

## **DECLARATION OF THE CONGRESS OF AFRICAN JOURNALISTS (CAJ)**

We the leaders of unions and associations of journalists across Africa who are very concerned of/about the lack of actions and responses to issues affecting journalists, the media and the continent especially in this crucial situation of Covid19 ;

Considering that we need to establish a platform to deal with those issues including press freedom, safety and security, working conditions, especially in this crucial situation of Covid19 ;

Considering « The Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa »

Considering the lack of effectiveness of a Pan-African Organisation of Journalists to address the burning issues affecting the continent ;

Considering the need to engaged Issues Based Interventions, such as the Covid19 ;

Considering the deteriorating situation of Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression in Africa over the years ;

Considering the burning issues of the Safety and Security of Journalists and the issue of Impunity ;

Considering the lack of trade union development programmes, lack of industrial actions and lack of social dialogue engaging the employers and the governments ;

Considering the worrying jailing of journalists and the number of journalists in prison ;

Considering the important number of African journalists in exile ;

Considering the lack of Solidarity among African Journalists to support african initiatives;

Considering the African Union Agenda 2063 and the UN Agenda 2030, and the role of journalists and the media to fast-track prosperity on the continent ;

Considering the mainstreaming of gender equality, equal participation of women journalists & young workers

Considering our disposition to engaging all stakeholders of the media sector, governments, regional and international organisations ;

**Have Decided to Create The Congress of African Journalists (CAJ).**

The Congress of African Journalists shall defend the rights of all journalists and media workers in Africa.

The CAJ shall engage employers and governments for the welfare in the industry.

The CAJ shall uphold and promote the aims and principles of social dialogue within its shores and in the African continent

The CAJ shall be the policy body to decides on all aspects of policy and working programmes concerning journalists' rights and professional journalism in Africa.

The CAJ shall work to address and improve professional and ethical journalism, to protect and defend freedom of expression and access to information as well as journalists' human rights, as laid down in the *Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression and access to information in Africa*.

The CAJ shall develop and promote common interests and programmes in relation with the African Union Agenda 2063, and with the UN Agenda 2030 in the fields of social, economic, cultural and media development in Africa.

The CAJ calls on all journalists' unions and associations to join this movement in order to build a strong constituency to work together for welfare and development in Africa.

The signatories :

Nigerian Union of journalists (NUJ)

Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ)

Union Burundaise des Journalistes (UBJ)

Kenya Correspondents Association

Union des Journalistes Independants du Togo (UJIT)

Association des Journalistes du Burkina (AJB)

Somali Journalists Syndicat (SJS)

Swaziland National Association of Journalists (SNAJ)

Ethiopia National Journalists Union (ENJU)

Union des Professionnels des Médias du Bénin (UPMB)

Journalists' Workers' Union of Tanzania (JOWUTA)

Syndicat de la Presse et de l'Audiovisuel de Djibouti (SPAD)

**Done on 23 June 2020  
The Congress**