

IndustriALL Base Metals Steering Committee Statement on ArcelorMittal

Paris, France,

27 September, 2017

Sixty trade union leaders from the base metals sector from twenty countries around the world met at the IndustriALL Base Metals Steering Committee in Paris, France on 26-27 September to discuss latest developments in the sector and to advance the action plan for unions globally. One key issue that emerged forcefully during the meeting is a clear, unified demand for greater global union collaboration and coordination at the world's largest steel company, ArcelorMittal. This included a demand for collaboration and coordination both among the unions and between the unions and Arcelor Mittal global corporate management.

Unions at ArcelorMittal from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa and the United States spoke about a number of ongoing problems with labor relations and health and safety practices at ArcelorMittal. These include recent fatalities and near fatalities in Kazakhstan and South Africa, pressure from management on the union and union activists, a lack of transparency and failure to share information with the European Works Council, workforce reductions without required consultation and excessively low wages.

Participants unanimously agreed that change is required, and that positive change can best be achieved at the global level in a spirit of cooperation between unions and the company.

Participants recalled the global meeting of unions at ArcelorMittal held in Montreal and jointly organized by unions and ArcelorMittal in 2007, a meeting that served as a platform for the development of the Joint Global Health and Safety Agreement with ArcelorMittal. Participants called for using the occasion of this committee's meeting in Burns Harbor at the beginning of October to begin a discussion with the company about escalating global collaboration to achieve better health and safety practices and more mature industrial relations.