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INDUSTRIALL GLOBAL UNION REGIONAL MEETING FOR THE CARIBBEAN Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-13 November 2018

STATEMENT ON ALCOA

Meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname, on 12-13 November 2018, the unions participating in IndustriALL Global Union's Caribbean regional meeting expressed concern at Alcoa's withdrawal from Suriname.

The meeting noted that:

- Alcoa has closed its operations in Suriname in breach of the Brokopondo agreement signed with the government of Suriname in 1958, in which Alcoa committed to continue its operations until 2033.
- Alcoa's withdrawal has dealt a severe blow to the nation's economy and represents a major setback for its industrial development.
- The Parliamentary Commission set up to negotiate an alternative exit agreement has served as a mouthpiece for Alcoa and has not represented the interests of the people of Suriname.

Accordingly, the meeting calls on the Parliament of Suriname to:

- Establish a new commission to negotiate the strongest possible alternative to the Brokopondo agreement, and in particular:
 - Ensure the composition of the new committee includes representatives of labour;
 - Ensure that negotiations proceed on the basis of an impact assessment funded by Alcoa and carried out by an independent team of national and international experts. The scope of the assessment should include:
 - Labour issues, including an assessment of the health of retrenched workers employed in hazardous conditions and who have since fallen ill; levels of pension benefits which have been eroded since the devaluation of the currency; and employment concerns.
 - Environment liabilities;
 - Energy issues, including an assessment of the condition of the dam;
 - Social issues created by Alcoa's departure from Suriname.

IndustriALL Global Union, Latin America and Caribbean Office
C-47, Suriname

Electrical Workers' Organization, Suriname

National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), Barbados

Newmont Workers' Organization, Suriname

Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), Trinidad & Tobago

Progressive Workers' Organization (PWO), Suriname

Steel Workers Union of Trinidad and Tobago (SWUTT), Trinidad & Tobago

UGTK/CADMU, Curacao