



## **AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE**

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**TITLE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF TRADE UNIONS (TUs) WITHIN AFRICA'S  
"BOOMING" ECONOMIES**

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**ABSTRACT:**

This paper will discuss the challenges and opportunities trade unions are facing within changing African societies. The paper will combine and compare data from eight country studies, conducted between 2008 and 2014, in order to identify key trends and dynamics of labour movements and trade unions in Africa today. The countries are Cameroon, Ghana, Guinée, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and South Africa. Some of the issues that will be raised are the growing informal sector in Africa, the difficulty of TUs to appeal to Africa's youths, the changing roles of TUs, social dialogue, the relation between TUs and political parties, the decreasing legitimacy of TUs, gender and TUs, and the reaction of TUs towards changing labour market characteristics (flexibilisation, outsourcing, and casual work). These issues will be embedded within the broader socio-economic changes the continent is currently going through.