

Response to the “Joint letter by Civil Society Groups to Companies linked to the supply Chain of Vale”.

March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

Dear business and human rights resource centre and civil society signatories

Thank you for the letter you sent to ArcelorMittal and other companies regarding the incident at Vale's Feijão iron ore mine in Brumadinho.

ArcelorMittal shares your concerns and we do expect Vale to address them appropriately.

As a buyer of mined products, we only select suppliers across the world that act responsibly on key environmental and social criteria. This incident emphasises the importance of having greater transparency in the supply chain, and more robust, independent systems in place to check that the required safety, environmental and social standards are applied across all industrial operations we buy from. That is why, for over three years, we have been active participants in the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative established by the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) and the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA). Both these initiatives have developed standards and assurance mechanisms to enable mining companies to turn high-level environmental and social commitments into action on the ground, while giving communities key information on performance in areas such as community outreach, tailings management and biodiversity. This aligns with ArcelorMittal's human rights policy, and human rights due diligence system. In addition, we follow the OECD supply chain due diligence guidelines for raw material suppliers. Supply chain is one of five pillars of our board level SD and CR oversight committee.

ArcelorMittal is a founder members of a multi-stakeholder standard for steel making called ResponsibleSteel. This will work in partnership with IRMA and TSM.

We are working hard to drive the uptake of standards and certification in our supply chain, both through direct engagement with mining companies and through our involvement in ResponsibleSteel™. Both IRMA and ResponsibleSteel are designed around multi-stakeholder governance and processes, so I hope you and the other signatories in your letter would consider becoming involved.

In terms of immediate strategy, we are collecting facts and awaiting results of ongoing investigations. We know mining companies are reviewing possible actions, for example decommissioning of upstream tailings storage facilities and non-wet disposal methods.

Naturally we are happy to talk through this matter with you, but as stated we believe that ResponsibleSteel and the mining certification initiatives listed above are important collaborative platforms to drive the improvements sought.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Knight

Head of SD and CR  
ArcelorMittal