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Statement on Weekly Update Newsletter of Business Human & Rights Resource Centre

We do consider the Accord to be a remarkable success and the ALDI Nord Group of Companies remains committed to factory safety in Bangladesh. As a continuous signatory since 2014 we have committed and contributed to the work and the many milestones achieved. In total, signatory brands have contributed more than US\$ 60 million to the Accord, and through collaboration with trade unions and factories, the garment industry in Bangladesh has been transformed into a much safer and more inclusive sector.

Unfortunately, the 'Unfinished Business' report misrepresents individual factory and our brand commitment to safe workplaces, and gives the impression that during the past eight years substantial and measurable progress has not been made.

As you will be aware, the Accord/ RMG SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL (RSC) works with three categories in their status report:

1. **In progress:** This is the default status for an inspection finding. It means that remediation of the inspection finding is underway.
2. **Pending verification:** The Accord has been informed that the finding has been corrected but the Accord is yet to verify this.
3. **Corrected:** The finding has been verified as corrected by the Accord engineers through their follow-up verification visits.

We do not recognise the figures presented in the report as they only aim to reflect the progress made under the category "corrected". This simply does not reflect reality as it neglects the remediation progress already made by the factories for items categorized as "in progress" and "pending verification". In both categories, most factories have shown great progress and in many cases just a minor correction or even just a final inspection by the Accord/RSC is missing, which would enable the factories to change their status to "corrected". To state that these factories have failed to remediate certain issues discredits the effort of and investments made by all parties during the last years. Furthermore, the report does not acknowledge the challenges that COVID-19 has created to RSC personnel to complete official verifications of improvements, as onsite visits have been suspended.

UST-ID-NR DE 127 135 609

Offene Handelsgesellschaft,
Sitz Essen, Amtsgericht Essen,
HRA 4688

persönlich haftende
Gesellschafterinnen:
die zur Geschäftsführung berechnigte
ALDI Einkauf Verwaltung SE,
Sitz Essen, Amtsgericht Essen, HRB
31808, die ihrerseits vertreten wird
durch ihre geschäftsführenden
Direktoren Robin Arnemann, Veit Bier,
Pascal Braun, Rolf Buyle, Sarah
Dreckmann, Heiner Fabis, Gernot
Falk, Dietmar Frötscher, Fabian Grass,
Tobias Heinbockel, Pascal Hirth, Dr.
Felix Kalkum, Florian Königsbüscher,
Lars Kürten, Sandra Latham-Bauer,
Oliver Melzig, Dr. Andreas Nolting,
Sinanudin Omerhodzic, Felix
Rottmann, Viola Schimansky, Florian
Scholbeck, Oktawian Torchala,
Christian Westerhoff, Sabine Zantis;
Vorsitzender des Verwaltungsrates:
Nicolás de Lope Fend,
weitere Gesellschafter der ALDI Einkauf
SE & Co. oHG sind ALDI GmbH & Co.
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und Markus Kaffee GmbH & Co.
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Our own engineering team in Bangladesh regularly visits all production facilities to monitor the remediation progress and to support the factories with follow-ups on the Accord/RSC inspection Corrective Action Plans. In line with the official Accord/RSC reporting, 94% of the findings in production facilities producing for ALDI Nord in Bangladesh have been corrected.

There is still much work to be done, Bangladesh factory safety is an ongoing process of inspection, investment and upgrading. We believe that the RSC, which emerged from the Accord and which was supposed to have an equal representation of trade unions, brands and the industry is a strong vehicle to continue this work and to sustain the progress that has already been made.

We are committed to factory safety in Bangladesh and are therefore joining the Brands Association to secure the future work of the RSC. We hope that unions will remain a member of the RSC and will continue negotiations on a future oriented agreement that reflects the new RSC structure.