



The Future of the Grand Bargain

ICVA Statement for the 2023 Grand Bargain Annual Meeting

16 June 2023

The past year provided an opportunity for all signatories to continue to deliver on the GB commitments, while also taking stock of progress to date and deciding on the future direction. Engagement through caucuses was accompanied by extensive survey work across signatories, lengthy discussions among Facilitation Group representatives, and significant reflection on the added value of the Grand Bargain. Today, as ICVA, we are confident that the endorsed framework for the Grand Bargain through 2026 provides a solid foundation to work collectively towards a more efficient and effective use of resources to reduce the needs and to deliver the best outcomes for affected populations.

Ongoing value of the GB

The survey work completed among signatories in the fall of 2022 demonstrated the ongoing broad support for the objectives and commitments covered under the Grand Bargain. The topics covered remain highly relevant and are still considered as critical in making the humanitarian system more effective in supporting people affected by crisis. The terms "localization", "quality funding", "participation", "transparency", "NEXUS", are now embedded in dialogue across the humanitarian system, but additional joint efforts are needed to fully achieve the commitments. At ICVA, we believe that the Grand Bargain, with its broad membership of Donors, UN, NGOs, and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement remains a key platform enabling to pursue such efforts collectively.

The new Grand Bargain structure

One of the core principles of the Grand Bargain has been to have a light bureaucratic footprint, with the goal of limiting additional burdens on signatories. The new Grand Bargain framework follows this principle with further simplifications proposed to the structure. It is important to recognize there are trade-offs to this approach; with lightened structures - closure of workstreams, simplification of reporting, etc. – comes the expectation that individual signatories will be more proactive in maintaining progress toward implementation of commitments.

Success will require signatories to remain engaged and take initiative to lead on implementation without waiting for others to act first. The milestones set for 2026 represent the core commitments of the Grand Bargain, the broad interest of signatories, and at the same time are highly ambitious.

The shift from a single Eminent Person to three Ambassadors to lead Grand Bargain focus areas also represents an important opportunity for improved implementation moving forward. Although the Eminent Person has been a critical role in driving the political momentum of the Grand Bargain, the Ambassador model will allow for more dedicated attention to each of the focus area priorities.

ICVA Grand Bargain priorities

In ICVA's view, the two agreed focus areas for the Grand Bargain through 2026 reflect well the main changes required in the humanitarian system. They also resonate with the [ICVA 2030 Strategy](#), which includes engagement on humanitarian financing, partnership, and localization.

On localization, ICVA seeks to radically increase the degree to which local, national, and regional actors systematically participate in and inform global policies.



In partnership, ICVA's focus is to extend partnerships with people and organizations closest to humanitarian crises; promote the collaboration between peace, humanitarian, and development actors; and foster diversity and equity throughout partnership.

On humanitarian finance, ICVA works to ensure that financing of humanitarian action meets the needs of populations affected by crises while ensuring adequate NGO access to principled, quality funding. ICVA's action centers on increased efficiency within the humanitarian system; mapping and analyzing existing financing mechanisms and their accessibility for NGOs operating in humanitarian context, and expanding access to funding for humanitarian NGOs, including local and national organizations.

ICVA also has an ongoing focus on improving understanding and use of risk management tools by frontline responders, and the proposed Risk Sharing Framework serves this objective well. **Risk sharing is a foundational issue** for effective implementation of the Grand Bargain.

Moreover, considering that measuring progress requires access to accurate and transparent humanitarian finance data, over this past year, ICVA has started to support NGOs to improve transparency of financial data. This work will continue in the upcoming period, with further analysis, convening, advocacy and technical support provided by ICVA.

It is the firm belief of ICVA that successful implementation of the Grand Bargain must result in clear change for frontline responders and people affected by crisis. In our efforts to support principled humanitarian action, ICVA will continue to align work on localization, participation, and financing at the country level with implementation of the Grand Bargain. This will include ongoing **efforts towards participation**, both ensuring frontline actors are updated on initiatives to implement Grand Bargain commitments and gathering inputs from them to appropriately influence effective implementation. Together we can bring the change.