Statement of Hon. Ellen Tauscher on the Tragic Earthquake in Nepal

Today a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Kathmandu, Nepal, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,000 people. The aftershocks of this massive earthquake were felt across Nepal, Bangladesh, India and other parts of South Asia. I want to offer my heartfelt condolences to the people of Nepal and the families of the victims.

Just yesterday we mourned the second anniversary of the loss of 1,134 lives in the Rana Plaza Building collapse. With that in mind, the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety is mindful of the impact an earthquake of this magnitude can have on structures like ready-made-garment (RMG) factories in Bangladesh.

Our teams on the ground in Dhaka are working to ensure that all of the work to date to make RMG factories safe has not been impacted by the earthquake. The Alliance has urged all factories in Bangladesh to work with us to undertake immediate structural safety inspections and to and prevent workers from entering factories until they are deemed structurally safe.

We are heartbroken at the loss of life in Nepal and will work with our partners in Bangladesh to make sure there is not additional loss of life due to structural failures.