

## Statement on behalf of Germany

on the occasion of the virtual Grand Bargain Annual Meeting on 24 and 25 June 2020

- delivered only in writing -

Germany continues to support the Grand Bargain as a unique forum that convenes a diverse group of stakeholders to make the humanitarian system even better. We are convinced that its set-up has contributed to the significant achievements that the Grand Bargain has yielded since 2016, for example in the areas of cash, localization, transparency and harmonized reporting. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the continued relevance of the Grand Bargain commitments. In light of the strain that the pandemic puts on the humanitarian system, we need to do our utmost to enable humanitarian organizations and their staff to respond as effectively and efficiently as possible.

As we approach the fifth year of the Grand Bargain, its workstreams have produced a number of concrete tools that have been tested and are ready to be scaled up, like the humanitarian usage of the IATI standard and the harmonized “8+3” reporting template. We as the signatories of the Grand Bargain now have to follow through and consolidate collective progress by both implementing the tools that have already been developed and by advancing further in areas where progress is lacking.

We would like to thank and commend the current Facilitation Group as well as in particular the Eminent Person, H.E. Sigrid Kaag, for the leadership throughout the past year that has helped mobilize political will and accelerate progress in the Grand Bargain. We support the Eminent Person’s initiative to take stock of the Grand Bargain in 2021. We, too, see the five-year mark of the Grand Bargain as an important benchmark for what the Grand Bargain has archived.

Therefore, we need a collective political push in next year to overcome barriers and to reach tangible and widespread implementation over all work streams and organizations. As Co-Convener of Workstream 9 on simplified and harmonized reporting, we continue to encourage our fellow donors as well as organizations with downstream partners to fulfil their commitments and make the harmonized 8+3 Template their reporting standard. The template has been vetted and tested over a two year pilot phase. This has shown: The template works. By now, it has been adopted by several donors and UN Organizations. Yet, to achieve collective success, more signatories need to step up and implement the template. It’s not a question of “why” anymore, but of “why not”.

As a signatory, Germany will continue its efforts to implement its own commitments as well as to contribute to collective progress. This means all of us should not only focus on those parts of the Grand Bargain that we are particular interested in or committed to, but we should continue pushing to enable the Grand Bargain as a whole.

We also welcome the discussion about the future of the Grand Bargain. In order to remain the unique forum that it is, while shedding some of the bureaucratic burdens, we believe the Grand Bargain should evolve. A leaner Grand Bargain after the year 2021 could keep the spirit of the commitments, but have a clear focus on three to four core issues of contemporary importance that would benefit from the attention of this unique forum.

Finally, while the future of the process is important, we should not lose sight of what can still be achieved until 2021, including with regard to implementing those initiatives that are ready and continuing to develop those who are not there yet.