



## **REMARKS BY**

**BROTHER FRANCIS ATWOLI, NOM (DZA), EBS, MBS,  
MEMBER, ILO GOVERNING BODY-WORKERS' GROUP REPRESENTATIVE &  
SECRETARY GENERAL,  
CENTRAL ORGANISATION OF TRADE UNIONS, COTU (K)**

## **DURING THE**

**ORIENTATION SEMINAR FOR AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY**

## **AT**

**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA, ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
5<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2018**

- Minister of Employment and Social Protection, Côte d'Ivoire  
Honourable Jean Claude Kouassi;
- Regional Director for Africa  
Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon;
- Representative GB member Employers' group  
Mr M. Megateli;
- Africa Group Coordinator, Government group of the ILO Governing Body  
Ms Firdos Abdulkadir Ibrahim;
- Director, ILO CO-Abidjan  
Mr Dramane Haidara;
- Deputy Director- General (DDG/FOP)  
Moussa Oumarou;
- Distinguished Social Partner Colleagues,
- Brothers and Sisters,
- Let me from the onset acknowledge that this is a rare and proud moment for all of us as members of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization from the African Continent to gather here and I particularly wish to thank the ILO for coming up with this orientation and training seminar.

- The meeting will no doubt provide both previous and new entrants into the Governing Body with the much needed opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the operations of the ILO and more importantly here, to reflect Africa's own vision of Africa besides guiding us in implementing our future Programmes in the region.
- Being the oldest member of the ILO Governing Body, I must once again thank the organizers since this is the first seminar of its kind on orientation for the Governing Body members from Africa during my tenure as a Governing Body Member.
- As a worker representative I wish to associate myself with our priorities within the overall framework of the underlying strategic objectives before us in the next three days.
- No doubt in my mind that a number of major African personalities have had a lasting influence in the world through their generous commitment and contribution to the cause of humanity and social justice; I believe in a future and present which must be built on the foundations of our own dreams as Africans coupled with our own highest aspirations.
- It's true that the ILO plays a major role in promoting decent work and inclusive development. However, the onus of building a strong Africa with a commitment to the decent work agenda lies with us gathered here at our national levels as we strive to strengthen tripartism and social dialogue to make our aspirations a reality.
- Equally, as the ILO stands by Africa with realism and determination amid our struggle to realize the continent's ambitions, we have a duty as a people to strategically develop broad-based socio, political and economic framework and policies that will speak to among others full implementation of the Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- This is a unique continent with a people more than ever confronting their problems in a dynamic and creative way, providing daily evidence of their unshakeable determination to take control of their destiny.
- As widely quoted from one of the leading motivational speaker Jim Rohn “success is neither magical nor mysterious. success is the natural consequence of consistently applying basic fundamentals”
- As it is always normal with the Africans of all Religions, one Pastor Tudor Bismark told us that “pray to God either as a Muslim or Christian and waiting for a spiritual answer, leads us to revelation equation and that alone is not in success equation. Decision making is in the success equation”.
- I thank you.