

Minutes of Meeting

RSC Emergency BoD

09 November 2020: 19:00 – 20:00

Attendees:

	Members	Role	Organisation	Attended / Apologies
Industry Representatives	Rubana Huq	Director	BGMEA	Yes
	Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin	Director, Co-Chair	BGMEA	No
	Miran Ali	Director	BGMEA	Yes
	Sharif Zahir	Director	BGMEA	Yes
	Faruque Hassan	Director	BGMEA	No
	Mohammad Hatem	Director	BKMEA	No
Brand Representatives	Roger Hubert	Director, Co-Chair	H&M	Yes
	Bob Chant	Director	Loblaw	Yes
	Michael Bride	Director	PVH	Yes
	Indalecio Perez	Director	Inditex	Yes
	Bernardo Cruza	Director	El Corte Ingles	No
	Jochen Juetten-Overmeyer	Director	Otto Group	Yes
Trade Union Representatives	Christina Hajagos-Clausen	Director	IndustriALL Global Union	Yes
	Amirul Haque Amin	Director, Co-Chair	National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF)	No
	Kamrul Anam	Director	Bangladesh Textile and Garments Workers League (BTGWL)	Yes
	Babul Akter	Director	Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation (BGIWF)	No
	China Rahman	Director	Federation of Garment Workers	No
	Alke Boessiger	Director	UNI Global Union	Yes
Neutral Conveners	Dan Rees	Convener	ILO	Yes
				Yes
MD and aCSO	MD Hussain			Yes
Translator	Erfanual			Yes
IT	Rana			Yes

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LEAD	REMARKS
1	RSC 2020-21 Budget	Roger Hubert (RH) and Iqbal Hussain (IH)	Open meeting
	<p>MD thanked everyone for joining the meeting on such short notice. The proposed RSC budget for 2020-21 was presented, including details of how the proposed \$6.3 million budget had been developed. The “Nice to have” section includes Environmental Sustainability unit and in case of no funding this item could be shifted to the next fiscal year. MD confirmed the presence of boiler inspection program in the proposed budget and 5 additional complaints handlers.</p> <p>A question was raised from labour (Alke) to the viability of the monthly spend for the allocated budget for international engineering consultants. MD confirmed the international consultants’ costs are in line with expectations and that the total figure was equally divided into months, the figure to for consideration is the total.</p> <p>Labour (Alke) noted, the Accord’s remit does not include Environmental Sustainability. Christina (labour) appreciated the proposal for Environmental Sustainability and suggested alternative funding options are considered.</p> <p>Jochen (Brands) agreed with Labour regarding the funding of Environmental Sustainability and informed that GIZ (a German development agency) has a big project on climate change and environmental issues. GIZ could support the RSC’s environmental sustainability programme. Jochen suggested to create an access point in RSC to collaborate with GIZ.</p> <p>MD advised currently all the contracts with international consultants (Jensen Hughes, WSP, Tüv Süd) has expired, and suggested new invitation to tender in this regard can be considered. Training can be conducted online/video calls. MD noted an Environmental Sustainability manager is considered now who could act as a key person for the communications with GIZ.</p> <p>Rubana (Industry) informed that GIZ have multiple projects running with BGMEA and suggested having a short meeting with a brand representative and, a union representative to develop a position to approach GIZ regarding their possible support to RSC on environmental sustainability and potentially other areas.</p> <p>Industry (Rubana) proposed three points for the budget</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commencement of full virtual training and deduction of the \$92,000 allocated for printing training materials. 2. Removal of the Jensen Hughes reference as currently RSC doesn’t have any engineering consultant. Should there be 		The BoD has approved the Must Have Budget.

	<p>any requirement for consultancy, the allocated budget needs to be made available.</p> <p>3. Although it is appreciable to have Environmental Consultant, but it is advisable to recruit local experts to reduce the expenditure.</p> <p>It is to be noted currently all the contracts with international consultants (Jensen Hughes, WSP, Tüv Süd) have expired, new invitation to tender in this regard can be considered. Training can be conducted online/video calls. MD suggested an Environmental Sustainability manager is recruited who could act as a key person for the communications with GIZ.</p> <p>Roger (Brands) commented that RSC budget has gone through in-depth review at RSC FC and supported and commended the RSC 2020-21 budget for approval. Both RSC FC members Miran (Industry) and Anam (Labour) supported and commended the budget for approval.</p> <p>The Convenor summarised the BoD’s consensus to approve the 2020-21 budget as presented by the MD inclusive of the “must haves” and requested that the Co-Chairs declare their approval.</p> <p>On behalf of: Industry (Rubana) approved Labour (Anan) approved Brands (Roger) approved</p> <p>Roger suggested the BoD to explore with urgency the possibilities of alternative funding modalities for 2021 and onward. Roger advised MD to be cost conscious and provide suggestions where there is room for improvement.</p>	
	<p>Appointment of Tax Advisor and External Auditors</p>	
	<p>RSC Finance Committee has asked the team to obtain letter of interest Tax Advisor and External Auditor. Finance Committee short-listed 3 firms, for External Auditor, KPMG, Deloitte, and Grant Thornton. Since Grant Thornton didn’t respond, Zahur & Mustahfiz were added.</p> <p>For Tax advisor ACNABIN, MABs and J partners, Snehasish Mahmud, A K Gulam Faruk, since Snehasish and AK Gulam didn’t reply Zuhur & Mustahfiz were added.</p> <p>MD proposed that based on the evaluation of returns and fees that Zahur & Mustafiz as External Auditor and ACNABIN as Tax Advisor are considered by the Board. Roger (Brands and FC member) shared his experience with the Accord where International Auditors in Netherlands had no problems with qualified local</p>	<p>The BoD approved ACNABIN as Tax Advisor and Zahur & Mustafiz as external Auditor</p>

	auditing firms. Roger supported the consideration and commended this to the board. On behalf of: Industry (Rubana) approved Labour (Anan) approved Brands (Roger) approved	
3	Any Other Business	
A	Establishment of Sustainability (Fund-Raising) Committee	
	Executive Committee briefly discussed this topic and requested the MD to propose to the BoD that a Financial Sustainability sub-Committee of the BoD be established. Roger (Brand) explained the urgency to initiate an approach for fund raising in order to sustain RSC beyond 2021. Roger and Miran (Industry) volunteered and put themselves forward to form the sustainability committee. Christina (Labour) will provide names for the committee by the end of the week.	All three stakeholders will finalise names (one/two) and will provide it by the end of the week.
B	Response to the Accord Witness Signatories Article	MD
	In response to the article by the Accord witness signatories Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) and Workers Rights Consortium (WRC) a draft response has been provided to the executive committee, and after finalising it can be issued before the Accord brand meeting on 16th November.	Executive Committee will provide final response by the end of the week.