18th January 2022

STATEMENT

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) during its extraordinary summit held on January 9 in Accra, took a decision to impose a series of heavy sanctions against Mali.

These include, among others, the closing of borders between ECOWAS member countries and Mali, the suspension of all commercial transactions between ECOWAS countries and Mali, the freezing of Mali’s assets in central banks and commercial organizations of ECOWAS and the suspension of Mali from all financial assistance from ECOWAS financial institutions.

The sanctions are likely to further weaken Mali’s economy and fuel widespread poverty in the country. Considering their economic and social impact on the workers and people of Mali, particularly in this context of global health crisis, the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) deeply regrets these sanctions. It expresses its solidarity with the Mali-workers and the National Union of Workers of Mali (UNTM) fighting for democracy, social justice, peace, and the sovereignty of the Malian people.

Faced with the risks and harmful effects that these severe measures will have on the lives of workers and their family members, already heavily affected by the COVID 19 pandemic, OATUU urges the ECOWAS to reconsider its position on Mali and calls for an end to this situation. Furthermore, OATUU calls upon the member countries of ECOWAS and the government of Mali to embrace a realistic dialogue between them to ensure the restoration of constitutional order in the country within a reasonable time.

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Secretary General