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

STATEMENT ON PETROTRIN

Meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname, on 12-13 November 2018, the unions participating in IndustriALL Global Union's Caribbean regional meeting expressed concern at the closure of Trinidad and Tobago's largest state-owned company, Petrotrin.

The meeting noted that:

- OWTU has long been advocating the restructuring of Petrotrin, which has been plagued by poor governance, mismanagement and political interference.
- Closing Petrotrin, the country's only national oil company which includes exploration and production and a refinery, amounts to ceding sovereignty over key natural resources to private interests, and will have a major impact on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago and the region.
- The closure will affect a total of 9,000 workers attached to Petrotrin - including permanent, casual and service provider workers – as well as their families and communities.
- Petrotrin has failed to engage with OWTU in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on the 3 April, 2018 which provided for the establishment of a joint working committee.

Accordingly, the meeting called on:

- Petrotrin to engage in good faith negotiations with OWTU within the context of the MOA;
- the government to ensure that OWTU is granted majority union status in any future company that may emerge from the restructuring of Petrotrin.

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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