

IRMA Statement

30 January 2019

The multi-stakeholder leadership of the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) joins colleagues and communities around the world in expressing tremendous sadness over the loss of life resulting from the tailings dam failure in Brumadinho, Brazil on Friday 25 January.

This catastrophe, the world's third of a similar nature in the past five years, provides tragic evidence for the pressing need for rigorous, high-bar standards in the mining sector. At IRMA, we have worked together for over a decade to set forth such standards, collaborating across five key stakeholder groups—mining companies, downstream users of mined products, NGOs, labor unions, and affected communities—to provide clear and measurable best practices in our *Standard for Responsible Mining*.

Of particular relevance to last week's tragedy are the chapters on managing mine waste and protecting water resources. These requirements were informed by international expertise, including the [Mount Polley Independent Expert Panel](#) and the United Nations Environment Programme's [report on mine tailings storage](#).

International expertise from a range of disciplines informs the entire *Standard for Responsible Mining*, as does IRMA's commitment to continuously incorporate learnings from an ever-evolving industry. We stand ready to learn from the investigations into the dam collapse at Feijao mine and will incorporate relevant findings into the Standard.

While IRMA is a voluntary certification system meant to complement strong laws and government oversight, we are also the world's first and only global definition of what constitutes leading practices in social and environmental responsibility for large-scale mining operations. Through the Standard's vetted, comprehensive, and robust guidance, we truly aspire to meet our vision—a world in which the mining industry respects the human rights and aspirations of affected communities; provides safe, healthy, and respectful workplaces; minimizes harm to the environment; and leaves positive legacies.

As we reflect on last week's events with great sadness, we also stand in solidarity with those working to improve practices in one of the world's largest and most important industries. We welcome mining companies across the globe to use the *Standard for Responsible Mining* to inform and improve their practices. Together, we can unite in an urgent commitment to change, working to ensure such tragedies and their incalculable losses become incidents of the past.

