT to fulfil its responsibilities in the workplace and in society;

CALLS UPON affiliates and solidarity support organisations to ensure the necessary cooperation and support to the UGTT to remain a leading force for the Tunisian people and defend the process of democratisation in Tunisia;

INSISTS that all governments freeze any inflow of funds from former regime members including those who have fled Tunisia, and requests affiliated organisations to press their governments to support international action to deny safe-haven to these persons and ensure that they, and any assets which they control, are returned to Tunisia; and,

INSTRUCTS the General Secretary to intervene with international financial institutions and in cooperation with the ETUC, the European Union, to help ensure the best possible financial and economic support for democratic transition.