

# IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team

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17 February 2016

Co-Chairs: Lisa Doughten (OCHA/CERF), Melissa Pitotti (ICVA)

## Meeting Notes

### 1. Discussion on the Report of the Secretary General for the World Humanitarian Summit

Lisa Doughten (Co-chair) opened the meeting and informed that she was assigned as the lead on organising the roundtable on humanitarian financing at the WHS. Detailed information on the roundtable will be posted on WHS website shortly.

Emmi Antinoja (WHS SG report drafting team) and Romano Lasker (OCHA) provided an overview of SG's report for WHS.

Melissa Pitotti (Co-chair) asked for more information on the following recommendations: development of financing platform, funding collective outcomes instead of projects, and development of transparent costing methodology.

Emmi Antinoja: Recommendation of funding collective outcomes focuses on donors and on incentivising the new way of work. It also seeks to identify comparative advantages on where and how the funding should be allocated.

The report does not go into technical details of costing apart from identifying the need for new and transparent costing methodology. Alternative costing methodologies should be researched at operational level.

Romano Lasker: The proposed financing platform should allow for using the most appropriate financing tools to specific contexts including for instance bonds or loans. OCHA and FAO are currently working on a scoping study and technically concrete details are not developed yet.

Sandra Aviles (FAO): issues of collective outcomes and joint assessments are not new and the system has been focusing on them since long time. What is OCHA's view on taking these issues forward?

Taija Kontinen-Sharp (UNDP): How HFTT can contribute to WHS? Should the group focus on providing inputs on CERF and CBPFs, humanitarian-development divide or other issues?

Lisa Doughten: SG's humanitarian journey is covering Africa at the moment and will move to Asia next. Gwi-Yeop Son (OCHA) has been hosting periodic meetings on the journey. The messaging is broader than CERF and CBPFs.

Rekiya Adamu-Atta (UNICEF): The recommendations focus on efficiency and transparency of humanitarian organisations but the part that pertains to donors, such as less earmarking and less reporting, is missing.

Romano Lasker: In the report, the SG is speaking as head of the UN and covers issues that the organisation can commit itself to. Although not part of this report, donor commitments to the Grand Bargain still stand.

Charlotte Lattimer (DI): Will this platform have an element of tracking such as FTS? And is there any thinking on how this platform will link with broader analysis of needs?

Romano Lasker: It is unlikely that the financing platform will include a tracking mechanism. This platform is not supposed to replace existing mechanisms but rather fill the gap in financing.

Melissa Pitotti: SG's report mentions an increase of funding from CBPFs to local actors to 15%. This recommendation is unclear.

Juan Chaves (OCHA): There was an editorial error in the document and it has already been corrected. This recommendation is on the increase of funding from CBPFs to cover 15% of HRPs' requirements.

## **2. Update on the Grand Bargain**

Hiroko Araki (HLP): The panel is working on taking the Grand Bargain forward, which will allow for developing a roadmap of commitments and timelines ahead of WHS. The panel, therefore, decided to fast-track the process and initiate the dialogue with top donors and implementing agencies. Consequently, FTS figures were used to identify the largest donors. Since top 10 were primarily traditional donors, the panel decided to include top 15 to ensure that non-traditional donors were represented as well. In addition, Turkey was added to the list as the host of the summit.

The identification of the largest donors also determined the number of agencies to be 15 as well. It was, however, much more challenging to identify them because not only the budget but also their role and type had to be taken under consideration. Having gone through thorough consultations, the panel identified 15 agencies, which included three NGO consortia.

The HLP invited these 31 organisations to the first Grand Bargain meeting, which will take place on 29 February in Amsterdam. Only one person per organisation was invited to ensure that the group is small enough to allow for a productive discussion. The panel expects to find out in this meeting what changes each organisation is ready to make to advance the Grand Bargain and hopes to find some common denominators.

Lisa Doughten: Lydia Poole was contracted to draft a paper that aims at initiating the interagency discussion on the Grand Bargain. Lydia Poole consulted several agencies and included their views in this document. Lisa Doughten and Sandra Aviles are currently working on finalising this paper as IASC focal points for the operationalisation of the Grand Bargain. The paper will be distributed to IASC partners at ASG level in the coming days.

This paper is not meant as a reflection of IASC's position on the Grand Bargain because the timeframe for its development was not sufficient for adequate consultations. This paper only serves as a discussion starter and looks into what is the level of support and feasibility among agencies.

Sandra Aviles: Since efficiency can be interpreted very differently by respective actors, this paper tries to identify areas where collective efforts and areas where individual efforts will be needed by agencies. This paper also attempts to be neutral and technical putting all issues at equal basis.

Tanja Schümer (IASC secretariat): The Working Group is meeting on 8 and 9 February in New York and the Grand Bargain will be one of two big topics. It is a very fluid process with many variables. The Working Groups wants to bring the community together and try to build common position.

Sandra Aviles: There are a lot of other work streams on the Grand Bargain happening simultaneously and many of them are not connected. For instance, there is an ongoing dialog with NGOs led by Norway and this group is not informed on the details of these consultations.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic: What was the cut off volume used for identification of 15 largest agencies? And how will the views of small organisations be taken under account?

Hiroko Araki: The agencies were identified based on funding received in 2015 as recorded by FTS.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic: There will be three case studies on donor positions and three case studies on agency positions presented during the meeting in Amsterdam. Which agencies will be presenting these case studies?

Hiroko Araki: UNHCR and ICRC already expressed interest in presenting. The HLP also expects three top donors to present.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic expressed disappointment that the selection criteria of these 15 agencies were not discussed during the January retreat.

Hiroko Araki informed that at the time of the retreat the HLP did not yet know that this process was forthcoming.

Melissa Pitotti: Operationalisation of the Grand Bargain will require a multi-year plan for implementation. ICVA developed a draft position paper and is undertaking a quick consultation process with NGOs to produce a common NGO position on the Grand Bargain.

### **3. Finalisation of the 2016/2017 HFTT workplan**

#### Output 1

Melissa Pitotti: The articulation of outputs remains the same as in the previous workplan, however lead arrangements have to be confirmed for several activities.

Juan Chaves suggested that quick consultations are organised to flash out what concrete actions should be included under output 1, activity 1. OCHA/FCS will remain the lead for this activity and will consult supporting organisations.

Juan Chaves: Activity 2 will likely take a form of a study. OCHA/FCS with ICVA will take the lead on it with support from WV and Oxfam. Activity 3 is about functional improvements of CBPFs and using HFTT to promote these improvements. OCHA/FCS will remain the lead.

Melissa Pitotti: Does Start Network want to be involved in this activity?

Nee (Start Network): It will have to be discussed internally in the Start Network and she will come back to the co-chairs on it.

Therese Pankratov (NRC): NRC will support on activity 3.

Jordan Menkveld (IOM) confirmed that IOM will lead activity 5.

Sandra Aviles confirmed that FAO and World Vision are interested in activities 4 and 5.

Nee (Start Network) confirmed the interest in activity 5.

Sandra Aviles: Activity 6 on multi-year funding was put forward under the Grand Bargain. However, it should not be limited to funding but should include programming as well. Multi-year funding cannot exist without multi-year programming.

Paulette Jones (WFP): This activity is of interest to WFP as well. More consultations on it will be required.

Romano Lasker: An evaluation of multi-year planning was undertaken, which could inform the discussion on how multi-year funding should work. This evaluation will be completed after WHS.

Sandra Aviles: Multi-year planning and financing merit beyond this particular output and require a dedicated discussion.

Melissa Pitotti: Many donors are not clear what would be required to unlock multi-year funding.

Sandra Aviles: FAO contacted selected donors on it in the past and found out that, from legislative perspective, all of them could do multi-year funding. If these donors are not committing to multi-year funding, it may be for different reasons than legislative limitations.

Melissa Pitotti: The group will have a dedicated discussion on it during the next meeting.

## Output 2

Marina Skuric Prodanovic: There is already a lot happening on output 2 'Renegotiate Restrictive Donor Conditions' and it is not clear if this group should add even more on it. The only element that did not make it to the Grand Bargain is risk analysis and it is not clear why.

Lisa Doughten: We are discussing the possibility of launching the Donor Conditions Report. It would be a good opportunity to highlight the work that this group is doing and it could be taken under account for WHS.

Paulette Jones: WFP insists that co-sponsors endorse this study before HFTT passes it on to the Working Group.

Sandra Aviles: The process behind donor conditionality study was very robust. This paper speaks specifically to the grand bargain and it would be good to make a better use of it.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic: The current version was adopted on no objections basis, however a definitive cut-off date is needed in order to finalise this paper.

Melissa Pitotti: HFTT will have one week to send final feedback to UNFPA. Co-sponsors will look at it at the same time and we will hopefully have the final product on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic: Feedback should be sent not in a form of comments but as edits to the text.

### Output 3

Paulette Jones: WFP is interested in activity 2 or 3.

Sandra Aviles: There needs to be an explicit discussion between HFTT and the task team on development financing. Otherwise, no progress on this output will be made.

Tanja Schümer: There is a task team on development financing and it is supposed to work closely with HFTT on bridging humanitarian-development divide. There should be a synergy and unison between the two groups.

Taija Kontinen-Sharp: Activity 1 should include reporting back to HFTT on SDG funding discussion and not monitoring of this discussion.

Melissa Pitotti: Activities under this output require the most refinement and comments on them should be sent in writing.

### Output 4

Laura Calvio (OCHA/FTS): FTS will take the lead on the first three activities and will consult supporting organisations on practical arrangements. In view of Secretary General's recommendation that reporting to FTS should be mandatory, activity 2 should be revised.

Melissa Pitotti: Activity 4 requires confirmation that World Vision will take a lead on it, while activities 5 and 6 currently have no leads. The new draft workplan will go through another round of reviews electronically and if no leads volunteer, these two activities will be removed from the workplan.

#### **Action Points:**

- Discuss multi-year funding during the next meeting
- HFTT members to send final comments on the Donor Conditions Study by COB, 24 February

#### **4. Next steps on Donor Conditions Study**

Melissa Pitotti: This agenda point has been addressed during the discussion on output 2 under agenda point 3.

## Participants

Location	Name	Agency
<b>New York</b>	Lisa Doughten (co-chair)	OCHA/CERF
	Hiroko Araki	HLP secretariat
	Michael Jensen	OCHA/CERF
	Taija Kontinen-Sharp	UNDP
	Rekiya Adamu-Atta	UNICEF
	Marina Skuric Prodanovic	UNFPA
	Juan Chaves	OCHA/FCS
<b>Geneva</b>	Melissa Pitotti (co-chair)	ICVA
	Sandra Aviles	FAO
	Theo Muller	IASC secretariat
	Paulette Jones	WFP
	Jordan Menkveld	IOM
	Therese Pankratov	NRC
	Tanja Schümer	IASC secretariat
	Sofie de Dobbelaere	UNICEF
	Ysabel Fougery	IFRC
	Laura Calvio	OCHA/FTS
	Paola Di Tommaso	WFP
	Mateusz Buczek (secretariat)	OCHA/CERF
<b>By phone</b>	Anna Buskens	UNHCR
	Emma?	NRC
	Romano Lasker	OCHA/PDSB
	Faisal Yousaf	WHO
	Mirka Kone	WHO
	Emmi Antinoja	OCHA
	Caroline Nichols	InterAction
	Nee?	Start Fund
	Charlotte Lattimer	DI
	Marielyne Joseph	WFP

Annex

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## Meeting Agenda

1. Discussion on the Report of the Secretary General for the World Humanitarian Summit
2. Update on the Grand Bargain
3. Finalisation of the 2016/2017 HFTT workplan
4. Next steps on Donor Conditions Study
5. AOB