



Statement from the 8th General Assembly of the RSMMS Network

The 8th General Assembly of the RSMMS Network took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 23 and 24 September 2025. The theme was "2015-2025: **After 10 years... Coalitions, Constraints & Adaptations**" to discuss the work accomplished the challenges ahead in European, Mediterranean and sub-Saharan African countries.

The General Assembly is taking place in a challenging international context, marked by deteriorating living conditions and treatment of migrant workers due to repressive, inhumane and degrading policies.

The populist rhetoric of the European and global right wing strongly attacks migration and, consequently, on the rights of migrant workers. These practices fuel antagonism between workers, migrants and non-migrants, thus diverting attention away from the real issues such as the precariousness and deterioration of working conditions.

We believe in uniting of all workers worldwide, regardless of nationality, gender, colour, culture or religion, to reaffirm the value of work and its social and human significance.

The member organisations of the RSMMS reaffirm the need to guarantee migrant workers' rights through compliance with the ILO and the United Nations international conventions. However, the international scene is witnessing a very strong attack from the radicalised right. This situation now affects the ILO, a tripartite United Nations agency, that has been subjected to a general overhaul of its standards monitoring system, committee of experts and the right to strike by the employers' group since 2012.

Attacks on the ILO have intensified in recent months, particularly in late August and early September 2025. In an official statement, the US Presidency announced a "historic package of budget cuts" and accused the ILO of "unionising foreign workers and penalising the interests of American companies".

In this context, we recall that the Trade Union Network for Migration in the Mediterranean was created in a spirit of unity and solidarity with the trade union

movement, adhering to the fundamental, universal values of human rights based on freedom, equality, justice, non-discrimination and decent work.

The transformations that have taken place in migration, societies and the policies that shape them justify the continued relevance of the network as a multi-regional space over the last 10 years.

In the face of these attacks and threats, the RSMMS and its affiliated organisations are therefore mobilising to defend international labour standards, conventions and recommendations, as well as the International Labour Organisation, which has been the world's sole agency and reference point for social justice in the world for over than 100 years.

In an era of escalating attacks on fundamental freedoms and rights, we reaffirm that the RSMMS is an essential tool for safeguarding the right to mobility of persons, adopting a multi-stakeholder approach.

Abidjan, 24 September 2025