



on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh

PRESS RELEASE

COMPANIES AND TRADE UNIONS AGREE ON ACCORD ON FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY IN BANGLADESH FOR SECOND TERM

Amsterdam/Dhaka, 29 June 2017.

Companies and global unions have agreed on a 2nd Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh (“Accord”). The agreement will enter into effect when the current Accord expires in May 2018. The Accord is an unprecedented, legally binding agreement between companies and trade unions to make factories in Bangladesh safe.

Several companies have now signed the renewed agreement with IndustriALL Global Union and UNI Global Union. Many more companies are expected to sign in the coming days.

- The Accord will continue its **independent safety inspections** and **remediation program** at existing and new factories covered under the agreement.
- The **Safety Committee** and **safety training program** will be extended to all factories.
- The renewed agreement includes additional commitments to ensure that workers’ rights to **Freedom of Association** are respected to protect their own safety.

The renewed agreement builds on the fundamental elements that have made the Accord successful; including: independent inspections, bi-partite governance, commitment to transparency, provisions to ensure remediation is financially feasible, Safety Committee training and a credible complaints mechanism.

“The new agreement demonstrates that international brands and global trade unions recognise the positive impact of the Accord and the need for the Accord to continue its work in Bangladesh to ensure that factories are made safe and stay safe”, says Rob Wayss, Executive Director and Acting Chief Safety Inspector of the Accord.

The Ready-Made-Garment (RMG) factories covered under the current Accord have made significant progress with safety remediation over the past four years. In this final year of the current Accord, the focus is on completing all outstanding key safety measures such as structural retrofitting, installation of fire alarm and fire protection systems and protected fire exits, and the continued delivery of the Safety Committee training program.

The Accord and its trade union, company, and NGO witness signatories will intensify our constructive work with factory owners, the Government of Bangladesh, BGMEA and BKMEA, the International Labour Organisation and donor governments and their relevant programs and initiatives.

The Accord encourages all companies sourcing from Bangladesh to sign the renewed Accord and join our collective goal of safe and sustainable RMG and related industries.

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