

Geneva, 8 January 2019

H.E. Mohammed Ashraf Ghani
President
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Presidential Palace, Gul Khana, Kabul
Afghanistan

c/o Haroon Chakhansuri
Deputy Chief of Staff and Spokesperson to the President
Email: h.chakhansuri@arg.gov.af

IndustriALL Global Union in solidarity with victims of gold mine collapse in Afghanistan

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing this letter to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](http://www.industrial-all-union.org), which represents more than fifty million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors throughout the world, to mourn the death of at least 30 people, who perished when a gold mine caved in on Sunday in the Kohistan district of Badakhshan province.

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and a speedy recovery to those who were rescued.

According to official reports, the accident happened in an unregistered mine, which usually results in the absence of strict health and safety measures. The mining industry has a great potential in Afghanistan, and we are aware that in 2018 the Afghan government approved two contracts for the exploration of copper and gold deposits in several northern provinces.

We attach great importance to the adherence to and implementation of preventive measures in the framework of international standards, including ILO Convention 176 on Safety and Health in Mines. Therefore, we take this opportunity to encourage the Government of Afghanistan to ratify ILO Convention 176, in communication and cooperation with our sisters and brothers in the Afghan trade unions.

In this sense, we would like to offer to share with you our experience and expertise, which stems from working with our affiliated unions worldwide, to help improve working conditions in mines.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Valter Sanches
General Secretary