

INDUSTRIALL GLOBAL UNION CONGRESS RESOLUTION

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Holding Volkswagen Accountable

Since the crash of the global economy in 2008, working people around the world have been struggling to regain lost ground. But efforts to improve living standards have been obstructed by powerful interests. Workers who saw their wages and benefits slashed in the immediate aftermath of the crash continue to struggle. If they have a union they have regained some of what they lost; without a union, most employers have not restored their former compensation.

Right-wing political groups have also seen an opportunity to attack social benefits. Here in Brazil, we see repeated attacks taking aim at the social and labor rights won after the military dictatorship.

We now also see a disturbing trend where employers who previously agreed to conduct themselves in a socially responsible manner, have abandoned those promises. In December 2015, skilled trades workers at Volkswagen's plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee in the USA, voted by more than a 70% margin to choose the United Auto Workers (UAW) as their exclusive representative for collective bargaining. But Volkswagen has refused to respect the workers' decision and has not begun bargaining as mandated by U.S. law. The National Labor Relations Board, an agency of the United States Government, has cited Volkswagen for violating U.S. law in failing to bargain with the UAW. By its actions, Volkswagen is also violating its own Global Framework Agreement.

At its May meeting, the IndustriALL Executive Committee called on Volkswagen to get in line or face further actions, including the possibility of revoking the GFA between the company and IndustriALL. Yet Volkswagen continues to ignore the choice of its Chattanooga workers and defy U.S. labor law.

Now it is time for IndustriALL to act. To hold Volkswagen accountable and to give life to our Charter of Solidarity in Confronting Corporate Violations of Fundamental Rights, IndustriALL shall:

- Arrange an immediate meeting between Volkswagen, IndustriALL, IG Metall, UAW and key affiliates to seek a settlement of this matter;
- As quickly as possible, convene a meeting of all affiliates with members employed by Volkswagen, to exchange information and produce a detailed report of the company's labor relations practices and establish common ground for collective action;
- This meeting shall decide on a near-term date for a Day of Action at Volkswagen plants around the world, and decide on specific activities – including industrial actions and demonstrations – to hold the company accountable;
- Prepare a plan for media activity in countries with Volkswagen plants, calling attention to Volkswagen's behavior and its denial of workers' rights in Chattanooga; and

- If Volkswagen doesn't respect workers' rights, initiate action to revoke our Global Framework Agreement with the company.