



Steering Committee Conference Call

Thursday 4th September, 2014

8am EST, 1pm GMT, 2pm CET, 6pm Dhaka (1.5 hour scheduled)

Attendees:

Chairs: Dan Rees

Witness Signatories: Ineke Zeldenrust

Labour: Jenny Holdcroft, Alke Boessiger

Brands: Andy York, Lisa Fairclough, Philip Chamberlain, Jenny Fagerlin, Melanie Steiner

Executive Team: Alan Roberts, Rob Wayss, Brad Loewen

Accord staff: Tatiana Delany, Miriam Neale

Item	Agenda Items	Who	Completion Date
1.	<p><u>BGMEA involvement at SC level (pre-circulated paper)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SC feels that staff proposal does not offer appropriate approach to engagement with BGMEA - Formal arrangement needed (based on existing monthly meeting between BGMEA & Accord Exec Team, Jenny Fagerlin & Roy Ramesh in BD) taking into consideration their vital role in remediation. <p>Actions: Second proposal from Exec Team on formalizing BGMEA involvement at SC level</p>	Rob Wayss	2/10/14
2.	<p><u>BGMEA request for Accord signatory companies to halt own inspection programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BGMEA have raised formal concerns in the last two monthly meetings with the Accord regarding signatory companies continuing to carry out fire, electrical and structural inspections outside of the Accord in Bangladesh. - CSI acknowledges that he cannot dictate internal company decisions, but is aware of some (not all) companies who have had their own internal inspection program running over the past few months which conflict with Accord program. - CSI believes that whilst Accord is in Bangladesh, signatory companies should have the confidence to stop their inspections and trust on Accord monitoring and follow up <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication to all signatory companies to halt their own company inspections to be issued at the full caucus meeting on 10th September 	Brad Loewen	10/9/14
3.	<p><u>Monitoring signatory companies de-listing update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ED IO explains that Secretariat has put together a report on monitoring of de-listing tier 1 and 2 factories, but chose not to share it with the SC at this stage as it raises more questions and concerns than it answers. ED IO proposes that the SC set up a 	Alan Roberts	4/9/14

	<p>working group with the Secretariat to look in more detail at the data being received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trade Union perspective is that they are not happy with this proposal and would like further information on the report and to see the report - Miriam Neale clarifies further points of concern from the Secretariat’s perspective and why the staff are having difficulty in making fair judgment calls on the data e.g.; categorization of tiers, designation of tiers, definition of commercial viability and prioritization - Discussion regarding the right of members of the SC (Trade Unions or Signatory Companies) to take unilateral action against a signatory perceived to be in breach of the Accord. Trade Unions are preparing to file charges with the SC with regard to existing “critical cases”, but would like to seek further information before doing so and therefore will reach out to signatory companies to ask for further information. - Signatory Companies request a further discussion and formal agreement on the definition of ‘high risk’ and the implications that all factories being tier 1 and 2 may have. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat to send SC full report including list of caveats (above and additional if relevant) - Agreed that after report is distributed, the SC will reconvene to discuss next steps on what to do with the information provided 		
4.	<p><u>Leadership Team life assurance cover</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Longstanding item on SC agenda; Accord is unable to provide life insurance provisions for the Executive Team due to non-domicile status of work places. Accord is proposing to provide EDs with a cash alternative as compensation (e.g. buying out that part of contract for each to manage independently) - Seeking SC approval to continue in these negotiations <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SC authorized Andy York and Christy Hoffman to continue these negotiations with the Executive Team on behalf of the Steering Committee 	Andy York	Ongoing
5.	<p><u>Annual membership contribution proposal for new company signatories joining in Years 2 to 5 of the Accord (pre-circulated paper)</u></p>	Alan Roberts	4/9/14

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed by SC 		
6.	<p><u>Engagement with the Alliance post Accord joint factories inspections decision and policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since the SC joint factory policy announcement, the EDs in BD have engaged with the Alliance and Accord signatory companies and are starting to engage with factory owners and Alliance companies on the next steps & technical practicalities. - Agreed by SC that these practical discussions/meetings must happen. - Meeting took place in Dhaka yesterday (3/9/14) between Accord and Alliance companies, factories and Accord staff. Positive points were raised on how to move remediation forward. - Accord has not yet received confirmation from the Alliance that they will share their 'full' reports with the Accord. CSI needs the 'full' reports to ascertain which were carried out under the Alliance, and in order to do the follow up. <p>Discussion on letter from Ellen Tauscher from the Alliance to Dan Rees (ILO) concerning the Accord. Dan Rees seeks view on the letter on three issues and specifically how to respond from the SC.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dan Rees to respond to the Alliance referring the letter to the Accord SC - SC members in Amsterdam for the 10th September caucus meeting will meet to re-address what the most appropriate response to this letter is 		
7.	<p><u>AOB: a) Update on worker training</u></p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update to be sent over email 	Rob Wayss	-
	<p><u>AOB b) Signatory Company not responding to Accord communication & has not paid fees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed that Trade Unions will take this forward and update the Secretariat accordingly. 	Alan Roberts	-

	<p><u>AOB c) Schedule of SC face to face meetings 2015:</u></p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat to send round suggested dates 	Tatiana Delany	5/9/14
	<p><u>AOB d) Quarterly Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSI aware of his commitment under the Accord to produce quarterly reports and is working on the first one, confirmed that it will be ready before the next SC face to face meeting - ED IO confirms that the Head of Public Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement is working on a quarterly report which is due end of September but will try to align with the CSIs report for publication 	Brad Loewen Alan Roberts	13/11/14