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 Carribbean 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 an 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.

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