

RESOLUTION ON THE BANGLADESH ACCORD

The Bangladesh Accord, established following the collapse of Rana Plaza in order to guarantee the safety of garment factories in Bangladesh, has been crucial in ensuring that workers lives are not lost. The Accord has identified more than 100,000 fire, building and electrical hazards of which 89 per cent have been rectified. Over two million workers have participated in safety training in over 1,000 factories.

The Government of Bangladesh has set up a Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC) to regulate garment factory safety, however this body still lacks the capacity to take over the role of the Accord, despite claims to the contrary by the Government of Bangladesh.

The High Court of Bangladesh has ordered that the Accord cease operating in Bangladesh as of November 30. That decision has now been stayed pending a hearing on December 6 of the Accord's appeal against the order.

If the Accord is expelled from Bangladesh, this will not mean the end of the Accord. It will still stand as a legally binding agreement between global unions and garment brands and will continue to operate from its office in Amsterdam. Factories in Bangladesh that fail to meet Accord standards will still face loss of business from Accord brands. However, the Accord's capacity to operate, including supporting factory remediation and providing worker training, will certainly suffer, with grave consequences for worker safety and the progress achieved over the past five years.

The Executive Committee of IndustriALL Global Union calls upon the Government of Bangladesh to guarantee that the Accord is able to continue its work in Bangladesh until such time as there is a competent national regulatory body with the capacity to take-over its functions.