



SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STEELWORKERS AND THE MEXICAN MINE AND METALWORKERS UNIONS

In recognition of the historic ties between our two unions and the leading role that each has played in the fight for the rights of workers in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (the United Steelworkers) and the National Union of Mine, Metal, Steel, and Similar Workers of the Mexican Republic (Los Mineros) entered into a Strategic Alliance in 2005.

Under the banner of that Alliance our two unions have fought side by side to resist the attack by a handful of corporations, aided and abetted by the government of Mexico, on the rights of Mexican workers in general and the very existence of Los Mineros in particular. While that fight is far from over, Los Mineros, supported by the United Steelworkers, has won tremendous improvements in working and living standards for its members in the mines, mills, and factories of Mexico, contributing to the increased well being of its members in Mexico and increasing economic security for workers in the United States and Canada.

In recognition of our joint commitment to the rights and living and working standards of workers across North America, in 2010 our two unions built upon that framework by entering into an agreement to work towards the creation of a single North American organization. Supported by our increasing ties of solidarity and concrete actions of support, Los Mineros have been successful in organizing new workplaces in Mexico, significantly increasing its membership in 2010 even in the face of the continuing attack.

On the heels of these successes, the United Steelworkers and Los Mineros intend to strengthen our joint efforts to fight for workers throughout our three countries, reaffirm our joint commitment to work toward the creation of a single North American organization, and act on that commitment by creating a new SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE based on the following principles and commitments:

- The United Steelworkers and Los Mineros will remain separate labor organizations with separate constitutions, and neither will be liable for the legal obligations and debts of the other.**

- **The Steelworkers will be entitled to an observer with the right to speak but not vote on issues coming before the National Executive Committee of Los Mineros, and Los Mineros will be entitled to an observer with the right to speak but not vote on issues coming before the Steelworkers International Executive Board. The observers will not be considered members of the Committee/Board whose activities they are observing.**
- **A program of exchanges of Steelworker and Minero personnel, staff, and membership will be developed, in addition to the on-going informational and activist exchanges, which will be continued.**
- **A program of Spanish instruction for Steelworker staff who desire to become fluent in Spanish will be explored, as will a program of English instruction for the leadership of Los Mineros.**
- **Councils will be created where our unions represent employees at major common employers, consisting of Steelworker and Minero local unions, that will meet on a regular basis in all three countries to facilitate exchange of information, strategic cooperation, solidarity support, and organizing initiatives.**
- **A mechanism to support cross-national organizing will be created.**
- **The joint commission established in 2010 will be expanded to include the General Counsel and Director of International Affairs of the Steelworkers and two additional representatives of the Mineros. The joint commission is charged with recommending all necessary actions to advance the initiatives described above.**

Approved and executed in Las Vegas, August 16, 2011

Leo W. Gerard,
International President, USW



Napoleon Gomez Urrutia,
General Secretary, SNTMMSRM

