2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These consolidated financial statements of the Group have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), as adopted by the European Union.

International Financial Reporting Standards are issued by the International Accounting Standard Board ("IASB"). IFRSs that are mandatory for application for the annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018, but not adopted by the European Union, do not have any significant impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except as disclosed in the accounting policies below. Exceptions include, but are not limited to, property, plant and equipment at the date of transition to IFRS accounted for at deemed cost, equity instruments measured at fair value, assets classified as held for sale measured at the lower of their carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell and post-employment benefits measured at present value.

Going Concern

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Changes in Accounting Policies

New/Revised Standards and Interpretations Adopted in 2018:

- IFRS 9 "Financial Instruments"

Starting from 2018, the Group applies IFRS 9 "Financial Instruments" that replaced IAS 39 "Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement". The impact of the adoption of IFRS 9 to the Group's consolidated financial statements was as follows:

(a) Classification and measurement

IFRS 9 contains a new classification and measurement approach for financial assets that reflects the business model, in which assets are managed and their cash flow characteristics. IFRS 9 includes three principal classification categories for financial assets: measured at amortised cost, at fair value through other comprehensive income and at fair value through profit or loss. It eliminates the existing IAS 39 categories of held to maturity, loans and receivables and available-for-sale financial assets.

The Group continued measuring all financial assets, which were previously measured at fair value, at fair value through profit or loss with the exception of equity investments in Delong Holdings Limited, which were classified as available-for-sale at 31 December 2017 (Note 13). At 1 January 2018, the Group has irrevocably designated these investments as measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. For such financial instruments all subsequent changes in fair value are reported in other comprehensive income, no impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss and no gains or losses are recycled to profit or loss upon derecognition.

Loans and trade receivables are held to collect contractual cash flows and are expected to give rise to cash flows representing solely payments of principal and interest. The Group analysed the contractual cash flow characteristics of those instruments and concluded that they meet the criteria for amortised cost measurement under IFRS 9. Therefore, reclassification for these instruments was not required.

(b) Impairment

Under IFRS 9, the new impairment model requires the recognition of impairment provisions based on the expected credit losses rather than only incurred credit losses under IAS 39. The expected credit losses represent measures of an asset's credit risk. This requires judgement about how changes in economic factors affect expected credit losses, which is determined on a probability-weighted basis.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Changes in Accounting Policies (continued)

New/Revised Standards and Interpretations Adopted in 2018 (continued)

The new impairment model applies to the Group's financial assets, including, but not limited to, trade and other receivables, loans receivable, restricted deposits, cash and cash equivalents.

Loss allowances are measured on either of the following bases:
- 12-month basis – these are expected credit losses that result from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date; or
- lifetime basis – these are expected credit losses that result from all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument.

This did not impact on the loss allowance for trade debtors and other financial assets held at amortised cost.

The Group's cash and cash equivalents have low credit risk based on the external credit ratings of banks and financial institutions. Therefore, the Group determined that no additional allowances are required at 1 January 2018 in connection with the adoption of the new impairment model under IFRS 9.

(c) Hedge accounting

The Group made a choice to continue applying IAS 39 "Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement" to all existing hedge contracts.

The Group has elected the modified retrospective approach for IFRS 9, but it did not record the cumulative impact of the new standard upon initial application due to its immateriality.

- IFRS 15 "Revenue from Contracts with Customers"

IFRS 15 establishes a five-step model to account for revenue arising from contracts with customers. Under IFRS 15, revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. The new revenue standard superseded all previous revenue recognition requirements under IFRS. The Group analysed the impacts of IFRS 15 on its consolidated financial statements considering the following:

(a) Sale of goods and services

For contracts with customers in which the sale of goods produced by the Group is generally expected to be the only performance obligation, adoption of IFRS 15 had no any impact on the Group's revenue and profit or loss. The Group continued to recognise the revenue at the point in time when control of the asset is transferred to the customer, generally on dispatch or shipping of the goods.

Some contracts with customers provide a right of return, trade discounts or volume rebates. The Group recognises revenue from the sale of goods measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of the estimated returns and price concessions, trade discounts and volume rebates. IFRS 15 requires the estimated variable consideration to be constrained to prevent over-recognition of revenue, i.e. variable consideration should be recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur when the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved. The application of the constraint did not result in any effects as the Group applied similar principles.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Changes in Accounting Policies (continued)

(b) Advances received from customers

Under certain contracts, the Group produces steel products specifically for the needs of some customers. The Group has enforceable rights to payment of 100% of the contract price if the contract is cancelled after the pipe manufacturing process has begun. The Group recognises revenue from such contracts at the moment of the transfer of control. The Group analysed whether these contracts require the recognition of revenue over the period of manufacturing the products and concluded that the performance obligation under these contracts does not meet criteria for the recognition over time. The Group concluded that the customers do not simultaneously receive and consume the benefits provided by the Group's performance nor do the customers control the assets as it is created or enhanced. Also despite the steel products are manufactured under customer specifications, they can be sold to another customer without any rework at a market price or with a discount.

The Group receives only short-term advances from its customers. The Group decided to use the practical expedient provided in IFRS 15, which allows not to adjust the promised amount of consideration for the effects of a significant financing component in the contracts where the Group expects, at contract inception, that the period between the Group's transfer of a promised good or service to a customer and when the customer pays for that good or service will be one year or less. Therefore, for short-term advances, the Group will not account for a financing component even if it is significant.

(c) Principal versus agent considerations

The Group enters into contracts with its customers, under which the Group provides transportation and handling services using third party providers (i.e. the Group selects suitable firms and manages the shipment and delivery). These services are provided to the customers before, or after, they obtain control over the goods. The cost of services is included in the contract price.

Under IFRS 15, transportation and handling services rendered by the Group before control over the goods is transferred to the customers do not represent a separate performance obligation. Therefore, the Group continued to recognise these services at the moment when control over the goods is passed to the customers.

With respect to the contracts when the Group provides transportation and handling services after obtaining control over the goods by the customers, the Group concluded that these services represent a separate performance obligation and the Group acts as a principal rather than an agent. Consequently, the control over its services is transferred over time. This change in the accounting policies had no significant impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements and, therefore, the Group did not adjust its consolidated financial statements or the comparative amounts at the date of initial recognition of IFRS 15.

(d) Presentation and disclosure requirements

For the performance obligations under transportation and handling services rendered by the Group in contracts in which it acts as a principal, it was decided to continue presenting revenues from these services within the caption "Sales of goods" in the consolidated statement of operations.

(e) Other adjustments

The recognition and measurement requirements in IFRS 15 are also applicable for recognition and measurement of any gains or losses on disposal of non-financial assets (such as items of property and equipment and intangible assets), when that disposal is not in the ordinary course of business. There were no such transactions in the reporting period.

The Group has elected the modified retrospective approach for IFRS 15, but it did not record the cumulative impact of the new standard upon initial application due to its immateriality.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Changes in Accounting Policies (continued)

- Amendments to IFRS 2 – Classification and Measurement of Share-based Payment Transactions

The IASB issued amendments to IFRS 2 "Share-based Payment" that address three main areas: the effects of vesting conditions on the measurement of a cash-settled share-based payment transaction; the classification of a share-based payment transaction with net settlement features for withholding tax obligations; and accounting where a modification to the terms and conditions of a share-based payment transaction changes its classification from cash settled to equity settled. On adoption, entities are required to apply the amendments without restating prior periods, but retrospective application is permitted if elected for all three amendments and other criteria are met. These amendments do not have any impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

- Amendments to IAS 40 – Transfers of Investment Property

The amendments clarify when an entity should transfer property, including property under construction or development into, or out of investment property. The amendments state that a change in use occurs when the property meets, or ceases to meet, the definition of investment property and there is evidence of the change in use. A mere change in management's intentions for the use of a property does not provide evidence of a change in use. These amendments do not have any impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

- IFRIC 22 "Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration"

The Interpretation clarifies that, in determining the spot exchange rate to use on initial recognition of the related asset, expense or income (or part of it) on the derecognition of a non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability relating to advance consideration, the date of the transaction is the date on which an entity initially recognises the non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability arising from the advance consideration. If there are multiple payments or receipts in advance, then the entity must determine a date of the transactions for each payment or receipt of advance consideration. This Interpretation does not have any impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements as the Group applies the same accounting practice.

Other amendments, clarifications and improvements, which became effective from 1 January 2018, had no impact on the financial position and performance of the Group or the disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

The Group has not early adopted any standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Standards Issued But Not Yet Effective in the European Union

Standards not yet effective for the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018	Effective for annual periods beginning on or after
▪ IFRS 16 "Leases"	1 January 2019
▪ Amendments to IAS 28 – Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures	1 January 2019
▪ Amendments to IAS 19 – Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement	1 January 2019*
▪ Amendments to IFRS 9 – Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation	1 January 2019
▪ IFRIC 23 "Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments"	1 January 2019
▪ Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2015-2017 Cycle	1 January 2019*
▪ Amendment to IFRS 3 – Definition of Business	1 January 2020*
▪ Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8 – Definition of Materiality	1 January 2020*
▪ Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards	1 January 2020*
▪ IFRS 17 "Insurance Contracts"	1 January 2021*

* *Subject to EU endorsement*

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Changes in Accounting Policies (continued)

Standards Issued But Not Yet Effective in the European Union (continued)

The Group expects that the adoption of the pronouncements listed above, except for IFRS 16, will not have a significant impact on the Group's results of operations and financial position in the period of initial application.

The Group plans to apply IFRS 16 "Leases" from 1 January 2019 using the modified retrospective approach, i.e. the comparative information will not be restated. Under this approach both lease liabilities and right-of-use assets will be recognised at the date of transition to IFRS 16 in the same amount. The Group has completed the analysis of possible impact of the application of this standard on its consolidated financial statements. Main categories of contracts, which will be affected by the requirements of IFRS 16, are operating leases of gondola cars, land under production facilities and land used for mining, and certain items of machinery and equipment. The Group expects to recognise approximately $200 million of lease liabilities as a result of application of the new standard.

The Group will not apply IFRS 16 for the leases to explore for or use coal, iron ore and similar non-regenerative resources. Currently the Group is reviewing its lease portfolio to determine which leases will not be subject to IFRS 16.

The Group has elected to use the following practical expedients proposed by the standard:
- on initial application initial direct costs will be excluded from the measurement of the right-of-use asset;
- on initial application IFRS 16 will only be applied to contracts that were previously classified as leases;
- for all classes of underlying assets each lease component and any associated non-lease components will be accounted as a single lease component;
- lease payments for contracts with a duration of 12 months or less or leases for which the underlying assets are of low value will continue to be expensed to the statement of profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In previous years and in 2018, the majority of the Group's outstanding short and long-term lease agreements were cancellable. IAS 17 requires disclosing operating lease commitments only for non-cancellable leases, while under IFRS 16 the Group is also required to include in lease liabilities the payments relating to the term periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that option.

Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

Accounting Judgements

In the process of applying the Group's accounting policies, management has made the following judgements, apart from those involving estimates, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the consolidated financial statements:
- In 2015, following the placement of Highveld Steel and Vanadium Limited under the business rescue procedures, the Group lost control over the subsidiary and it is not expected that it will re-obtain control in the future. As a result, the Group ceased to consolidate this entity starting 14 April 2015.
- The Group determined based on the criteria in IFRIC 4 "Determining whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease" that the supply contracts with PraxAir and Air Liquide do not contain a lease. These contracts included the construction of air separation plants by PraxAir and Air Liquide to be owned and operated by them and the supply of oxygen and other industrial gases produced by the enities to the Group's steel plants for a long-term period on a take or pay basis. Management believes that these arrangements do not convey a right to the Group to use the assets as the Group does not have an ability to operate the assets or to direct other parties to operate the assets; it does not control physical access to the assets; and it is expected that more than an insignificant amount of the assets' output will be sold to the parties unrelated to the Group. The commitments under the contracts are disclosed in Note 30.

Estimation Uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

The Group assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the Group makes an estimate of the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's or cash-generating unit's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets. Where the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the assets. In 2018, 2017 and 2016, the Group recognised a net impairment reversal/(loss) of $(30) million, $20 million and $(151) million, respectively (Notes 6 and 9).

The determination of impairments of property, plant and equipment involves the use of estimates that include, but are not limited to, the cause, timing and amount of the impairment. Impairment is based on a large number of factors, such as changes in current competitive conditions, expectations of growth in the industry, increased cost of capital, changes in the future availability of financing, technological obsolescence, discontinuance of service, current replacement costs and other changes in circumstances that indicate that impairment exists. In 2018, the impairment test models take into account the tariffs imposed by the US and Canada against each other on import of steel and steel products, whose effect is assumed to last until 2022 (Note 6).

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates (continued)

Estimation Uncertainty (continued)

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

The determination of the recoverable amount of a cash-generating unit involves the use of estimates by management. Methods used to determine the value in use include discounted cash flow-based methods, which require the Group to make an estimate of the expected future cash flows from the cash-generating unit and also to choose a suitable discount rate in order to calculate the present value of those cash flows. These estimates, including the methodologies used, may have a material impact on the value in use and, ultimately, the amount of any impairment.

Impairment of Goodwill

The Group determines whether goodwill is impaired at least on an annual basis. This requires an estimation of the value in use of the cash-generating units to which the goodwill is allocated. Estimating the value in use requires the Group to make an estimate of the expected future cash flows from the cash-generating unit and also to choose a suitable discount rate in order to calculate the present value of those cash flows.

The carrying amount of goodwill at 31 December 2018, 2017 and 2016 was $864 million, $917 million and $880 million, respectively. In 2018, 2017 and 2016, the Group recognised an impairment loss in respect of goodwill in the amount of $Nil, $Nil and $316 million, respectively (Note 5). More details of the assumptions used in estimating the value in use of the cash-generating units to which goodwill is allocated are provided in Note 6.

Mineral Reserves

Mineral reserves and the associated mine plans are a material factor in the Group's computation of a depletion charge. The Group estimates its mineral reserves in accordance with the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves ("JORC Code"). Estimation of reserves in accordance with the JORC Code involves some degree of uncertainty. The uncertainty depends mainly on the amount of reliable geological and engineering data available at the time of the estimate and the interpretation of this data, which also requires use of subjective judgement and development of assumptions.

The changes in the pricing environment and geology-related risk factors may lead to a revision of mining plans, decisions to abandon or to mothball certain parts of a mine, to a reassessment of the capital expenditures required for the extraction of the proved and probable reserves, as well as to the changes in the resources classified as proved and probable reserves. As the value of the Group's mining assets is very significant (Note 9), these changes may have a material impact on the depletion charge and impairment, which may arise as a result of a decline in the recoverable amounts of the affected mines.

Post-Employment Benefits

The Group uses an actuarial valuation method for the measurement of the present value of post-employment benefit obligations and related current service cost. This involves the use of demographic assumptions about the future characteristics of the current and former employees who are eligible for benefits (mortality, both during and after employment, rates of employee turnover, disability and early retirement, etc.) as well as financial assumptions (discount rate, future salary and benefit levels, expected rate of return on plan assets, etc.). More details are provided in Note 23.

Foreign Currency Transactions

The presentation currency of the Group is the US dollar because presentation in US dollars is most relevant for the major current and potential users of the consolidated financial statements.

The functional currencies of the Group's subsidiaries are the Russian rouble, US dollar, euro, Czech koruna, South African rand, Canadian dollar and Ukrainian hryvnia. At the reporting date, the assets and liabilities of the subsidiaries with functional currencies other than the US dollar are translated into the presentation currency at the rate of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period, and their statements of operations are translated at the exchange rates that approximate the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. The exchange differences arising on the translation are taken directly to a separate component of equity. On disposal of a subsidiary with functional currency other than the US dollar, the deferred cumulative amount recognised in equity relating to that particular subsidiary is recognised in the statement of operations.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Foreign Currency Transactions (continued)

The following exchange rates were used in the consolidated financial statements:

	2018		2017		2016	
	31 December	**average**	**31 December**	**average**	**31 December**	**average**
USD/RUB	69.4706	62.7078	57.6002	58.3529	60.6569	67.0349
EUR/RUB	79.4605	73.9546	68.8668	65.9014	63.8111	74.2336
EUR/USD	1.1450	1.1810	1.1993	1.1297	1.0541	1.1069
USD/CAD	1.3658	1.2962	1.2530	1.2979	1.3427	1.3248
USD/UAH	27.6880	27.2029	28.0672	26.5947	27.1909	25.5458

Transactions in foreign currencies in each subsidiary of the Group are initially recorded in the functional currency at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the functional currency rate of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. All resulting differences are taken to the statement of operations.

Any goodwill arising on the acquisition of a foreign operation and any fair value adjustments to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities arising on the acquisition are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign operation and translated at the closing rate.

Basis of Consolidation

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries, which are those entities in which the Group has an interest of more than 50% of the voting rights and over which the Group has control, or otherwise has power to exercise control over their operations, are consolidated. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group and are no longer consolidated from the date that control ceases.

All intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated; unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Where necessary, accounting policies for subsidiaries have been changed to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

Non-controlling interest is the equity in a subsidiary not attributable, directly or indirectly, to a parent. Non-controlling interests are presented in the consolidated statement of financial position within equity, separately from the parent's shareholders' equity.

Total comprehensive income is attributed to the owners of the parent and to the non-controlling interests even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance.

Acquisition of Subsidiaries

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method.

The cost of an acquisition is measured as the aggregate of the consideration transferred, measured at acquisition date fair value and the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree. For each business combination, the Group measures the non-controlling interest in the acquiree either at fair value or at the proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.

Acquisition costs incurred are expensed and included in administrative expenses.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Basis of Consolidation (continued)

Acquisition of Subsidiaries (continued)

If the business combination is achieved in stages, the acquisition date fair value of the acquirer's previously held equity interest in the acquiree is remeasured to fair value at the acquisition date through profit or loss.

Any contingent consideration to be transferred by the acquirer is recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. Subsequent changes to the fair value of the contingent consideration which is deemed to be an asset or liability will be recognised in accordance with IFRS 9 either in profit or loss or as a change to other comprehensive income. If the contingent consideration is classified as equity, it should not be remeasured until it is finally settled within equity.

The initial accounting for a business combination involves identifying and determining the fair values to be assigned to the acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities and the cost of the combination. If the initial accounting for a business combination can be determined only provisionally by the end of the period in which the combination is effected because either the fair values to be assigned to the acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities or contingent liabilities or the cost of the combination can be determined only provisionally, the Group accounts for the combination using those provisional values. The Group recognises any adjustments to those provisional values as a result of completing the initial accounting within twelve months of the acquisition date.

Comparative information presented for the periods before the completion of initial accounting for the acquisition is presented as if the initial accounting had been completed from the acquisition date.

Increases in Ownership Interests in Subsidiaries

The differences between the carrying values of net assets attributable to interests in subsidiaries acquired and the consideration given for such increases is either added to additional paid-in capital, if positive, or charged to accumulated profits, if negative, in the consolidated financial statements.

Purchases of Controlling Interests in Subsidiaries from Entities under Common Control

Purchases of controlling interests in subsidiaries from entities under common control are accounted for using the pooling of interests method.

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary transferred under common control are recorded in these financial statements at the historical cost of the controlling entity (the "Predecessor"). Related goodwill inherent in the Predecessor's original acquisition is also recorded in the financial statements. Any difference between the total book value of net assets, including the Predecessor's goodwill, and the consideration paid is accounted for in the consolidated financial statements as an adjustment to the shareholders' equity.

These financial statements, including corresponding figures, are presented as if a subsidiary had been acquired by the Group on the date it was originally acquired by the Predecessor.

Put Options over Non-controlling Interests

The Group derecognises non-controlling interests if non-controlling shareholders have a put option over their holdings. The difference between the amount of the liability recognised in the statement of financial position over the carrying value of the derecognised non-controlling interests is charged to accumulated profits.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Investments in Associates

Associates are entities in which the Group generally has between 20% and 50% of the voting rights, or is otherwise able to exercise significant influence, but which it does not control or jointly control.

Investments in associates are accounted for under the equity method of accounting and are initially recognised at cost including goodwill. Subsequent changes in the carrying value reflect the post-acquisition changes in the Group's share of net assets of the associate and goodwill impairment charges, if any.

The Group's share of its associates' profits or losses is recognised in the statement of operations and its share of movements in reserves is recognised in equity. However, when the Group's share of losses in an associate equals or exceeds its interest in the associate, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless the Group has legal or constructive obligations to make payments to, or on behalf of, the associate. If the associate subsequently reports profits, the Group resumes recognising its share of those profits only after its share of the profits equals the share of losses not recognised.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its associates are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in the associates; unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred.

Interests in Joint Ventures

The Group's interest in its joint ventures is accounted for under the equity method of accounting whereby an interest in jointly ventures is initially recorded at cost and adjusted thereafter for post-acquisition changes in the Group's share of net assets of joint ventures. The statement of operations reflects the Group's share of the results of operations of joint ventures.

Property, Plant and Equipment

The Group's property, plant and equipment is stated at purchase or construction cost, excluding the costs of day-to-day servicing, less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value. Such cost includes the cost of replacing part of plant and equipment when that cost is incurred and recognition criteria are met.

The Group's property, plant and equipment include mining assets, which consist of mineral reserves, mine development and construction costs and capitalised site restoration costs. Mineral reserves represent tangible assets acquired in business combinations. Mine development and construction costs represent expenditures incurred in developing access to mineral reserves and preparations for commercial production, including sinking shafts and underground drifts, roads, infrastructure, buildings, machinery and equipment.

At each end of the reporting period management makes an assessment to determine whether there is any indication of impairment of property, plant and equipment. If any such indication exists, management estimates the recoverable amount, which is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and its value in use. The carrying amount is reduced to the recoverable amount, and the difference is recognised as impairment loss in the statement of operations or other comprehensive income. An impairment loss recognised for an asset in previous years is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation of property, plant and equipment, except for mining assets, is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment and methods of their depreciation are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at each fiscal year end.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

The table below presents the useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment.

	Useful lives (years)	Weighted average remaining useful life (years)
Buildings and constructions	15–60	19
Machinery and equipment	4–45	10
Transport and motor vehicles	7–20	8
Other assets	3–15	4

The Group determines the depreciation charge separately for each significant part of an item of property, plant and equipment.

Depletion of mining assets including capitalised site restoration costs is calculated using the units-of-production method based upon proved and probable mineral reserves. The depletion calculation takes into account future development costs for reserves which are in the production phase.

Maintenance costs relating to items of property, plant and equipment are expensed as incurred. Major renewals and improvements are capitalised, and the replaced assets are derecognised.

The Group has the title to certain non-production and social assets, primarily buildings and facilities of social infrastructure, which are carried at their recoverable amount of zero. The costs to maintain such assets are expensed as incurred.

Exploration and Evaluation Expenditures

Exploration and evaluation expenditures represent costs incurred by the Group in connection with the exploration for and evaluation of mineral resources before the technical feasibility and commercial viability of extracting a mineral resource are demonstrable. The expenditures include acquisition of rights to explore, topographical, geological, geochemical and geophysical studies, exploratory drilling, trenching, sampling, activities in relation to evaluating the technical feasibility and commercial viability of extracting mineral resources. These costs are expensed as incurred.

When the technical feasibility and commercial viability of extracting a mineral resource are demonstrable, the Group commences recognition of expenditures related to the development of mineral resources as assets. These assets are assessed for impairment when facts and circumstances suggest that the carrying amount of an asset may exceed its recoverable amount.

Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement at inception date as to whether the fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of a specific asset or assets or the arrangement conveys a right to use the asset.

Finance leases, which transfer to the Group substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased item, are capitalised from the commencement of the lease term at the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. Lease payments are apportioned between the finance charges and reduction of the lease liability so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance charges are charged to interest expense.

The depreciation policy for depreciable leased assets is consistent with that for depreciable assets which are owned. If there is no reasonable certainty that the Group will obtain ownership by the end of the lease term, the asset is fully depreciated over the shorter of the lease term or its useful life.

Leases where the lessor retains substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the statement of operations on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the aggregate of the consideration transferred for an acquisition of a subsidiary or an associte and the amount recognised for non-controlling interest over the net identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed. If this consideration is lower than the fair value of the net assets of the acquiree, the difference is recognised in the consolidated statement of operations.

Goodwill on acquisition of a subsidiary is included in intangible assets. Goodwill on acquisition of an associate is included in the carrying amount of the investments in associates.

After initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is reviewed for impairment annually or more frequently, if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may be impaired. For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill acquired in a business combination is allocated to each of the Group's cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the acquiree are assigned to those units.

Impairment is determined by assessing the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit, or the group of cash-generating units, to which the goodwill relates. Where the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised. An impairment loss recognised for goodwill is not reversed in a subsequent period.

Where goodwill forms part of a cash-generating unit and part of the operation within that unit is disposed of, the goodwill associated with the operation disposed of is included in the carrying amount of the operation when determining the gain or loss on disposal of the operation. Goodwill disposed of in this circumstance is measured based on the relative fair values of the operation disposed of and the portion of the cash-generating unit retained.

Intangible Assets Other Than Goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. The cost of intangible assets acquired in a business combination is fair value as at the date of acquisition. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Expenditures on internally generated intangible assets, excluding capitalised development costs, are expensed as incurred.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite. Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised over the useful economic life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for an intangible asset with a finite life are reviewed at least at each year end. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are treated as changes in accounting estimates.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortised, they are tested for impairment annually either individually or at the cash-generating unit level.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Intangible Assets Other Than Goodwill (continued)

The table below presents the useful lives of intangible assets.

	Useful lives (years)	Weighted average remaining useful life (years)
Customer relationships	1–15	5
Contract terms	10	5
Other	5–19	6

Certain water rights and environmental permits are considered to have indefinite lives as management believes that these rights will continue indefinitely.

The most part of the Group's intangible assets represents customer relationships arising on business combinations (Note 10).

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, as subsequently measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income, and fair value through profit or loss. The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Group's business model for managing them, i.e. how the Group manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows. The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling the financial assets, or both.

With the exception of trade and other receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient, the Group initially measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs.

The Group measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest method and are subject to impairment. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Financial Assets (continued)

Trade and Other Accounts Receivable

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any amounts of the expected credit losses.

For trade and other receivables, the Group applies a simplified approach for calculating the expected credit losses. Therefore, the Group does not track changes in credit risk, but, instead, it recognises a loss allowance based on the lifetime expected credit losses at each reporting date. The Group separately determines the expected credit losses for individually significant balances or collectively for trade and other receivables that are not individually significant.

The expected credit losses for individually significant balances are estimated using debtors' historical credit loss experience adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and economic environment.

Inventories

Inventories are recorded at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of inventory is determined on the weighted average basis and includes expenditure incurred in acquiring or producing inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition. The cost of finished goods and work in progress includes an appropriate share of production overheads based on normal operating capacity, but excluding borrowing costs.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less estimated costs of completion and estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Value Added Tax

The tax authorities permit the settlement of sales and purchases value added tax ("VAT") on a net basis.

The Group's subsidiaries apply the accrual method for VAT recognition, under which VAT becomes payable upon invoicing and delivery of goods or rendering services as well upon receipt of prepayments from customers. VAT on purchases, even if not settled at the end of the reporting period, is deducted from the amount of VAT payable.

Where provision has been made for impairment of receivables, an impairment loss is recorded for the gross amount of the debtor, including VAT.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand and deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of directly attributable transaction costs. After initial recognition, borrowings are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method; any difference between the amount initially recognised and the redemption amount is recognised as interest expense over the period of the borrowings.

Borrowing costs relating to qualifying assets are capitalised (Note 9).

Equity

Share Capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. External costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares are shown as a deduction in equity from the proceeds. Any excess of the fair value of consideration received over the par value of shares issued is recognised as additional paid-in capital.

Treasury Shares

Own equity instruments which are acquired by the Group (treasury shares) are deducted from equity. No gain or loss is recognised in statement of operations on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of the treasury shares.

Dividends

Dividends are recognised as a liability and deducted from equity only if they are declared before the end of the reporting period. Dividends are disclosed when they are proposed before the end of the reporting period or proposed or declared after the end of the reporting period but before the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Where the Group expects a provision to be reimbursed, for example under an insurance contract, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain.

If the effect of the time value of money is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability. Where discounting is used, the increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as an interest expense.

Site Restoration Provisions

The Group reviews site restoration provisions at each reporting date and adjusts them to reflect the current best estimate in accordance with IFRIC 1 “Changes in Existing Decommissioning, Restoration and Similar Liabilities”.

Provisions for site restoration costs are capitalised within property, plant and equipment.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Employee Benefits

Social and Pension Contributions

Defined contributions are made by the Group to the Russian and Ukrainian state pension, social insurance and medical insurance funds at the statutory rates in force based on gross salary payments. The Group has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions in respect of those benefits. Its only obligation is to pay contributions as they fall due. These contributions are expensed as incurred.

Defined Benefit Plans

The Group companies provide pensions and other benefits to their employees (Note 23). The entitlement to these benefits is usually conditional on the completion of a minimum service period. Certain benefit plans require the employee to remain in service up to retirement age. Other employee benefits consist of various compensations and non-monetary benefits. The amounts of benefits are stipulated in the collective bargaining agreements and/or in the plan documents.

The Group involves independent qualified actuaries in the measurement of employee benefit obligations.

The cost of providing benefits under the defined benefit plan is determined using the projected unit credit method. Re-measurements, comprising of actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling, excluding net interest and the return on plan assets (excluding net interest), are recognised immediately in the statement of financial position with a corresponding debit or credit to retained earnings through other comprehensive income in the period in which they occur. Re-measurements are not reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods.

Past service costs are recognised in profit or loss on the earlier of the date of the plan amendment or curtailment, and the date that the Group recognises restructuring-related costs.

Net interest is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net defined benefit liability or asset. It is recorded within interest expense in the consolidated statement of operations.

The Group recognises current service costs, past-service costs, gains and losses on curtailments and non-routine settlements in the consolidated statement of operations within "cost of sales", "general and administrative expenses" and "selling and distribution expenses".

Other Costs

The Group incurs employee costs related to the provision of benefits such as health services, kindergartens and other services. These amounts principally represent an implicit cost of employment and, accordingly, have been charged to cost of sales.

Share-based Payments

The Group has management compensation schemes (Note 21), under which certain senior executives and employees of the Group receive remuneration in the form of share-based payment transactions, whereby they render services as consideration for equity instruments ("equity-settled transactions").

The cost of equity-settled transactions with grantees is measured by reference to the fair value of the Company's shares at the date on which they are granted. The fair value is determined using the Black-Scholes-Merton model. In valuing equity-settled transactions, no account is taken of any conditions, other than market conditions.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Share-based Payments (continued)

The cost of equity-settled transactions is recognised, together with a corresponding increase in equity (additional paid-in capital), over the period in which service conditions are fulfilled, ending on the date on which the relevant persons become fully entitled to the award ("the vesting date"). The cumulative expense recognised for equity-settled transactions at each reporting date until the vesting date reflects the extent to which the vesting period has expired and the Group's best estimate of the number of equity instruments that will ultimately vest. The charge or credit in the statement of operations for a period represents the movement in cumulative expense recognised as at the beginning and end of that period.

No expense is recognised for awards if EBITDA-related conditions are not satisfied or participants lose the entitlement for the shares due to the termination of their employment. Accumulated share-based expense is adjusted to reflect the number of share options that eventually vest. For market-related performance conditions, such as TSR (Note 21), if the conditions are not met and the share options do not vest, then no reversal is made for the share-based expense previously recognised.

The TSR-related vesting condition of Incentive Plans adopted in 2017 and 2018 was considered by the Group as a market condition. As such, it was included in the estimation of the fair value of the granted shares and will not be subsequently revised. Vesting condition related to EBITDA was not taken into account when estimating the fair value of the share options at the grant date. Instead, this will be taken into account by adjusting the share-based expense based on the number of share options that eventually vest.

Where the terms of an equity-settled award are modified, as a minimum an expense is recognised as if the terms had not been modified. In addition, an expense is recognised for any modification which increases the total fair value of the share-based payment arrangement, or is otherwise beneficial to the employee as measured at the date of modification.

Where an equity-settled award is cancelled, it is treated as if it had vested on the date of cancellation, and any expense not yet recognised for the award is recognised immediately.

The dilutive effect of outstanding share-based awards is reflected as additional share dilution in the computation of earnings per share (Note 20).

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Group and the revenue can be reliably measured.

The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Sale of Goods

Revenue is recognised when control over the goods has passed to the buyer and it is probable that the amount of consideration is collectible. The moment of transfer of control is determined by the contract terms and usually occurs at the date of shipment. Sale of goods includes the transportation and handling costs incurred.

2. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Revenue (continued)

Rendering of Services

The Group's revenues from rendering of services include electricity, transportation, port and other services. The pattern of revenue recognition reflects the transfer of services to customers and may occur at a point in time or over time.

Interest

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

Dividends

Revenue is recognised when the shareholders' right to receive the payment is established.

Rental Income

Rental income is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term on ongoing leases.

Current Income Tax

Current income tax assets and liabilities for the current and prior periods are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities. The tax rates and tax laws used to compute the amount are those that are enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

Current income tax relating to items recognised outside profit or loss is recognised in other comprehensive income or equity and not in the statement of operations.

Deferred Income Tax

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are calculated in respect of temporary differences using the liability method. Deferred income taxes are provided for all temporary differences arising between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their carrying values for financial reporting purposes, except where the deferred income tax arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting profit nor taxable profit or loss.

A deferred tax asset is recorded only to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised. Various factors are considered to assess the probability of the future utilisation of deferred tax assets, including past operating results, operational plans, expiration of tax losses carried forward, tax legislation and tax planning strategies.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period.

Deferred income tax is provided on temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures, except where the timing of the reversal of the temporary difference can be controlled and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.