



NEAR Statement

Grand Bargain, Annual Meeting

15 June 2021

We recognize the progress that has been made in the last 5 years, and feel as though the Grand Bargain is the only current mechanism that has the ability and makeup of the necessary stakeholders that can move the needle forward. Its eagerness towards localization, and intention of transformation and inclusivity of diverse stakeholders, including NEAR, as its first Global South signatory was a big step towards systems change.

We believe that quid pro quo is a good principle, but it requires far richer nuances to ensure inclusivity, ability to deliver, and our collective commitment to bring about a tangible paradigm shift.

The Global South, in its diversity, is vital to the Grand Bargain's ability in delivering results that will transform the Humanitarian system. The current version, which was established nearly 70 years ago, deserves an upgrade.

Engaging crisis affected communities, including crisis affected governments and more broadly working alongside local actors, at all levels, will help the Grand Bargain overcome its current nature of being a closed, global conversation based on a small selective group of leading agencies with continued lack of clarity in their decision-making criteria.

We welcome the current attempts to bring the national actors into the mix but more is needed to make localisation more than a claim and a result of isolated efforts from a few dedicated Global North actors.

Based on examples from our development counterparts, and more importantly sovereignty, crisis affected governments (some both aid recipients and donors) should lead and ultimately

determine the humanitarian response settings in their country, including the role of implementing actors. Having them in the governance and the delivery of the Grand Bargain, will heighten our collective success towards an expected outcome.

The Grand Bargain needs to be more intentional to align with other global processes and make nexus a reality. At the national and local level, communities and their organisations define their role and needs (preparation, emergency, recovery, development) based on normal human response, not from the current siloed perspective of the Global Aid system.

Countries need to be able to design their own engagements in the Grand Bargain similar to the piloted initiative within Workstream 2. The current signatories, led by Global North governments, need to make space for them to have an equal voice.

While quality funding is a key and pivotal proposition, quantity (through means of equity such as the localization marker) should also be discussed and upheld as it does drive International actors to make necessary adjustments.

To uphold the spirit of the Grand Bargain, all signatories must have the same access, same resources to knowledge, information equal voices and decision-making ability in the new iteration. The structure and mechanisms in the recently endorsed framework need to be made explicit and actionable backed by resources to invest in change

To support our role and continued commitment as a far reaching and inclusive Global South actor, NEAR commits itself to sit in the upcoming Facilitation Group, by nominating at least one Global South CSO representative who will be directly supported by our secretariat. NEAR shall safeguard a strong engagement and voice for the Global South, while ensuring it translates to the national level. NEAR is ready to continue to play its role in delivering a better outcome for affected communities.

For any question, you can contact us at hkalfan@near.ngo and/or amasson@near.ngo