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Belo Horizonte, May 12, 2008 - USIMINAS - Usinas Siderúrgicas de Minas Gerais S/A [USIM3, USIM5, USIM6, USNZY, XUSI], the leading company of the Usiminas System, the largest flat steel conglomerate in Latin America, announces that the company's 2006 Social Report was awarded in two categories "Employees' Choice" and "Countries non-Members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development."

After becoming the only Brazilian steel mill included in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, Usiminas celebrates a new triumph: It was awarded by Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), an international non-governmental organization that sets guidelines for sustainability reports. The company obtained second place in two of the eight categories that integrate the Readers Choice Awards, delivered during the Global Amsterdam Conference for Sustainability and Transparency, in Netherlands. Along with other 800 companies, the steel mill had its 2006 Social Report awarded in the categories "Employees' Choice" and "Countries non-Members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development." In addition, Usiminas received two Honorable Mentions, both awarded for its high score in: Highlight of Brazilian companies and Highlight of global metallurgy sector. From October to December of 2007, GRI received registrations from companies worldwide. The social reports were available at the GRI site for voting by investors, consumers, corporate leaders, company's employees and journalists. According to the scores, 45 reports were selected as finalists. The winning social reports of the first Readers Choice Awards are a reflex of its reader's preference and can set standards for the creation of new parameters by GRI and for the preparation of social reports in the following years. The choice ratifies the role of Usiminas in the social-environmental area, where the company has already been acknowledged with other local awards.