

Statement

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Grand Bargain annual meeting 2023

At the outset, Denmark would like to express its appreciation of the hard work and commitment of the outgoing Grand Bargain Eminent Person, Jan Egeland. Jan has vastly contributed to moving the Grand Bargain forward and been a true inspiration for the Grand Bargain-community.

Denmark welcomes the efforts of the new Grand Bargain model to streamline and focus the work of the Grand Bargain; and to ensure continued strong leadership and better links to the work of other relevant platforms.

It is, however, important that we build on positive results and partnerships established during previous iterations of the Grand Bargain and that the Grand Bargain continues to be a platform for accountability and equal dialogue between signatories.

We also need to keep in mind that a renewed focus within the Grand Bargain on nexus-approaches would require closer engagement with not least development, peacebuilding and climate actors. We must consider how best to do that in ways that contribute to more efficient humanitarian action and better use of funding sources available.

As in previous years, key priorities for Denmark in relation to the Grand Bargain are quality funding, support to local leadership (localisation) and the cross-cutting issue of gender.

Denmark considers **quality funding** to be one of the most important Grand Bargain commitments, and key to more effective humanitarian action. Quality funding makes it possible for partners to react rapidly and in a flexible manner to new crises and changing needs. That is why Denmark continues to provide a very large part of its humanitarian funding in ways that are predictable and non-earmarked or softly earmarked. This applies to the way we partner with UN agencies, with international NGOs and with civil society organisations.

Our current strategic partnerships with 18 selected Danish civil society organisations is a strong example of Denmark's commitment to provide quality funding. Among other things, these partnerships include yearly grants for a four-year period, a significant portion of unallocated flexible funding and overhead for local partners to support their institutional capacity. In line with this, partners are encouraged to apply a comprehensive and integrated nexus approach to link emergency responses and humanitarian action with efforts to support resilience and long-term development of local civil society.

Denmark appeals to all donor signatories to the Grand Bargain to consider providing the largest possible portion of their humanitarian funding in ways that are predictable and flexible.

During 2022 Denmark became part of the co-chairmanship of Grand Bargain Work-stream two on **localisation**, partnering with IFRC. Denmark's aim has been to support the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders and contribute to strengthening access to quality funding for local and national actors. For that purpose, Denmark is also a member of the caucus on funding for localization.

Part of the conceptual basis for Denmark's engagement in the work-stream and the caucus is our framework (2022-2025) for strategic partnerships with Danish civil society organizations. This framework promotes localisation by requiring partner organisations to work on five core elements that aim at strengthening local leadership: (1) Engaging in equitable partnerships with local partners based on locally identified needs and mutual added value. (2) Transferring a high proportion of the grant received to local partners and encourage local ownership. (3) Actively supporting local partners' organisational capacities through relevant and targeted capacity strengthening and capacity sharing. (4) Supporting and promoting local partner's participation and leadership in projects and programmes. (5) Promoting greater presence, influence, and leadership of local partners in coordination mechanisms and policy fora. Danish civil society partners are subject to an assessment - carried out in part by their local partners during the partnership period - of how they contribute to the five core elements.

The financial set-up for the strategic partnerships includes overhead fee for local partners, multi-year funding and flexible mechanisms to allow for local partners to operate and adjust in a context-sensitive manner.

During 2022 a new concept of 'Partner Dialogues' was developed, whereby the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark visits partner countries to engage in dialogue directly with local partners on the five core elements of strengthening local leadership. The first two Partner Dialogues took place in Uganda and Myanmar and provided direct and very valuable input and insights into operational aspects, functioning and effects of working as local partners. The Partner Dialogues will inform the ongoing work of the Danish MFA internally, with Danish civil society partners and in discussions with the international donor community on promoting localization and local leadership.

Denmark recognizes the complementary roles of different partners in relation to the advancement of local leadership including the enabling role of multilateral and international partners when it comes to global standards, convening power and in working with duty bearers. Therefore, Denmark continues to encourage multilateral and international partners including UN-agencies to explore ways to further support local leadership and the meaningful inclusion of local actors.

Denmark appeals to all donor signatories to the Grand Bargain to engage local responders through equitable partnerships based on predictable and flexible funding and inclusive and outcome-based programming. As agreed to under the Grand Bargain all signatory donors must strive to allocate a significant portion of their humanitarian assistance to support local responders wherever and whenever appropriate.

Denmark also gives priority to supporting the cross-cutting issue of **gender** in the implementation of Grand Bargain commitments. Gender (cross-cutting issue for the Grand Bargain): The new framework

for strategic partnerships includes a special focus on women, women-led organisations and women's rights organisations as key partners. This reflects Denmark's high priority on gender issues and women's empowerment that was also expressed in Denmark's global lead-role in relation to the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies during 2022. Denmark's lead-role aimed at promoting 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.

As part of the Call to Action annual meeting in June 2022, Danish MFA together with Danish civil society partners and local partners held an event in Copenhagen focusing on 'inclusive localisation' with mirror events taking place simultaneously in Nairobi and Beirut. The event developed recommendations for future work on inclusive localization.

Denmark appreciates that the model for continuation of the Grand Bargain includes gender as a crosscutting issue.