

Statement

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Grand bargain annual meeting 2022

Today the humanitarian community comes together to consider progress and challenges in our collective commitment to ensure better humanitarian outcomes for affected people. Denmark is committed to contribute to reaching the ambitions outlined in the Grand Bargain. Key priorities are quality funding, better support for localisation and the cross-cutting issue of gender.

For Denmark, the provision of **quality funding** is a key Grand Bargain commitment and a vital tool for improving the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Denmark continues to provide the vast majority of our humanitarian funding in a way that is flexible, predictable and non-earmarked or softly earmarked. A recent OECD DAC peer review points out that Denmark has taken significant steps to make its humanitarian financing fit for purpose in line with Grand Bargain principles by providing predictable and flexible funding through multi-year agreements with e.g. a number of UN agencies. Furthermore, the new framework for strategic partnerships with Danish civil society organisations underscores this approach by allowing for up to one third of the annual budget to be used as unallocated flexible funds and be programmed throughout the year without approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. This allows partners to react rapidly and in a flexible manner to any immediate crisis and beyond, to shift funding between modalities and work in the nexus to respond to new or changing needs, or seize opportunities and follow new and innovative ways of working.

In order to support leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders, Denmark has recently taken on the role as co-convenor of the workstream on **localisation**, working in close partnership with IFRC. Denmark looks forward to working with IFRC and other partners on this and will support the work plan developed within the workstream-cooperation. Denmark also looks forward to supporting the new Caucus on Funding for Localisation.

Denmark applies five core elements to operationalise localisation: (1) Partnership, (2) Financial resources and support, (3) Capacity, (4) Participation and leadership, and (5) Coordination, policy and advocacy.

A first step in Danish participation in the localisation workstream, was hosting an inclusive localisation event in Copenhagen, Beirut and Nairobi with Danish and local CSOs during the annual ‘Call to Action on Protection Against Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies’ meeting in June 2022. At the event, participants made recommendations related to localisation. These will be collected as concrete building blocks for localisation that will guide Danish work in the coming year.

Denmark focuses on *inclusive* localisation in our support for both humanitarian- and development aid. With the term inclusive localisation Denmark seeks to bring ‘localisation’, ‘inclusion of all in affected communities’ and ‘accountability to affected populations’ closer together. The focus is not only on ensuring that humanitarian interventions and development cooperation is led by local actors; but on

ensuring localisation and local leadership by constituency-led local organisations (e.g. women-, refugee-, disability-led, LGBT+-led local organisations). With the term inclusive localisation, Denmark adopts an intersectional approach to localisation, trying to strengthen sensitivity to multiple-forms of marginalisation.

Many of the Grand Bargain recommendations for strengthening localisation have been integrated in our new strategic partnerships with Danish CSOs. Through these partnerships, the CSOs commit to support localisation by having a strategy for strengthening localisation and local leadership incl. flow of funds, through specific annual reporting for localisation and local leadership, and through accountability surveys among local partners that are mandatory in the 4-year period. The framework for the strategic partnerships provide flexible, multi-year and nexus-supportive funding, and up to one third of the budget can be reserved as unallocated flexible funding to be programmed throughout the year. Furthermore, the partnerships allow local partners to receive unspecified overheads.

In our partnerships with CSOs and informal civil society actors, Denmark has a strong emphasis on local leadership across humanitarian and development engagements. Denmark uses pooled funding mechanisms with a strong focus on funding to local actors and constituency-led, local organisations. Denmark initiates and funds call for proposals that have a focus on localisation with criteria for local partnerships and budgets showing flow of funds to local partners.

Denmark of course also pushes for better localisation in our cooperation with a number of multilateral organisations and in bilateral partnerships.

In the coming year, Denmark will develop a guidance note with concrete recommendations on strengthening localisation and cooperation with local actors. Denmark will strengthen spaces for dialogue with local actors and their meaningful participation through active roles as panellists, moderators and facilitators at meetings, conferences and negotiations. Finally, Denmark will strengthen the involvement of local actors in all project-cycle phases.

Denmark also gives priority to supporting the cross-cutting issue of **gender** in the implementation of Grand Bargain commitments. Denmark is at present the Global Lead for the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. Through our Global Lead-role, Denmark works to promote support for the empowerment of women and girls and the fight against sexual and gender-based violence as a key priority in all humanitarian action at all stages.

A core tenet of Denmark's engagement is that no humanitarian response plan will achieve its objectives without addressing gender equality and sexual and gender-based violence. Key priorities for the Danish Call to Action leadership is (1) Systematic advocacy in all relevant fora, (2) Engagement with the humanitarian system to ensure increased prioritisation of risk mitigation, prevention of and responses to sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian planning, (3) Promotion of concrete action to ensure meaningful engagement and participation of local women and girls in humanitarian planning and decision-making, and (4) Support for evidence-based research with a view to increase the use of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data in humanitarian planning.