



Facilitation Group Sherpa meeting with Grand Bargain Ambassadors

Summary Note - 12 June 2024

Objective: Defining Success for 2026 and Driving the Grand Bargain forward ahead of the Annual Meeting 2024

The Facilitation Group (FG) Sherpas (EU/DG ECHO, Germany, OCHA, UNICEF, IFRC, InterAction, NEAR) met virtually with the Grand Bargain Ambassadors Jemilah Mahmood and Michael Koehler on 12 June 2024. Co-chaired by InterAction and UNICEF, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss potential levers to achieve the greatest transformative impact by 2026, and to agree on concrete actions to accelerate the progress by the next Annual Meeting in October 2024.

In their opening remarks, the Ambassadors urged to accelerate implementation of the Grand Bargain (GB) commitments, including by encouraging Signatories to feel a greater level of accountability for implementing what has already been agreed in the initial Grand Bargain, in the GB 3.0 Framework and in the GB Caucuses. Noting that all commitments remain equally important, the Ambassadors called for sharing and scaling up effective practices, greater peer-to-peer learning, engaging politically beyond the humanitarian sphere, and strengthening those incentive structures that would enable real transformative change. In addition, the Ambassadors proposed identifying a set of levers that have the potential to accelerate transformative impact if substantive progress can be made by 2026. These levers should focus on localisation, accountability to affected people, and quality funding and run across various related outcomes. They also suggested associating Signatories in this effort and requested the FG to convene constituency calls ahead of the Annual Meeting. The outcome of these consultations will inform the development of a roadmap towards 2026.

The Ambassadors shared some suggestions for these levers of transformation, including increasing contributions to mechanisms that channel funds to local actors effectively; securing local and national actors' co-leadership of coordination structures; agreeing on the best modality to invest in local and national actors' institutional development; adopting sector-wide accountability standards for the inclusion of affected populations in the design of program and recognising these for due-diligence passporting; scaling up cash assistance to strengthen affected people's self-agency; identifying modalities to increase the flexibility, predictability, and timeliness of humanitarian funding; incorporating a strong gender transformative lens to the Grand Bargain commitments; and leveraging further the risk sharing framework to deliver people-centered and locally-led humanitarian responses.

The Ambassadors also suggested that the GB and its Signatories needed to adapt to an evolving global context, marked by potential political changes in major donor countries and an increased focus on fragility.

The FG echoed the Ambassadors' call for accelerating the implementation of the GB commitments and called for greater strategic collaborations to achieve the GB objectives. They also looked into how they will work more actively with their constituencies and stressed the importance of engaging Signatories at Principal level; expanding collaboration to all interested stakeholders; including Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions more strongly; scaling-up those innovative financing models which worked; improving local organisational capacities; and calling for a stronger

push for action at the field level including through the National Reference Groups (NRGs). In this regard, it was mentioned that working more closely and strategically with the NRGs across the GB is already underway, with a plan and outreach efforts. They also highlighted the value of integrating private sector efforts for broader impact, and adopting flexible, multi-year financing strategies to effectively address protracted crises.

The FG further recognised the need for stronger alignment with the IASC and other relevant fora; and proactive outreach to decision-makers such as Parliamentarians and Finance Ministers. The Ambassadors and FG committed to increasing engagement with Signatories at different levels and organising constituency consultations ahead of the Annual Meeting in October. The results of these engagements will be discussed at the next FG meeting in September, co-chaired by Germany and NEAR.

Key action points:

- **Accelerating progress towards 2026:** Agreement to convene constituency consultations to identify levers of transformation. The outcome will inform the discussion during the next FG meeting and the development of a roadmap towards 2026.
 - ECHO and Germany to invite for a donor constituency call
 - NEAR and InterAction to invite NGOs for a constituency call
 - OCHA and UNICEF to invite for a UN constituency call
 - IFRC invite ICRC for a call
- **Engagement of Signatories and beyond:** Agreement to implement an engagement initiative to accelerate progress on the Grand Bargain objectives and prepare for the 2024 Annual Meeting. This outreach will aim to engage GB Champions and caucus members at Principal and Sherpa level with a view to assess progress on the implementation of the commitments agreed upon within the caucuses, help build alliances between Signatories, enable greater sharing of lessons learned and experiences.
- **Principal's-only Segment of the Annual Meeting 2024:** Agreement on the importance of securing Principals' participation at the Annual Meeting on 16 October 2024. An agenda for this high-level dialogue will be developed in coming weeks and an invitation letter will be sent by the Ambassadors to all the Principals.
- **Grand Bargain on the IASC Principals Agenda:** Assess the proposal for a standing-item 'Grand Bargain' on the IASC Principals agenda to ensure adequate alignment between the fora, sharing of experiences and lessons-learned – including on the ERC's Flagship Initiative, and follow-up of Grand Bargain commitments.
- **Explore simplified language of Caucus outcomes:** Ensure that the outcomes of the caucuses are simplified and made more accessible, including for National Reference Groups (NRGs).