

## **Grand Bargain Enhanced Quality Funding Workstream Online Statement**

Since the launch of the Grand Bargain at the first World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, and in particular with the most recent Annual Independent Report, signatories have made notable strides with respect to multi-year planning, funding, and reduced earmarking. As the co-convenors of the newly merged Enhanced Quality Funding workstream (WS 7+8), it is our hope that these progressive trends tell a story of multi-year planning and quality funding becoming the norm rather than the exception.

While there is progress to celebrate at an individual signatory level, this thematic area of the Grand Bargain still faces hurdles. Notably, domestic political constraints, reporting discrepancies in terms of the availability of quality funding, and a lack of a collective understanding on the transaction flows of flexible funding risk stalling or even rolling back the gains that have been won.

To address these barriers and to advance the successes reported on quality funding, our workstream understands that we can no longer work in silos. It is essential that we collaborate across the Grand Bargain to capture the interplays between quality funding and other thematic areas. Further progress now lies at the crossroads of different workstreams of the Grand Bargain. To this end, the Enhanced Quality Funding workstream is committed to engaging much more closely with other workstreams and signatories in order to approach the issue of multi-year planning and quality funding in a comprehensive fashion.

However, increased inter-workstream collaboration on its own is not enough. One of the most critical elements to understand and address the barriers to multi-year planning and quality funding is increased political momentum. Building this momentum will require sustained and high-level strategic discussions on this issue. With this in mind, our workstream would like to recognize the important role that the Eminent Person can play in strengthening the political narrative of predictable and flexible humanitarian planning and funding.

On that note, our workstream would like to sincerely thank Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, the Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank, for her leadership and enormous contributions as the first Eminent Person of the Grand Bargain. We would also like to congratulate Ms. Sigrid Kaag, the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, on her appointment as the new Eminent Person. We look forward to her leadership and vision of the Grand Bargain and, in particular, to her engagement in enhancing the quid pro quo of the Grand Bargain on quality funding and multi-year planning.

Sincerely,

The Enhanced Quality Funding Workstream (7+8)