

FIRE SAFETY IN BANGLADESH

TRIPARTITE STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Adopted in Dhaka on 15 January 2013

Greatly saddened and humbled by the loss of the lives of 112 workers who died, as well the injuries suffered by workers, as a result of the fire of November 24, 2012 at Tazreen Fashions Limited;

Conscious of the number of workers that die or suffer injuries every year in work place fires and fire-related accidents and incidents, and necessity of concerted tripartite actions to prevent similar occurrences in the future;

Recognising our individual and collective responsibility to ensure fire safety in every work place in Bangladesh;

Recognising that the promotion of occupational safety and health requires the full involvement and recognition of workers and their representatives in conformity with national and international labour standards so as to ensure sound industrial relations and social dialogue;

Noting the need to respect and promote the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), and other instruments of the ILO relevant to the framework for occupational safety and health;

We, the representatives of the Government, Employers' Organisations (BEF, BGMEA and BKMEA) and Workers' Organisations (NCCWE, as a representative body of national trade union federations, and BNC, as a sectoral union federation) of Bangladesh, hereby commit to fully abide by all relevant laws, regulations and procedures aimed at ensuring fire safety at the work place.

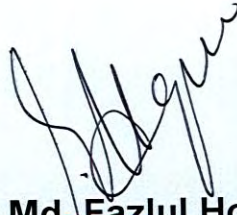


We also commit to actively develop, promote and implement collaborative, participatory, and transparent mechanisms to ensure fire safety in Bangladesh. As a first step, we affirm to work together to develop a National Tripartite Action Plan on Fire Safety by the end of February 2013, with a view to taking comprehensive action aimed at preventing any further loss of life, limb and property due to work place fires and fire-related accidents and incidents.

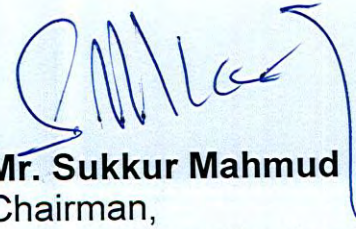
We call upon our international and national partners and stakeholders, including international development organisations, brands/buyers, donor agencies, and non-governmental organisations, to assist us in implementing the National Tripartite Action Plan on Fire Safety, once finalised. In this respect, we request the International Labour Organization (ILO) to assist us in organising the necessary consultation meetings and technical support.



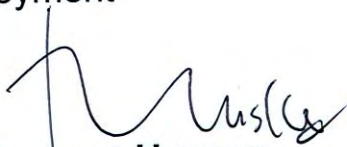
Mr. Mikail Shipar
Secretary,
Ministry of Labour and
Employment



Mr. Md. Fazlul Hoque
President,
Bangladesh Employers
Federation



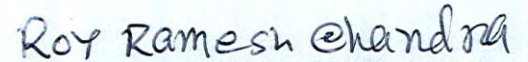
Mr. Sukkur Mahmud
Chairman,
National Coordination Committee
for Workers' Education



Mr. Faruque Hassan
Vice President,
Bangladesh Garments
Manufacturers and Exporters
Association



Mr. Mohammad Hatem
First Vice President,
Bangladesh Knitwear
Manufacturers and Exporters
Association



Mr. Roy Ramesh Chandra
Chairman,
Bangladesh National Council