We would like to underline that Benetton Group first commitment in the field of human rights is to the people who work for the Group all around the world. Over the years, we have implemented a series of procedures and initiatives designed to ensure that all those involved in our supply chain are treated fairly and correctly.

Any individual or company that establishes a business relationship with us undertakes to comply with the Benetton Group’s Code of Conduct, founded on compliance with human rights and protection of the environment. Benetton has implemented an audit program to monitor adherence with the Code of Conduct for Manufacturers, which applies to all finished garment producers, with particular attention to those located in regions where respect for human rights and workers is considered more at risk. Suppliers to be audited are identified jointly by the CSR Management and the Operations & Sourcing functions, while the operating organization for the performance of the audits is entrusted to the CSR Management function.

Audits are carried out by globally recognized independent auditing firms and based on a checklist developed internally according to the principles contained in the Code of Conduct for Manufacturers.

In particular, Benetton Group is very sensitive to the protection of human rights and has carried out an internal analysis of potential risks relating to issues such as child and forced labor.

As regards the factory SF Denim Apparels ltd, we did a CSR audit on August 1st, 2019 and it scored 94/100, not reporting any problem in terms of workers rights.

Moreover the Accord has recently recognized to SF Denim Apparels ltd the achievement of important safety milestone in the areas of fire, electrical, and structural safety based on an inspection standard developed with the Government of Bangladesh and national and international safety engineers through the facilitation of the ILO.

Anyway, we enquired the specific fact to the factory management. They informed us that, due to the extreme shortage of order from different International customers for the next months (as they communicated in their Linkedin profile), they unfortunately have to reduce the number of factory’s workers. This factory’s workers reduction, as per SF Denim clarification email, has been done in respect and following the country labor law under the supervision of BGMEA.

Despite the global economic contraction, Benetton Group decided to keep the order quantities placed in SF Denim across the past two years stable or with a little increase. This has been done with the intention to help in this situation.

We will keep monitoring this specific issue to assure the correct implementation of the Benetton Code of Conduct requirements in the respect of local labor law.