

Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister  
Government of the People's Republic of  
Bangladesh

Prime Minister's Office  
Old Sangsad Bhaban  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 Bangladesh

Berlin, 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2018

Honourable Prime Minister,

Since 2013 the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety has set a globally respected example of how great progress can be achieved through joint efforts of various stakeholder groups. In May 2018, when the five-year timeframe of the Accord expired, your government made a submission to the Bangladesh High Court stating your acceptance of the continuation of the Accord beyond May 2018 for six additional months. We as members of the German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles and Accord signatories, welcome that the 2018 Transition Accord work in Bangladesh has been able to commence.

In the past five years, we have seen significant improvements in workplace safety in the garment industry of Bangladesh. This would not have been possible without the collaboration of the manufacturers in your country, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and your government with the participating international apparel brands and suppliers, trade unions and civil society organisations. Nevertheless, a lot still remains to be done. Against this background, 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. In the meantime, we offer your government as well as the manufacturers our support and cooperation in establishing effective and sustainable national and local structures for safe factories.

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

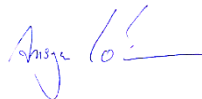
millions of employees in the garment industry of Bangladesh and in our firm interest that the agreed terms to hand over the Accord's responsibilities are met.

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. This would strongly support the garment industry of Bangladesh on its future path towards becoming a safer and stronger industry.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Matthias Händle  
Außenhandelsvereinigung des  
deutschen Einzelhandels e.V. (AVE)



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Kleidung**

Clean Clothes Campaign Germany 

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Handelsverband  
Deutschland