

Ireland's statement for the Annual Grand Bargain High Level Meeting, 15 June 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I would like to thank Minister Kaag for deftly steering the Grand Bargain through a crucially important period. Thanks to your foresight and strategic leadership, we are on the cusp of an exciting new chapter of the Grand Bargain. On behalf of Ireland, I want to extend a warm welcome to Jan Egeland. It is encouraging to see a humanitarian leader from civil society taking on this important role.

The Independent Review provides an excellent basis for discussions over the next few days – as ever, it is packed with information, strong analysis and, most importantly, an independent, frank perspective on where we need to do better.

We are a diverse group of Grand Bargain signatories with a shared vision - all committed to improving how we work in order to better serve those affected by humanitarian crises. So what has this meant for Ireland?

The Grand Bargain has made us reflect, focus, and aim higher. It provided additional impetus to translate our policy commitments into practice. Ireland is proud of its contribution to the Grand Bargain – particularly in the area of quality funding that we believe is the cornerstone for achieving broader change.

But it's not just about what Ireland, or indeed any other signatory has achieved. It's about what we can achieve together. As we say in Ireland - ní neart go cur le chéile (there's no strength without unity).

So, it is in this spirit that Ireland looks forward to Grand Bargain 2.0.

I would like to make three short points.

First:

If the Grand Bargain 2.0 is to be a turning point for something, it must be on **quality partnerships** with local actors. COVID-19 has given us the most straightforward demonstration of how essential local and national actors are to the global humanitarian response. Ireland fully embraces the emphasis on high quality, flexible partnerships that

empower and engage those closest to affected communities, in particular women led organisations.

This must mean partnerships built on a shared understanding of the risks faced on all sides – something we have not always excelled at as donors. The ICRC/Netherlands statement on risk is an excellent starting point in this regard that Ireland is happy to endorse.

Second:

Ireland calls on all signatories to ensure that **gender equality and women's empowerment** are at the heart of our work. This means addressing gender in a meaningful way at every step – from the governance of the Grand Bargain, to the make-up of the caucuses and the indicators we choose. To this end Ireland warmly welcomes the inclusion of a representative of the Friends of Gender Group on the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group.

Third:

It has been said already, but it is worth repeating – the Grand Bargain must play out at the **field level**. Quite simply, an approach that is informed by the local context, led by those on the ground, and accountable to those we serve – will help us to realise the potential of the Grand Bargain.

Finally, I wanted to be here today to personally give assurance of Ireland's **high level political commitment** to Grand Bargain 2.0. In the face of an increasing gap between needs and financing, the imperative to be more effective and efficient has never been greater. Collectively, we must boldly seize this opportunity. You can be assured that Ireland stands ready to play its part.

Thank you