

SUMMARY – GRAND BARGAIN JOINT FACILITATION GROUP MEETING

Berlin, 24 October 2017

On 24 October 2017, Germany hosted a Joint Grand Bargain Facilitation Group meeting in Berlin, which convened both outgoing (ECHO, IFRC, OCHA, SCHR, Switzerland, UN Women and WFP) and new facilitators (Great Britain, ICRC, InterAction, OCHA, UNHCR and Germany) at Sherpa and working-level. Based on the experience and recommendations of the outgoing facilitators, the meeting's main aim was to clarify the role of the Facilitation Group in steering the Grand Bargain process in its second year. Drawing on the conclusions of the Annual Meeting in June as well as the High-Level Roundtable Meeting in September, the Joint Facilitation Group Meeting focused on the following four cross-cutting challenges:

- 1) Improving Grand Bargain cooperation and communication
- 2) Driving progress in Grand Bargain work streams and strengthening the quid pro quo
- 3) Achieving greater field impact
- 4) Pushing for more synergies with external processes.

The outcome of the Berlin meeting is a work plan for the 2017/2018 Facilitation Group (Annex A), which operationalizes and translates strategic priorities into a concrete set of actions. In addition to the work plan, the following summary outlines the key points and recommendations that emerged from the four thematic discussion sessions.

I. Session 1: Improving Grand Bargain cooperation and communication

While the light and unbureaucratic outlook of the Grand Bargain process remains key to its success, facilitators concurred that communication and coordination across all levels of the Grand Bargain structure (i.e. Facilitation Group, Secretariat, Eminent Person, Co-Conveners and signatories in general) need improvement in order to ease the tracking burden for signatories and ensure that a full aggregate picture of progress is available. Consequently, taking into account the recruitment of an additional staff member at the Grand Bargain Secretariat, the Facilitation Group agreed on a number of communication measures to be developed and implemented by the Secretariat with support of the Facilitation Group and relevant input from work stream co-conveners. These measures are detailed in a separate Secretariat work plan (Annex B) and include, for example, the creation of an internal repository for live updates of documents.

With the aim of improving communication across work streams, the Grand Bargain Secretariat will also be asked to develop a communication plan and easy-to-handle templates for regular work stream updates. For the sake of greater transparency and inclusiveness, the existing Grand Bargain website will be updated with all relevant finalized documents. Additionally, the Secretariat will be asked to develop an on-boarding procedure and "welcome package" for new signatories and Grand Bargain focal points within signatory organizations. To ensure active involvement in the Grand Bargain a list of expectations will be included in the "welcome package".

Besides the need for improved communication, facilitators also addressed the governance structure of the Grand Bargain. It was acknowledged that the Terms of Reference for the Facilitation Group, Eminent Person and Secretariat need to be updated and clarified. In this context, facilitators agreed on a rotating chairmanship of the Facilitation Group, decided on follow-up communication with the Eminent-Person and determined focal points for gender mainstreaming within the Grand Bargain (see details in the Facilitation Group's work plan in Annex A).

Recommendations/Decisions:

- The Facilitation Group recommends that all signatories use their respective communication channels to inform about Grand Bargain activities, including a link to the IASC website for increased visibility.
- France and New Zealand were welcomed as new members of the Grand Bargain. Additional members will be affiliated as soon as the on-boarding procedure is finalized.

II. Session 2: Driving progress in work streams and strengthening the quid pro quo

Facilitators stressed that communication and information sharing was the foundation for better visibility of progress within the Grand Bargain. In addition to the communication measures discussed in Session 1, facilitators agreed that a timely meeting of all co-conveners, preferably before the end of 2017, would be highly recommended. Building on the Geneva workshop on 26 September, in which five of the work streams participated, as well as the High-Level Round Table Meeting's recommendations for clustering and prioritization, the co-conveners workshop should aim at creating a mapping of the work streams as well as a road map for year two. The co-conveners meeting should also allow for a frank discussion on questions regarding the quid-pro-quo.

Based on the priorities identified by each of the work streams, the Facilitation Group will formulate key goals for 2017/2018. In order to improve communication between work stream co-conveners and the Facilitation Group, the Facilitation Group decided to designate a focal point for liaison with the co-conveners' constituency. The focal point should be present in all relevant work stream workshops.

Session 2 also addressed the question of Grand Bargain reporting (see Annex A). The templates for the self-reporting exercise as well as the methodology for the annual independent report will be revised to reflect the baselines and priorities set in the work streams as well as the feedback from signatories. Moreover, a shift from mere reporting on achievements towards highlighting transformations and systemic changes was seen as useful.

Recommendations:

- The Facilitation Group recommends a meeting of all work stream co-conveners, preferably in December 2017, with the aim of establishing a mapping and road map for year two.
- The Facilitation Group recommends that work streams define and communicate priorities for the coming year until the end of December 2018 by filling out the templates that are being prepared by the Secretariat. Criteria for prioritization could include quid-pro-quo relevance and field level impact.
- The Facilitation Group recommends that work streams establish a baseline to help give shape to the self-reports. These self-reports (and their baselines) should in turn be used in the analysis of the Independent Report.

III. Session 3: Achieving greater field impact

In accordance with the outcomes of the Annual Meeting and the High-Level Roundtable Meeting in New York, facilitators highlighted that the lack of field impact is resulting in growing impatience with the pace of change, risking support for the Grand Bargain. In order to enhance awareness and the flow of information to the field it was agreed that the Secretariat, supported by the Facilitation

Group, will prepare Grand Bargain key messages for dissemination to headquarters and field offices (see Annex A). Besides advocating for an intensified exchange with field level experts (e.g. HC's and HCT's) on Grand Bargain field implementation, facilitators recommended that field impact should be taken into consideration by work stream co-conveners as a criterion for prioritization (see recommendation above). Regarding the revision of the methodology for the Independent Report, due consideration will be given to the question of field level impact. Additionally, the Secretariat will be tasked to maintain an up-to-date list of country contexts where GB work-stream transformations are demonstrated (e.g. via pilot activities).

Recommendations:

- The Facilitation Group recommends dedicating a special session with Donors and IASC principals at the HC Retreat on Grand Bargain on Field Impact.
- The Facilitation Group recommends that work streams, where useful, introduce field impact “demonstrators”, ideally in the same contexts to assure better alignment and visibility.

IV. Session 4: Pushing for more synergies with external processes

Facilitators recalled that the Grand Bargain exists alongside a number of complementary structures and processes. In order to maximize collective impact, it is critical to ensure that all of these efforts are linked, complementary and build on the successes and achievements of one another. Facilitators chose to focus on a number of external processes and fora of key relevance to the Grand Bargain and formulated respective tasks (see Annex A) and recommendations (see below).

Session 4 also addressed the High-Level Roundtable Meeting's recommendation regarding work stream 10. It was decided that the Facilitation Group will reach out to co-conveners of work stream 10 and other co-conveners to discuss and decide how the humanitarian-development nexus should be dealt with at work stream level.

Recommendations:

- The Facilitation Group recommends that co-conveners include, where useful and desired, representatives of external processes in work stream contribution and distribution lists.
- The Facilitation Group recommends that co-conveners of Needs Assessment and Multi-Year Planning/Funding work streams establish a liaison with World Bank colleagues and invite them to include the outcome of the two work streams in the definition of World Bank policies related to Needs Assessments and Multi-Year Planning/Funding.
- The Facilitation Group recommends that work stream 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10 get directly involved in the work of the IASC Humanitarian-Development-Nexus Task Team for building coherence of approach.