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Geneva, 28 January 2019

Fabio Schvartsman
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Sent by email to Fabio.Schvartsman@vale.com; Eduardo.Bartolomeo@vale.com;
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**IndustriALL Global Union and BWI call on Vale
to vastly improve safety, consult with unions and civil society, and
compensate victims expeditiously and justly at Brumadinho**

Dear Mr Schvartsman,

We are writing to you on behalf of [IndustriALL Global Union](#), which represents more than 50 million workers in some 140 countries in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors, and [BWI](#), which is a global union federation representing around 12 million members in 130 countries in the building, building materials, wood, forestry and allied sectors, to mourn the death of at least 60 people who were killed, and hundreds are still missing, after the tailings dam operated by Vale in Brumadinho, Minas Gerais, released a huge wave of iron ore waste on 25 January.

We condemn in the strongest terms the fact that Vale has ignored the [International Council on Mining & Metals](#) guidelines on preventing catastrophic failure of tailings storage facilities, released after the Fundão Dam collapse. Furthermore, Vale has failed to adhere to standards in tailings dam management outlined by the multistakeholder [Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance standard](#) (IRMA).

This latest tragedy comes after IndustriALL and BWI [filed an OECD complaint against Vale and British-Australian mining giant, BHP](#), following the Fundão Dam disaster in Mariana, also in Minas Gerais. The November 2015 tailings dam failure claimed the lives of 19 people and was Brazil's worst environmental disaster.

This tragic accident could have been prevented had measures been put in place when it was revealed publicly that the Brumadinho dam posed safety risk to workers and the community. Vale failed to adhere to these warnings. Workers have paid tragically with their lives.



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Therefore, we call on Vale to take immediate actions to improve safety in all its operations, conduct a thorough investigation into the causes of the Brumadinho dam failure that includes the participation of unions, immediate consultation with unions and civil society on tailings dam safety, and expeditious and just compensation for the victims at Brumadinho.

It is imperative that Vale act decisively and without any delay to ensure that these preventable accidents never happen again.

We look forward to your prompt action and reply.

Sincerely yours,

Valter Sanches
General Secretary
IndustriALL Global Union

Ambet Yuson
General Secretary
BWI