

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

**Name of Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Bulgaria**

**Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to
enable the consultants to contact you for an interview):**

**Valentin Guydarov, counsellor, UN and Development
Cooperation Directorate, Valentin.GUYDAROV@mfa.bg**

Date of Submission: 14 February 2020

(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **3 pages in total** – anything over this word limit will not be considered by ODI in their analysis. Please respond to all of the questions below.)

Question 1: Reflecting on the information you have provided in the Excel spreadsheet, please highlight the 2 or 3 key outcomes or results relating to the Grand Bargain that your institution achieved in 2019?

Introduction in 2019 of internal regulations on the terms and conditions for granting official development assistance, project implementation and voluntary contributions to international organizations, which, inter alia, reflect the commitments under the Grand Bargain.

Important to underline the efforts to integrate considerations on gender equality and women's empowerment across all workstreams of the Grand Bargain. Increased engagement in integrating the gender equality perspective into humanitarian action and monitoring of gender-based violence, as well as an increase in allocated funding.

Bulgarian participation and contribution to the Economic Resilience Initiative of the EIB is sound investment in durable solution for curbing the Western Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean migratory routes.

Question 2: Please explain how the outcomes/results have or will lead to long-term institutional changes in policy and/or practice.

Enhanced engagement of the civil society, the local authorities and the private sector in decision-making, as well as in the implementation process and evaluation.

Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment¹ in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain? What results/outcomes have been achieved in this regard? (please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results). Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

Bulgaria is strongly committed to the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. We actively promote the role of women in peace and security and we are fully committed to the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and the relevant Resolutions which frame the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Translating words into effective results, over the 2019, Bulgaria worked towards the finalization of its National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions.

We encourage dialogue on gender equality, both internally and in the development of the EU international activities. This includes, inter alia, all efforts

¹ Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

to eradicate gender-based violence in humanitarian crises and emergencies around the world, which are at a record-high, especially in developing countries. Bulgaria is actively involved in the global initiative 'Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies' in an effort to mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout our national and international policies. The 'Call to Action' presents an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the multiple challenges, faced by women and girls, to develop expert capacities and promote close cooperation between all stakeholders. The initiative has already brought about high-level commitment and multiple donors to support needed changes in humanitarian policies, systems, and mechanisms. Increased leadership and robust engagement in integrating a gender equality perspective into humanitarian action and monitoring of gender-based violence, as well as an increase in allocated funding. Still, there is need for expanding the efforts on the ground and providing safe and comprehensive services for those affected by gender-based violence.

The Republic of Bulgaria reconfirms the commitment to share good practices in the field of prevention, training and qualification, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims, as established in a number of institutional, organisational and legislative measures. Moreover, for 2020 we are planning to fund activities on prevention of gender-based violence through UNFPA.

Question 4: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments? Please explain how your institution has linked commitments 10.1 - 10.5 with other commitments from other workstreams.

The Bulgarian humanitarian and development policy is an integral part of the Bulgarian foreign and development policy. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is the official, authorized and responsible for conducting the Bulgarian humanitarian and development policy, including the humanitarian-development nexus. All other ministries and government institutions support the policy-making and implementation of the government policy in the areas of their responsibility. The Minister for Foreign Affairs is the chair of the Inter-institutional Council, attended by deputy-ministers of all line ministries. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also supported by Inter-institutional Working Party, consisting of officials from the line ministries.

The Inter-institutional Council undertakes ex-ante assessments prior to implementing specific policy instruments and projects, as well as ex-post evaluation on the efficiency of the implemented humanitarian and development programmes and projects.

The Bulgarian Parliament exercises regular control over the Executive, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs in his/her capacity of the official, responsible for conducting the Bulgarian humanitarian and development policy.

The humanitarian and development policy is implemented, assessed and evaluated in partnership and cooperation with the civil society, the local authorities and the private sector.

