IN order to live up to our brand promise of “Transforming Tomorrow,” we are committed to the highest standards of corporate responsibility (CR). This is not only a matter of good corporate citizenship, but also the ability to demonstrate good social and community development practices that makes us an attractive partner and opens up new business opportunities.

Our strategic goals include creating industry-leading value for shareholders, improving our operating capabilities, building on our existing performance culture and, crucially, being a responsible corporate citizen. We realise that an ongoing commitment to sustainable business practices will prove critical to achieving these goals and providing the kind of leadership that will transform the steel industry on the continent.

Sustainability, along with quality and leadership, is one of our three newly adopted brand values. In guiding the evolution of steel to secure the best future for the industry, we remain mindful of our responsibility to the people in whom we invest, the communities we support and the environment in which we operate. This long-term approach is central to our business philosophy and intrinsically linked to our future financial prosperity.

We think of sustainability in terms of three dimensions:

- Health and safety,
- Environmental responsibility, and
- Engagement with stakeholders.

This philosophy manifests itself in an array of safety, health, environmental and social investment programmes, which represent the human interface of the organisation and are aimed at the well-being of the company’s key stakeholders, both in the operating environment and within society.

ArcelorMittal South Africa remains fully committed to further broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BEE), recognising that it is the cornerstone of a strong, sustainable economy. We have renewed our focus on transforming the company and improving its empowerment status on all the elements identified in the Department of Trade & Industry’s codes of good practice.

With board and executive level representation the company ensures that sustainable development activities receive the highest level of attention. Details of our activities on all fronts of sustainability are contained in the sustainability reports at www.arcelormittal.co.za.

The impact that our operations have on the planet is one of the most important sustainability issues for our company.

Today’s steel has adapted itself to the needs of sustainable economies and is stronger, lighter and less carbon-intensive than ever before. Once produced, it is a genuinely renewable resource. With our innovations, steel is creating products that a sustainable world needs: lighter-weight cars and packaging, low-carbon buildings and energy generation, water treatment plants, public transport systems and flood defences.

Nonetheless, steelmaking is a resource-intensive process. We are committed to improving the environmental impacts of this through process innovation, good management and investment. In this way, we can create value not only for our customers, but for our communities and the world around us.

The sustainability of steel

The demand for a more sustainable world means that steel must be sustainable. This is influenced by three levers: the environmental impacts steel has in production; the impacts it has in use; and the amount of steel products society consumes per head of population.

ArcelorMittal’s response is focused on directly influencing the first two of these levers, the impact of steelmaking and the functional efficiency of steel. The third concerns choices that society makes, something we are concerned with indirectly, through our contributions to society’s understanding of the true impact of steel. We think there are four ways in which we can create sustainable value through steel:

- Creating products that reduce sustainability impacts in use, such as advanced high strength steel for vehicles and solutions for low carbon building;
business practices in the steel industry