



ACCORD STATEMENT ON THE APRIL 2013 RANA PLAZA BUILDING COLLAPSE

24 April 2017

Today marks the passage of 4 years since the tragic collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh which took the lives of more than 1100 people and injured many more. Our thoughts remain with the victims and their relatives of this disaster. With the passage of time, we must remain vigilant to prevent a return to tolerance for unsafe workplaces in the Bangladeshi Ready-Made Garment industry. Every day, the Accord is driven to ensure that RMG factories in Bangladesh are made safe and stay safe.

4 years after Rana Plaza, the Accord has made significant progress in achieving its goal of a working environment in which no worker needs to fear fires, building collapses, or other accidents that could be prevented with reasonable health and safety measures.

- Remediation is close to completion at more than 400 Accord factories which have completed more than 90% of the remediation.
- 61 Factories have completed all remediation from initial inspections.
- Over 300 joint labour-management Safety Committees are being trained and equipped to monitor factory safety on a day-to-day basis.
- The independent and credible Accord safety complaints mechanism has resolved more than 90 safety complaints from workers and their representatives.

While millions of workers are significantly safer than four years ago, major life-threatening safety concerns remain outstanding in too many factories and need to be fixed urgently. These include: inadequately protected fire exits, inadequate fire alarm and fire protection systems, and outstanding structural retrofitting work.

The Accord will continue its tireless efforts to monitor completion of remediation at the 1600+ factories covered by the Accord and to ensure that factories making genuine efforts receive the necessary support from Accord signatory companies. The Accord will also continue to apply all Accord measures to suppliers that refuse or fail to make adequate remediation progress, which may ultimately lead to termination of Accord signatory companies' business with this suppliers' factories.

The Accord Steering Committee will be in Dhaka from 2nd to 4th of May 2017 for our quarterly meeting and to hold discussions and consultations with in-country constituents including: the Ministry of Labour, BGMEA, trade unions, the ILO, the Accord Advisory Board, and bi-lateral country missions.

The Accord will hold a press conference at the occasion of its 4th anniversary on May 8th in Dhaka.

For more information, please contact:

ACCORD OFFICE DHAKA:

Mahafuza Akter, Communications Officer
mahafuza.akter@bangladeshaccord.com
+88 02 9852093
+88 01766695926

FOR PRESS OUTSIDE BANGLADESH:

Joris Oldenziel, Head of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement
joris.oldenziel@bangladeshaccord.com
Office Amsterdam: +31 (0) 20 520 7431
Mobile: +31 614954430