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The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh is an unprecedented effective initiative of industrial and civil society partners collaborating as a reaction to the tragic Rana Plaza Building Collapse in 2013: Over the past six years, this initiative has released its potential and succeeded by improving health and safety conditions in the textile manufacturing industry in Bangladesh.

The achievements of the Accord are the result of intense collaboration, determination, hands-on mentality and good will between all parties – both from within Bangladesh and internationally. Since its foundation, we as Otto Group are highly committed to the Accord and believe in the necessity and success of industry wide initiatives to establish decent working conditions in supply chains.

To further improve fire and building safety in Bangladesh and to create a new level of awareness for the protection of workers, it is crucial to increasingly involve the national parties and institutions and to hand over responsibilities. The Accord must continue to operate until there is a proper transfer of knowledge to a trustful, professional and sustainable national body. This is essential to maintain and continuously improve the workers' safety.

The Otto Group is convinced that this is the only way to achieve a safe and sustainable fashion industry and calls on the Bangladesh authorities and industry partners to jointly continue the successful approach.