

# Support for the Bangladesh Accord (last updated 8 April 2019)

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## Brands and retailers

For more brand statements have a look [here](#).

### H&M, 25 June 2018

"We want to complete the remediation [at our factories] because we recognise there is no adequate structure in place to regulate safety in Bangladesh. Brands and their consumers cannot forget about Rana Plaza and we strongly believe in the workers' rights to have a safe workplace and to refuse unsafe work. The Accord has delivered on this - a robust, high quality, transparent, inclusive system - and has made well-recognised progress. [...] We stand ready to support the RCC work and national governance that we agreed to. We sincerely hope that the RCC will be able to deliver the same result as the Accord - a robust [program], of good quality, transparent for external stakeholders, and inclusive for international trade unions. A premature shutdown of the Accord may lead brands and retailers to consider sourcing decisions and review their reputational risk for [working with] Bangladesh as a sourcing country." [\[original\]](#)

### LC Waikiki, 25 June 2018

"We request as a Steering Committee of the Accord, but also particularly as brands of the Accord – the buyers – that the EU, the US, Canada and the ILO demand that the Government make a resubmission to the High Court in the Suo Moto case explicitly expressing its support for the previously agreed Transition Monitoring Committee arrangements which are as follows: between May and November 2018 the Transition Monitoring Committee will assess the readiness of the RCC against the already agreed criteria and if in November it is decided that the RCC are ready to take over, there would be a six months handover period during which the Accord will help and support the RCC in setting up its operations; if the answer is that the RCC are not ready to take over, then the assessment would continue for another six months before another decision is made." [\[original\]](#)

### Esprit, October 2018

"Rather than making the work easier [the closure of the Accord's Bangladesh office] would make our jobs more difficult (...) Activism in key market countries could make the Bangladesh brand toxic to consumers in spite of the tremendous improvements that we have achieved in recent years." [\[original\]](#)

"We feel strongly that prematurely ending the work of the Accord's Dhaka office would be extremely damaging to the reputation of Bangladesh apparel industry and its customers, and would imperil the tremendous progress that factories there have made within the Accord's structure to assure workplace fire and building safety." [\[original\]](#)

**KiK, 20 November 2018**

"Our CSR Director Ansgar Lohmann on the continuation of the Bangladesh Accord: "It is largely thanks to the work through the Accord that Bangladesh is currently the safest production country in South East Asia." That is why we engage for the Accord to stay." [\[original\]](#)

**KiK, 26 November 2018**

"The considerations of the government of Bangladesh to send the Bangladesh Accord out or the country disappoint us very much. The work of the Accord has been immensely successful and the progress should not lose speed" [\[original\]](#)

**KiK, 30 November 2018**

"Workers in [#Bangladesh](#), companies and NGOs agree: [@banglaccord](#) has done incredibly important work and has shown tangible success. Its work must be continued, with or without the impending closing down of operations in Dhaka!" [\[original\]](#)

**Varner Group (Cubus, Dressman, BikBok), November 2018**

"Varner Group is committed to safe working conditions in Bangladesh and have demonstrated this by being actively engaged in The Accord for the last 5 years. Brands and unions are in ongoing negotiations with the Bangladesh Government to keep the Accord going. Varner Group has actively supported that the work of the Accord should be continued beyond November 2018. We have sent letters to the top management and owners of all our suppliers in Bangladesh pushing our support for the continuation of the Accord. Varner Group also took part in a delegation of brands, unions, labour rights organizations and Accord staff who met with the ILO, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, government officials and the BGMEA to emphasize the importance of the continuation of the Accord operations in Bangladesh. In addition, together with other brands Varner Group recently approached the Bangladesh government voicing its concerns and support for the Accord in its current form."

**C&A, November 2018**

Handelsblatt: The termination of the Accord has clear consequences for many fashion companies: if the High Court does not revoke its decision, Accord would have no opportunity to visit audited factories in Bangladesh and to review the improvements. The brands that have signed the Accord would then have to "end their business relationships with these suppliers." [\[original\]](#).

**Tchibo, November 2018**

"The Bangladesh Accord is one of the greatest achievements in the efforts to achieve better working conditions in producing countries. (...) We are proud of what we have achieved, even if it is only one building block in the sum of all that still need to be changed. We are therefore all the more dismayed that the institutions in Bangladesh are pushing ahead with an early termination of the Accord without a transparent, independent and viable transition structure being in place. (...) Nevertheless, a forced pull-out of the Accord will significantly reduce our confidence and trust in the country, and it cannot be ruled out that we will also have to consider business consequences if the Accord's requirements do not continue to be implemented." [\[original\]](#)

**KiK, 18 February 2019**

" Good news that the [@banglaccord](#) in [#Bangladesh](#) can continue its work at least until April. Unfortunately, the limbo is not over yet - we demand continuous strong efforts from all parties involved to find a viable solution." [\[original\]](#)

**Esprit, March 2019**

"The Accord is an essential foundation of our cooperation with business partners in Bangladesh. There is still a need of improving fire and building safety in Bangladesh. As a consequence, the

textile industry in Bangladesh is and has been experiencing a substantial transformation when it comes to fire safety and is now converting into improved safety standards. This is a complex work which requires specialist knowledge, availability of international safety equipment and the necessary technical know-how. It is of utmost importance that all measures taken are according to the quality standards agreed in the industry. This makes Accord an essential part of our work in Bangladesh. We are committed to keep up this good cooperation in the future. A premature termination of the Accord could endanger the safety of workers employed in the garment industry, which is a risk that we would need to consider in our business decisions." [\[original\]](#)

### **adidas, April 2019**

"adidas was an early signatory to the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh (the Accord) and, despite our small sourcing footprint in the country we continue to be committed to this initiative, which we believe has paid dividends in improving the safety of the apparel industry in Bangladesh. Despite significant progress on worker safety measures, the Accord's work is not completed, and the government's Remediation and Coordination Cell does not yet have the capacity nor has it demonstrated the willingness to inspect factories to the same standards. We therefore call on the Government of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association to negotiate an agreement that will allow the Accord to continue to operate in Bangladesh, as an independently managed program, until a proper transition plan is in place. Until that time, the Accord should be allowed to continue its inspection and remediation work, without interference." [\[original\]](#).

## **Multi-stakeholder initiatives**

### **German Textile Partnership, representing AVE, KiK, Otto Group, Esprit, Aldi, Rewe Group, Hugo Boss, Tchibo, Orsay, C&A, s. Oliver, Kampagne für Saubere Kleidung, HDE, 28 August 2018**

"We very much welcome the solution that was achieved between Accord brand and union signatories, BGMEA and representatives of your government with respect to the 2018 Transition Accord in October 2017 through the Transition Monitoring Committee (TMC) arrangement: Once the TMC assesses the Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC) to be ready based on the objective criteria agreed upon, the Accord will hand over its tasks to that national regulatory body. At this point, we would like to confirm that we are truly committed to the TMC agreement. [...] While we faced disagreeable uncertainties in the past months regarding the Accord's future, we strongly welcome that all members of the TMC have recently reaffirmed their commitment to the October 2017 agreement and constructive collaboration. It is of utmost importance for the safety of millions of employees in the garment industry of Bangladesh and in our firm interest that the agreed terms to hand over the Accord's responsibilities are met. Against this background, we urge you, Honourable Prime Minister, to advocate for the TMC's agreement and to ensure that all obstacles to keeping this commitment are withdrawn." [\[original\]](#)

### **Ethical Trading Initiative, amfori, Fair Labor Association, DIEH, Fair Wear Foundation, Ethical Trading Initiative Norway, Dutch Agreement on Sustainable Garments and Textile, November 2018**

"Brands, retailers and traders operating in the western export markets of the Bangladeshi RMG sector take seriously their responsibility for decent working conditions under which their garments and other products are produced, and the Bangladesh ACCORD has played a pivotal role in creating confidence and improving working conditions. [...] We believe that further work is necessary in order to absorb the work of the ACCORD into the RCC and that it is in the best interests of all parties, including the Government, the RMG industry that the RCC be provided with further opportunity and time to successfully develop. We respectfully note that there is a clear benefit to everyone; Bangladesh, the global RMG industry and workers in local factories to continue and

deepen this successful partnership that has delivered such fundamental and substantive positive change and fear that the safety of Bangladesh RMG workers could be compromised if an effective structure is not in place for effective handover of responsibility.” [\[original\]](#)

**Carole Hommey, Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability, representing Auchan, Besson Chaussures, Bizzbee, Brice, Camaïeu, Carrefour, Casino group, Damart, Galeries Lafayette group, Go Sport, Okaidi, Jules, La Halle, Minelli, Monoprix, Naf-Naf, La Redoute, Promod, Tape à l’Oeil, U Enseigne, 21 December 2018**

“There is still more to be done to complete the remediation in factories: less than half of all ACCORD-covered factories have completed the installation of adequate fire detection systems and less than 60% have completed structural retrofitting, based on approved detailed engineering assessments (DEAs). Having closely monitored the ongoing transition process from the ACCORD to the RCC, including the recent succession of hearings and restraining orders issued by the Bangladesh High Court, as well as the publication of several reports investigating the state of readiness of the newly founded RCC to take over ACCORD missions, we are concerned that all conditions that would allow for a smooth, safe and efficient shift from one system to the other, are not currently met. We believe that further efforts are necessary in order to absorb the work of the ACCORD into the RCC and that it is in the best interest of all parties that the RCC be provided with further opportunity and time to successfully develop.” [\[original\]](#)

## **Government representatives, parliamentarians**

**Sarah Gondy, Sustainability Compact officer, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission, 25 June 2018**

“As the EU, we very much encourage the Government of Bangladesh to make a resubmission [to the High Court] to ensure that there is no end date for the work of the Accord, including beyond November 2018. (...) The Bangladesh Sustainability Compact has welcomed and supported the work of the Accord ever since it was established. We will continue supporting the Accord. The European Commission strongly encourages the Government of Bangladesh to make a re-submission to the Bangladesh High Court to ensure that the Accord can continue its work beyond November 2018 and for the long-term.” [\[original\]](#)

**Amy McGann, Foreign Affairs Officer, Department of State, United States of America, 25 June 2018**

“Currently there is no alternative to the Accord and Alliance. The Remediation Coordination Cell only began one year ago and is not fully-staffed yet. As we saw from the Alliance and the Accord, it takes years to develop a fully functional safety organization. It is not surprising that the RCC is not quite ready to take on the work. Both the Accord and Alliance have transition plans that include sharing knowledge with the RCC and it is critical that during the transition period there are no arbitrary deadlines for ending either the Accord or the Alliance. [...] The Accord has negotiated a Transition Accord that importantly includes Freedom of Association and the Government has agreed to a set of conditions that need to be met before the work of the Accord is taken over by the RCC. It takes time to build a culture of safety and the uncertainty created by the Government about the transition of the Accord and Alliance is resulting into some backsliding on safety. We urge the Government to [...] re-affirm that the Accord will remain until RCC can take over as determined by the Transition Monitoring Committee. [...] There's been a lot of progress on safety in Bangladesh and the RCC is a good first step [by the Government] but it takes a long time to build capacity. We encourage the safety monitoring organisation and the Transition Accord to be allowed to operate until the RCC is up to capacity.” [\[original\]](#)

**Marcia Bloom Bernicat, Ambassador, Embassy of the United States to Bangladesh, United States of America, 25 June 2018**

"We acknowledge the progress made by the Accord and the Alliance and we support their continuing efforts as they move ever closer to the goal of 100% factory remediation. [...] We are looking for the Government of Bangladesh to work with the Accord and Alliance to ensure that both organisations can operate in the country until the Government is able to fully manage the factories that are not part of the Accord or Alliance, and to maintain the dramatic safety improvements in factories which do participate in these initiatives. [...] Why would Bangladesh, a short 5 years after Rana Plaza, turn away all the expertise and resources that the private sector brings to the table just as that expertise is needed the most to ensure a successful transition to the Government developing its own mechanisms? [...] The Accord and Alliance should remain on the job until the transition is successfully completed. The United States urges the Government to maintain a collaborative approach to the Accord as it continues to assess when, not if, it can transition to a Bangladesh-led program. It is critical to the safety of millions of workers and the productivity of factories that that assessment should be made fairly and objectively and without artificial time deadlines." [\[original\]](#)

**Benoit Préfontaine, High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Canada, 25 June 2018**

"The progress of the last 5 years cannot be denied. The inspection and remediation of safety issues in hundreds of factories, the establishment of hundreds of unions, the general improvement in safety standards and communication among all partners and stakeholders are among the accomplishments that have led us to where we are today. It is important that this momentum be sustained [...]. Millions of consumers of RMG sector products [...] are looking [...] for indications that the progress made in Bangladesh is irrevocable and ongoing. [...] This means ensuring that labour and other human rights are comprehensibly respected and promoted in the RMG sector. We must note that we do not expect the Government of Bangladesh to undertake these efforts alone. This is why it is imperative that the work of Accord and Alliance continue." [\[original\]](#)

**Agnes Jongerius, Dutch MEP, and over 50 MEPs from different parties, 16 October 2018**

"In our view, the premature close down of the Accord Foundation office has negative consequences for the employees in the garment industry. It is also inconsistent with the commitments from the Government of Bangladesh towards the Sustainability Compact. Moreover, the authorities are not prepared to regulate safety in the garment factories." [\[original\]](#).

**EU ambassador to Bangladesh Rensje Teerink, US ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia S. Bernicat, High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh Benoit Préfontaine, 23 October 2018**

"Requiring the RCC to regulate safety in factories covered by the National Initiative (NI), while simultaneously taking over the functions of the Accord, would possibly create an undue burden on this new body and may jeopardize its successful startup. We believe that this is not the intention of the Government. Further capacity-building is necessary to ensure that Accord's work can be adequately and fully absorbed by the RCC without leaving a regulatory gap in RMG factory safety. We urge all stakeholders to jointly agree to a time-bound transition plan." [\[original\]](#)

**Press release on a visit of Dutch International Trade and Development Minister Sigrid Kaag to Bangladesh, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 6 November 2018**

"In Bangladesh the minister will also visit a textile factory and draw attention to the need to improve working conditions in the textile sector. Ms Kaag will call for continued support for the implementation of the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety, which provides, among other things, for international inspections." [\[original\]](#)

**Sigrid Kaag, Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation after a visit to Bangladesh, November 2018**

"In Bangladesh I spoke with Prime Minister Sheik Hasina, the relevant ministries and representatives of the textile sector. I signal the government's willingness to compromise. To achieve this, the Accord first had to appeal against the ruling of the High Court. The Accord has

since done this. In the unlikely event that the appeal has no effect, the Accord will continue the inspection activities from locations outside Bangladesh. This will require a greater effort from the affiliated brands. [...] The quality of the inspection of the Accord, including the complaints procedure, must be the starting point for the government inspection. The recently started joint inspections of the Accord and government inspection contribute to this." [\[original\]](#)

**Kirsten van den Hul, Dutch parliamentarian (PvdA), Agnes Jongerius, Dutch MEP (PvdA), 29 November 2018**

“That is why the EU needs to take action and increase pressure on the Bangladeshi government. For the safety of millions of textile workers. This can be done by (temporarily) increasing the low trade tariffs. Or at least by threatening to do so. A step that the company lobby in Brussels certainly does not like, but is essential for the credibility of an EU that stands for fair world trade.” [\[original\]](#)

**Ine M. Eriksen Søreide, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, 22 February 2019**

“Norway's, Denmark's and Sweden's ambassadors underlined in a joint meeting with the Bangladeshi Trade Minister on February 14 this year that the Accord agreement must be continued until a national control authority has resources and expertise to take over. This is not the case today. Norway will continue the dialogue with the government on this matter. We also use the opportunity to address the issue in meetings with representatives of the clothing industry and local factory owners.” [\[original\]](#)

**Peter Fahren, German ambassador to Bangladesh, 2 March 2019**

“We request the extension of the Accord. We need safe, socially and ecologically responsible conditions in the garment sector. Otherwise there will be another Rana Plaza or Tazreen catastrophe sooner or later.” [\[original\]](#)

## Factory owners

**Mostafiz Uddin, Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited, Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE), 20 November 2018**

“I am in support of the view that the presence of two external safety platforms in Bangladesh was never going to be a long-term solution. But I would like to see a safe and flourishing garment export industry in Bangladesh. So, the handover of the work needs a more careful approach and attention with the consensus of all the stakeholders and authorities while having utmost respect to our judiciary. The journey of collaboration between brands, partners and policymakers needs to be continued, while strengthening of RCC is crucial to sustain our progress. What we have achieved in Bangladesh with the support of the Accord and Alliance should be carried out to take our RMG sector to an exciting new chapter.” [\[original\]](#)

**Mostafiz Uddin, Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited, founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE), 7 April 2019**

“In Bangladesh's readymade garment industry, we have a sector which has, in recent years, undertaken some very important safety reforms. Thousands of factories have been inspected, thousands have implemented corrective action plans, and thousands have implemented plans to make them safe, by providing vital training and education to those that occupy these factories, among other means. This work, which is ongoing, is genuinely world-class and is being led by some of the finest, most knowledgeable minds in the global building safety industry. The net result of this programme—undertaken by the Bangladesh Accord and Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety, as well as internal Bangladeshi agencies—is that the RMG industry is now at the forefront of the very latest developments relating to building safety issues. The industry boasts a wealth of knowledge. So why not share this knowledge above and beyond the RMG sector? [...] This idea of knowledge-sharing might sound ambitious. But consider this: if somebody had said after Rana

Plaza that thousands of RMG factories would undergo the safety overhaul that they did—collectively spending millions in the process—nobody would have believed them. Where there is a will, there is always a way. If this can happen in the RMG sector, then other sectors can do it too.” [\[original\]](#)

## **International institutions**

### **Tuomo Poutiainen, Bangladesh country director for the International Labour Organisation, November 2018**

“Our [ILO] position is and has been that it is useful for the Accord to continue to help in promoting industrial safety as long as it is necessary for those factories that are under Accord to be remediated. [...] The government, with the support of the ILO and others, has been building up its capacity for some time, but it would still be a challenge to take over the extra number of factories in such a short period of time. [...] It would not be in the interests of the industry for that to happen.” [\[original\]](#) + [original\]](#)

### **Dante Pesce, UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/7, mandated by the Human Rights Council, 17 December 2018**

“The Working Group is concerned that the Accord may lose its licence to continue to operate in Bangladesh before being able to complete ongoing remediation work, with negative impact on the oversight of health and safety of workers of the factories covered by the initiative still in need of substantial safety upgrades. For example, we understand that a significant number of those factories still do not have fire alarm systems in place. Under the UNGPs, States have the primary duty to protect human rights against abuses by business actors. Companies also have a responsibility to respect human rights, which means they need to demonstrate that they exercise due diligence to address potential and actual impacts linked to their operations to the maximum of their ability. This includes risks to the rights of workers in their own operations and across global supply chains.”

## **Trade unions and NGOs**

### **Shalauddin Shapon, BRGWF, October 2018**

“The Accord has been working on making factories safe in Bangladesh in a fair and impartial way. Every inspection is carried out by skilled engineers and gradually the Accord is able to make factories 100% safe. In fact, the Accord is forming the OSH committee in factories according to labour law and supervising it. This is not possible for the government or any other organization at the moment.”

### **Kalpona Akter, BCWS, October 2018**

“We need the Accord to continue to work. It has made enormous change and made our workers’ lives safer. Now workers have right to say NO to dangerous work. If the Accord would have to leave the country it would mean putting workers lives in danger again and we should not take this risk.”

### **Babul Akhter, Bangladesh Garment & Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF), signatory of the Accord, October 2018**

“The Accord is very important for workplace safety. The Accord works independently and neutrally and has earned a good reputation and credibility, abroad and among workers. The Accord ensures the safety of the workplace for workers. The garment industry is free of accidents due to the Accord. The Accord protects our industry's image and makes it more sustainable. Its contribution is unparalleled and its requirements are very important for worker safety.”

**Babul Akhter, Bangladesh Garment & Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF), signatory of the Accord, November 2018**

“If they go, Bangladesh’s garment industry will go back to square one. Workers’ rights and safety will not be protected.” [\[original\]](#)

**Amin Amirul Haque, National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF), signatory of the Accord, October 2018**

“The Rana Plaza collapse and previously other factory tragedies created consumer concerns about the safety of workers in the Bangladesh Ready Made Garment sector. Without the Accord, with its credible independent inspection programs, the Bangladesh garment industry would have lost the confidence needed to export garments to international markets. Following the commencement of the Accord inspection of factories, the Bangladesh RMG sector benefited from a growth in export. The Accord inspection programs are ongoing and have not yet completed their purpose, and the RCC is not ready for a complete take over of the Accord inspection program. It is important both for the safety of workers and the benefit of the industry that the Accord is allowed to continue to function to ensure the factories are safe to work in. Otherwise consumers and buyers in the international market will again lose confidence in the garments produced in Bangladesh.”

**Jenny Holdcroft, IndustriALL Global Union, 19 November 2018**

“Despite immense progress, the work of the Accord is not complete. The RCC is not ready to take on the rigorous safety monitoring system currently implemented by the Accord. If the Accord is prevented from having an office in Bangladesh, it will continue to run from Amsterdam. The legally-binding provisions for the Transition Accord signed by almost 200 global fashion brands and retailers with unions will remain in place.” [\[original\]](#)

**Valter Sanchez, General Secretary, IndustriALL Global Union, November 2018**

“We hope that the Government of Bangladesh can soon develop a robust national public health and safety inspection system. Nevertheless, until such time arrives, the Accord must continue to play a fundamental role in protecting the lives of millions of workers.” [\[original\]](#)

**Kalpona Akter, BCWS, 5 January 2018**

“The government is NOT yet ready with resources and expertise to sustain the change that Accord has made. The government and the manufacturers are saying that RCC (Remediation Co-Ordination Cell) is ready to take over all the work that Accord is doing but this is not true. The RCC is not ready yet to take all the job & responsibilities that Accord is doing in order to make these factories safer. Accord really needs to complete its current extension (up to 2021) and if still needed it should go beyond as well.” [\[original\]](#)

**Achact, Schone Kleren Campagne, Clean Clothes Campaign, CNE Commerce, ACV, FGTB-ABVV, SETCa-BBTK, ACV-CSC, WSM, Oxfam-Magasins du Monde, FOS, Test Achats/Test Aankoop, MOC, Gresea, ACRF, March mondiale des femmes, Netwerk Bewust Verbruiken, 18 January 2019**

“We urge the government of Bangladesh to allow the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh to fully and independently continue operations in Bangladesh for the duration of the private contract. This contract remains binding upon the 192 signatory brands until 2021, or until the government’s Remediation and Coordination Cell (RCC) is demonstrably ready. There is broad consensus that the latter is not yet the case.” [\[original\]](#)

**FNV, CNV, Clean Clothes Campaign Netherlands, SOMO, India Committee of the Netherlands, PvdA, 29 January 2019**

“A genuine transition plan for factory inspections, safety trainings, and a worker complaint mechanism will need much more time and genuine engagement by the government. We strongly believe it is vital that the Accord be allowed to continue its life-saving work until that time.” [\[original\]](#)

**Brücke/Le pont, claro fair trade, Fédération romande des consommateurs, Stiftung für Konsumentenschutz, Public Eye, SGB/USS Schweizerischer Gewerkschaftsbund, SOLIFONDS, Gewerkschaft/Syndicat Unia, Schweizerischer Verband des Personals öffentlicher Dienste/Syndicat suisse des services publics, 31 January 2019**

“We would like to stress the right for workers to feel safe in their workplace. The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh has done ground-breaking work to improve the safety situation in garment factories in Bangladesh since its establishment after the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013. Despite this progress, the work is not yet completed and the government’s Remediation and Coordination Cell (RCC) does not yet have the capacity nor has it demonstrated the willingness to inspect factories to the same standards.” [\[original\]](#)

**Aruna Kashyap, Human Rights Watch, 31 January 2019**

“If the Accord scales back its work before the government is ready to take on the monitoring and enforcement effort, it will be a disaster whose social and economic consequences are hard to predict. Global brands cannot risk another factory disaster in Bangladesh. Consumers, investors, and labour rights groups will start knocking on the doors of global apparel brands asking what they are doing to make sure they are not sourcing from unsafe factories - and there won’t be easy answers. [...] Building the Remediation Coordination Cell’s capacity to take over the Accord’s work will take years. It is in the Accord’s interest to work with the Bangladesh government, industry associations, unions, and local groups to put together a sustainable exit plan. Everyone agrees that the success of the Accord will depend on a legacy of lasting and credible systems. It cannot just be a brief fairy tale that ends in a nightmare. No one wants another Rana Plaza.” [\[original\]](#)

## **Investors**

**Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility Investors (ICCR), 29 August 2018**

"As investors, we support companies that continue their membership in this historic initiative. The Accord for Fire and Building Safety has proven its potential to transform the Bangladesh garment sector. The Accord should now be permitted to complete its mandate to remediate all safety issues and to assist in building the capacity of the government of Bangladesh to fully assume its responsibility to protect human rights in the garment sector." [\[original\]](#)

**Bangladesh Investor Initiative, 153 investors representing US\$2.8 trillion in assets, 13 September 2018**

“The success of the Accord model relies on the unprecedented collective action of trade unions, brands and their supplier factories and the International Labor Organization: this model, proven to be effective, is needed to finish the job and not allow the hard-earned gains to slip away. As shareholders in a number of the companies sourcing product in the garment sector, the undersigned investors are concerned that the precipitous termination of the Accord would be too costly for worker health and safety and to brands and their investors that depend upon a secure, safe workforce. We therefore urge the government of Bangladesh to make a re-submission to the High Court to enable the Accord to operate until such time as a national safety regulatory body is established and fully prepared to assume control of the Accord’s mandate.” [\[original\]](#)

**190 investors with US\$3.1 trillion in assets, 12 February 2019**

“Despite significant progress on worker safety measures, the Accord’s work is not completed and the government’s Remediation and Coordination Cell (RCC) does not yet have the capacity nor has it demonstrated the willingness to inspect factories to the same standards. A transition plan for factory inspections, safety trainings, and a worker complaint mechanism will need much more time and genuine engagement by the government. It is vital that the Accord be allowed to continue its inspection and remediation work until that time.” [\[original\]](#)

**190 investors (ICCR) in a letter to the BGMEA, March 2019**

“This is not the time to phase out the Accord's comprehensive approach to inspecting and remediating fire and building safety issues in garment factories... It is our hope that the Accord will be able to function in Bangladesh until such time as the Remediation Coordination Cell is fully prepared to assume its tasks.” [\[original\]](#)

## **Safety and Building Experts**

**Iqbal Habib, architect and urban planner, February 2019**

Habib said the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse brought about a huge change in public attitude about safety; and the fire service also increased their capabilities. This led to a decrease in casualties from fires in subsequent years. "However, things are worsening now, again, amid the apathy of the authorities concerned," he added. [\[original\]](#)

**Ali Ahmed Khan, director general of Bangladesh’s fire department, February 2019**

Mr. Khan from the fire department said the garment industry had transformed its approach to industrial safety after the 2012 Tazreen factory fire and the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse by stepping up inspections and establishing new fire stations near factories, with the cooperation of international brands.... But Mr. Khan said huge safety problems remain outside of the garment export sector. He said the streets lack fire hydrants, Dhaka’s old buildings are highly flammable, and the government had failed to get businessmen to store chemicals outside of residential areas. He could also use more firefighters. “The government has to focus on strengthening the capacity of the fire system,” he said. [\[original\]](#)

**Iqbal Habib, architect and urban planner, April 2019**

Iqbal Habib said 80 percent of the capital’s buildings lack proper approval according to Rajuk. “Sixty percent of the other buildings were constructed breaching their designs and flouting rules,” he said. Habib said most buildings have not been constructed and designed to withstand earthquake. “So, the people of the entire capital city are seriously vulnerable to earthquake. Most buildings and establishments have been constructed perilously in absence of proper monitoring by the authorities concerned. [...] We need a body like Accord to ensure safety,” Habib said. [\[original\]](#)