Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety
Statement on the Second Anniversary of the Rana Plaza Disaster

April 24, 2015 marks the second anniversary of the collapse of Rana Plaza, in which 1,134 garment workers lost their lives to an unspeakable tragedy. We pause today to remember the victims and their families—and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that no garment worker in Bangladesh has to risk his or her life to make a living.

Bangladesh’s ready-made garment (RMG) industry has contributed to unprecedented growth and economic opportunity for millions of people, especially women. But often, that growth has come at too high a cost to workers and their families.

Since our formation in July 2013, the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety has made it our mission to ensure that factory workers are provided safe working environments, treated with respect and given the tools they need to advocate for their own health and safety in the workplace. To this end, we have inspected all factories from which our Members source, resulting in the full or partial closure of 19 factories deemed unsafe; worked with factory owners to develop and implement corrective action plans; helped finance the cost of remediation; and provided world-class fire safety training to more than 1.2 million workers.

The Alliance will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders who are similarly committed to a safe and prosperous RMG sector in Bangladesh and to protecting the lives and interests of garment workers. We continue to work with the government of Bangladesh to implement critical worker safety reforms and to put systems in place that will be necessary to sustain those reforms over the long term.

Today, in honor of the victims of Rana Plaza and their families, the Alliance and our member companies and partners recommit to doing everything we can to prevent a tragedy like Rana Plaza from happening again.