



**KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**  
Federal Public Service  
**Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation**

Statement of Belgium at the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting of June 25th, 2020

- delivered in writing -

Four years ago, Belgium has participated in the first World Humanitarian Summit ever organized, where the Grand Bargain, a unique platform of donors and humanitarian aid organizations, was adopted. That bargain was a promise of making humanitarian aid more efficient, more people centered, closer to communities, by a series of firm commitments taken by all parties on board. Organizations and donors, promising to do their share to bring what is essential to people in need in the most relevant way and bring transformation to a system that needed to adapt to the new challenges brought by conflicts, crises and disasters.

Four years have passed and we have been challenged again but this time by a crisis that affects us all, worldwide. Exceptionally Belgium has responded to a crisis that has also hit our country. What effect this will bring to the humanitarian system is yet to be discovered. But this virus has shown that the commitment we made is more relevant than ever. It showed that we are on the right track, but we need to push harder. We need to up our efforts and to continue to strive towards achieving our collective Grand Bargain commitments by the end of 2021, making use of momentums like the COVID-19 pandemic as an accelerator.

Belgium continues to show a steady and firm commitment to work on aid efficiency and effectiveness. At a time of record humanitarian and protection needs, Belgium continues to implement its humanitarian strategy to further position itself as a modern and principled donor and foresees to reach the target of 60% flexible funding in 2020.

Introducing a gender perspective at every level and stage and the need for robust gender analysis and informed, gender-integrated response to strengthen the access and acceptability of the humanitarian services needed to meet the distinct needs of women and girls, as well as men and boys, of different ages and abilities remains of utmost importance. For aid to be effective and efficient but also because it is just the right thing to do.

Belgium welcomes the initiative of the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group (FG) and the Eminent Person to start the reflections on the future of the Grand Bargain post 2021. We would like to stress the uniqueness and the potential of the Grand Bargain as an agile and aspirational platform that brings together traditional donors, civil society and the UN system, working all together towards real transformative change.

Let's be ambitious in our targets for the future, bold in our approach, let's adapt and continue to work together for a better humanitarian system, that delivers to the most in need.

-----

