

**Report**  
**Conference of domestic unions**  
**On the Ratification Strategy of Convention C189**

**Held in Dakar on 20 May 2017**  
**At the House of Culture Doua SECK**

**SUMMARY**

**I) Introduction**

**II) Speech of the Inter-Union of Servants**

**III) Address by Mrs Asmaou BA Doukoure President of the Network**

**IV) Animation of the conference by the Labor Inspector**

**V) Address by the Political Authorities**

**VI) Galleries**



## I) Introduction

Under the auspices of the trade unions of domestic workers, a conference on the strategy to be adopted for the ratification of Convention C189 was held on Saturday 20 May 2017 at the Doua SECK Cultural House.

The conference was attended by several political, customary, municipal and religious personalities. There was also the effective presence of other comrades general secretaries of trade unions affiliated to the IUF and civil society organizations.

A hundred people made the trip to answer the call of the domestic workers. The conference was held at the Doua SECK Cultural House.



The conference was chaired by Mr. Mamadou DIOUF Deputy Secretary General of the National Confederation of Workers of Senegal and member of the national coordination of the IUF section Senegal.

He began his speech with thanks to the IUF for sparing no effort to defend the physical and moral interests of workers around the world.

He recalled the important struggle of the IUF for the adoption of Convention C189. It is continuing to fight for the ratification of the convention in our countries. That justifies our presence in this place marked by a massive presence of domestic workers. This indicates the particular interest aroused in this segment of the population which is often left behind.

In our countries, it will take a fierce battle to get our leaders not only to ratify but above all to implement the conventions.

Mr DIOUF reminded the audience that we are not alone in the fight and insisted that the crowd cheered the presence of the president of the Network of Domestic Workers in Africa, Comrade Asmaou BA DOUKOURE came expressly from Guinea to support Our action.

He ended his speech with the hope that Senegal would be the fourth African country to ratify Convention C189.

## **II) Speech of the inter-union of domestic workers.**

In the name of the inter-union of the domestic workers, Comrade AliouThiandoum wanted to magnify the support of the IUF which is to be an important support for the improvement of the living conditions of the domestic workers.

In welcoming the conference, MrThiandoum recalled the upheavals that had taken place until then for the adoption of the Convention on 16 June 2011.

According to the Secretary-General, this international legal instrument entered into force on 05 September 2013 and became an internal part of the social legislation of the states that have ratified it, such as South Africa, Mauritius, and now Guinea.

Given the burning current that characterizes the unspeakable abuses affecting domestic workers especially in the countries of the Gulf, the ratification of the convention is absolutely urgent because dramatic situations make headlines.

The ratification of this convention could lead the state of Senegal to ask the country of destination to protect this vulnerable workforce.

As Senegal is a large country providing domestic workers, it is not isolated, it bears witness to the dramatic case of our comrade MBAYANG DIOP called Madjiguéne in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Thiamdoum believes he has the support of the IUF for the high struggles that await them even after ratification.

He finished his speech with the following question.

"How many couples could join their jobs today, if there were no domestic workers at home"

## **III) Address by MrsAsmaou BA Doukoure President of the African Network of Domestic Workers**

After thanking the organizers of the invitation, Comrade Asmaou DOUKOURE made the genesis of the organization of the network of Domestic workers that was created in Cape Town in South Africa

on 16 June 2013 on the 2nd anniversary of the adoption of The Convention.

Comrade Asmaou declined the objectives of the network in four points:

- Strengthen coordination and solidarity among the organizations of domestic workers in Africa.
- Sharing information and good practices in the continent
- Strengthen the capacity of domestic workers
- Assist in the ratification of Convention C189 in

On the strategy adopted by Guinea for the ratification of the C189, the union has set up branches in the various districts of the city of Conakry.

The union held press conferences and hosted several programs in local languages.

The union took advantage of the national holiday organizations to open up a breach to raise awareness of the need to ratify the convention.

Caravans were also organized for the cause to be heard by the populations.

All of its events were the subject of a relay by the national press which was a major support.

The union has also benefited from the support of the competent authorities, trade union centers and NGOs involved in the defense of human rights.

This allowed them to have the following results:

1. The effective recognition of domestic work and domestic workers in Guinea.
2. Obtaining the Guinean SMIG for domestic workers
3. The involvement of the competent authorities in defense of the rights of domestic workers.

To conclude Comrade Asmaou invited the government of Senegal to ratify the convention for a better future of the domestic workers of Senegal.

#### **IV) Animation of the conference by the Labor Inspector**

Labor and Social Security Inspector Mamadou Camara FALL focused his remarks on the main lines of the convention.

He began by defining decent work in the domestic worker who happens to be the backbone of this convention.

After reviewing the fundamental rights of domestic workers, he proposed strengthening the Social Dialogue established in Senegal to promote and protect the interests of domestic workers.

Mr FALL also asked for the revision of the Ministerial Order of 1968 regulating domestic work within the framework of shared responsibility between the state, employers and domestic workers.

The speaker has, at the request of the chairman of the meeting, responded to the various interpellations of the participants of the conference.

## **V) Speeches by the Political Authorities**

Before the closing ceremony of the political authorities took the floor to magnify the holding of this conference which served as a platform of awareness and advocacy for the protection of domestic workers.

The ceremony ended at 7:55 pm

NB: the conference was relayed by the national and international press.

The online press and the local press produced broadcasts with the general secretaries of trade unions.