



Dialogue between Grand Bargain Ambassadors, the Facilitation Group and Signatories

Summary Note – 20 June 2024

Objective: Accelerating the implementation of the Grand Bargain through strategic actions for transformative impact by 2026

On 20 June 2024, the Ambassadors Jemilah Mahmood and Michael Koehler and the Facilitation Group (FG) Co-Chair Hazel de Wet (UNICEF) met online with the Grand Bargain (GB) Signatories to discuss possibilities to accelerate the implementation of the commitments. In line with the outcome of the most recent FG meeting¹. Ambassador Mahmood urged the GB Signatories to increase the level of accountability for implementing current agreements, including Caucus outcomes, while reaffirming the equal importance of all commitments under the Grand Bargain 3.0. She also shared the Ambassadors' proposal to identify a set of levers of transformation around localisation, accountability to affected populations, and quality funding to move from incremental progress to transformative impact within the next two years.

The FG co-chair Hazel De Wet informed the Signatories about the **Engagement Initiative** that will be implemented by the Ambassadors, the Secretariat and the FG Sherpas between now and September 2024. This initiative aims to recreate a positive momentum and renewed leadership among the GB Signatories at different levels to accelerate the implementation of the GB commitments in the next two years. It sets out plans to convene Signatories at constituency level to discuss and identify further the levers of transformation. These levers will inform the development of a roadmap towards 2026. The initiative also provides for active outreach to individual Signatories at decision-making level to follow-up and support the implementation of Caucuses' outcomes. In September 2024, the FG and Ambassadors will come together to take stock of the initiative's outcome and prepare for the Annual Meeting accordingly.

Ambassador Koehler subsequently emphasised the need for dedicated capacity among Signatories to accelerate the implementation of the GB and Caucus outcomes.

The participants stressed the importance of collaborative action for progress and agreed with the Ambassadors on the need to achieve concrete results by 2026. They also underscored the necessity for more strategic direction and recognised the GB as a key platform for global collaboration. Some Signatories highlighted how the GB has already been internalised, becoming in many ways the 'way of working', while some trends (continue) to be against GB commitments (e.g. increased funding conditionality, tighter earmarking, more detailed reporting requirements).

Signatories proposed the following to achieve greater focus and improve GB processes:

¹ To learn more about the Ambassadors' and Facilitation Group's ideas on levers of transformation, please consult: [Summary Note, 12 June 2024, Facilitation Group Sherpa meeting with Grand Bargain Ambassadors "Defining success for 2026 and driving the Grand Bargain forward ahead of the Annual Meeting 2024"](#)

- **Using existing agreements and priorities:** Signatories agreed to leverage existing commitments, like the Caucuses' outcomes, to drive progress over the next two years, and not to develop new focus areas or priorities.
- **Improving Grand Bargain links with IASC and other fora for more strategic impact:** It was proposed to strengthen the connection between the GB and the IASC, including at the Principals' level, especially since the IASC is reviewing its Task Teams. This includes learning and linking with the ERC's Flagship Initiative and better linking with priorities in different contexts. The need to liaise with the OECD and other fora was also highlighted to avoid duplication.
- **Moving forward the risk-sharing agenda** to support transformative changes, and improving the flexibility, predictability, and timeliness of funding in line with GB commitments.
- **Strengthening the gender lens across the GB focus areas.** CARE International plans to transform the Friends of Gender Group (FoGG) into a Community of Practice
- **Advancing the nexus discussion.** Given the trend of increasing needs and decreasing funding, the need to work more closely together was expressed.
- **Exploring ways to broaden the concept of quality funding,** which has been mentioned as being primarily donor-centric.
- **Strengthening collaborative learning:**
 - Community of Practice: Broad support was expressed for using communities of practice to share best practices and lessons learned and to enable peer-learning.
 - Shared learning: With the conclusion of IASC Task Force 5 on Localisation, there was a proposal to share the learning with the GB, particularly around capacity sharing and increasing the participation of national/local actors within coordination mechanisms.
- **Exploring tools to strengthen mutual accountability:** It was proposed that progress of the GB implementation needed to be better reviewed at the individual Signatories' level, e.g. by using scorecards or an OECD-like light peer-to-peer review among Signatories.
- **Addressing the challenge of increasing aid conditionality and reporting requirements:** Concerns were raised about the increasing requirements which are against the spirit of the GB and may negatively impact the localisation efforts. It was suggested to convene a focused discussion with some donors on this trend.
- **Advocating for more transparent reporting on funding to local and national actors:** The need for greater transparency in how much direct funding goes to local and national actors was stressed.
- **Shifting the narrative** to change the perception of local and national actors who are increasingly stigmatised as unprincipled and fraudulent
- **Ensuring high-level engagement in decision-making:** There was a strong call from Signatories for involving Principals in meetings to ensure high-level engagement and decision-making, particularly at the Annual Meeting.

- **Simplifying Grand Bargain documents for greater accessibility:** Some Signatories suggested simplifying GB documents, including Caucus outcomes and the GB 3.0 Framework to enable greater endorsement and implementation.

The Ambassadors and the FG, together with the Secretariat, will explore how these proposals could be taken forward.