

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF WORKERS TO SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY

An official side event of the Summit for Democracy

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Southern Sun Ridgeway Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Arrival of Delegates and Registration
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Opening Session
Welcome Remarks: **Joy Beene**, Secretary General, Zambia Congress of Trade Unions
Summit Background/Objectives: **Christopher Johnson**, Regional Program Director, Solidarity Center
- Remarks:
Matthew Parks, Parliamentary Coordinator, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU*)
Akiko Gono, President, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC*), (by video)
Joel Odigie, Deputy General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation-Africa
Zambia Ministry of Labor and Social Security (by video)
Thea Lee, Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor (by video)
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Solidarity Messages
- Matthew Parks**, Parliamentary Coordinator, COSATU
Ruth Sakala, General Secretary, Domestic Workers Union of Zambia (International Domestic Workers Federation, IDWF*)
Emmanuel Ugboaja, General Secretary, Nigeria Labour Congress (by video)
Mavis Koogotsitse, Executive Secretary, Southern Africa Trade Union Coordinating Councils (SATUCC) (by video)
- 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Declining Labor and Human Rights Standards on the African Continent
- Session 1: Security, Peace, Labor and Human Rights Standards*
- Panelists:
Japhet Moyo, Secretary General, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions
Henry Sinkala, General Secretary, Basic Education Teachers Union, Zambia
Bheki Mamba, President, Trade Union Congress of Swaziland
Kassahun Follo, President, Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions

Moderator: **Martha Molema**, President, Botswana Federation of Trade Unions, and Deputy President, ITUC-Africa

Reflections/Open Discussion

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. BREAK

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Role of Workers in Democracy and Governance in Africa

Session 2: Closing Democratic Space and Challenges of Transparent Electoral Processes

Panelists:

Richard Mulonga, Chief Executive Officer, Bloggers Association of Zambia

Dan Mihadi, General Secretary, Transport Workers Union - Kenya

Ezra Sekelani Zulu, Youth Chairperson, Zambia Congress of Trade Unions

Moderator: **Joel Odigie**, Deputy General Secretary, ITUC-Africa

Reflections/Open Discussion

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. How Workers Can Strengthen Democracy Through Elimination of State Capture and Corruption in Africa

Session 3: The Role of the Labor Movement

Panelists:

Joel Odigie, Deputy General Secretary, ITUC-Africa

Guy Olivier Ouédraogo, General Secretary, Confédération Syndicale Burkinabè

Matthew Parks, Parliamentary Coordinator, COSATU

Moderator: **Penelope Kamungoma**, Senior Program Officer, Solidarity Center

Reflections/Open Discussion

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Youth & Women Workers Participation in Democratic Governance

Session 4: The Role of Youth and Women

Panelists:

Toindepi Dhure, General Secretary, Zimbabwe Domestic and Allied Workers Union

Alex Nkosi, Coordinator, ITUC-Africa

Naomi Kimbala Lunat, Director-Gender, Youth and Child Development, Zambia Congress of Trade Unions

Moderator: **Nyasha Muchichwa**, Economist/Researcher, Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Closing Statements
Joy Beene, Secretary General, Zambia Congress of Trade Unions
Christopher Johnson, Regional Program Director, Solidarity Center
Joel Odigie, Deputy General Secretary, ITUC-Africa
Lisa Peterson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Democracy, Human Rights
and Labor Bureau, U.S. State Department

4:00 p.m. Session Concludes

** M-POWER Steering Committee Member*