



## **International declaration by IUF affiliates representing ABInBev and SABMiller workers**

*Istanbul, June 14, 2016*

39 trade unions representatives from 18 unions representing workers at global transnational companies ABInBev and SABMiller in 13 countries met in Istanbul on June 14, 2016.

The meeting was dominated by concerns rising from the pending purchase of SABMiller by ABInBev.

Union representatives attending the meeting noted the following:

- Evidence over recent times suggests that both companies have significantly reduced the value they place on workers who produce the beer and related products and play the greatest role in creating value and revenue in both companies.
- These concerns are particularly acute today in the face of the likely purchase of SABMiller by ABInBev. With some exceptions in Europe both companies have been extremely slow or even obstructive when asked to provide clear information to their respective workforces about all and any consequences likely to arise from the creation of a single company. This has generated extreme insecurity that will result in a demotivated workforce in both companies.

Concerns focus particularly on:

- Security of employment at all levels within the newly formed company;
- Maintenance of working conditions and living standards of workers in the newly formed company;
- Weakening of the fundamental rights of workers in the new company, notably the rights to both form and join unions and to have those unions engage in meaningful collective bargaining;

## Conclusions

At the conclusion of the meeting there was unanimous agreement on the following issues:

1. Trade unions representing ABInBev and SABMiller workers call on the company to engage at international level with the IUF, the international union federation that represents the majority of unionized workers within the company internationally to discuss these and related concerns.

2. The trade unions present and other unions in both ABInBev and SABMiller will more closely coordinate their actions and activities across borders. This will particularly involve:

- Ongoing exchanges of information around the concerns expressed above and other issues coordinated through IUF regional and international structures
- Mutual concrete support in the event that the rights or working conditions of any members of IUF affiliates are threatened in any way;
- Support from other trade unions that are members of the recently created IUF International Brewery Division that brings together dozens of unions and thousands of workers throughout the world's brewery sector;
- Public action focused on major brands in the event that action or inaction by the the new company threatens the rights or working standards of ABInBev employees.

3. Unions and the workers they represent pledged to not accept further adverse impacts on those who create value and wealth in the company that might arise from the purchase of SABMiller.

Whilst those invested financially in the company will expect to further increase their returns trade unions represented in Istanbul expressed clear determination that in the event that this happens at the expense of ABInBev and SABMiller workers there will be an organized, effective and international response.