



## **A Statement Supporting the General Strike Called for by Three Central Trade Unions in Morocco**

The Arab Union Trade Confederation (ATUC) expresses its solidarity and support for the general national strike organised in Morocco on October 29, 2014. The union considers the recent decisions taken by the Moroccan government as unfair for the Moroccan working class and a threat to the social security of the country. The decisions can only be described as unpopular and aiming at making poor people even poorer through successive increases of prices and derailing the gains through the announced reform of retirement funds and clearance, as well as raising the age of retirement and the contribution percentage while decreasing the rate of benefit. Consequently, such measures adversely affects the purchasing power of labourers, particularly poor workers and pensioners.

The ATUC denounces the ways followed by the government and its unilateral decision making, in addition to its recurring refusal to bear its social and political responsibilities, and going back on its promises and commitments. The ATUC also denounces the government's statements labelling the strike as a serious threat to social dialogue in Morocco and taking, accordingly, decisions that concern the working class without consulting the workers' legitimate representatives.

The ATUC urges the Moroccan government to pay attention the rationale behind this cautionary national strike and embark on discussions with its social partners. Moreover, the confederation urges the government to adopt a participatory approach in decision making instead of covering its unilateral actions an aura of security fears and caution of the possibilities of chaos, leading at the end of the day to undermining constitutional and democratic rights, as well as the noble goals of dialogue and participation.

The ATUC also urges all trade unions in the world to voice their solidarity with the unions' action in Morocco.

