

Grand Bargain Statement

New Zealand and Australia

June 2021

New Zealand and Australia acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of the Grand Bargain's outgoing Eminent Person, Ms Sigrid Kaag of the Netherlands, and wish the incoming eminent person, Mr Jan Egeland of the Norwegian Refugee Council, the best of luck in this important role. As we move out of the Grand Bargain's first phase we also thank the Secretariat, the Facilitation Group and workstream co-convenors for leading the development of the Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework.

Recognising that the global humanitarian system has not achieved all the goals established through the 2016 Grand Bargain commitments, and that there continue to be a range of complex barriers to reform, New Zealand and Australia are encouraged by many of the changes presented in the new Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework.

We commend the stated aim of bringing the Grand Bargain closer to the people it is committed to serving. In this regard, the Framework proposes some constructive steps toward greater engagement with local actors. New Zealand and Australia believe the exact approach to meaningful engagement of national and local actors should be driven by the preferences of national and local stakeholders, including affected populations. Regardless of approach, we strongly support the recommendation to put localisation and participation at the centre of the Grand Bargain 2.0, including finding effective ways to strengthen the engagement of local actors as strategic partners in the process.

Recognising the diversity of actors and challenges that exist at local levels, New Zealand and Australia particularly call for the Grand Bargain to engage with a broad range of local actors including women-led organisations, indigenous organisations and organisations led by people with disabilities. We believe that Pacific voices and those from other Small Island Developing States can and should be heard alongside other local voices in Grand Bargain fora.

New Zealand and Australia are pleased that the new Framework has a strengthened focus on gender, including a dedicated output on women's participation. By both mainstreaming gender and inclusion, and including specific outputs and activities to advance gender and inclusion, we can ensure the Grand Bargain is working to make transformative and system-wide reforms across our collective humanitarian action.

We call on signatories to agree on a common set of clear, measurable and easily reportable indicators for the 2.0 Framework to help all of us measure progress in the coming two-year period.

In the last year, New Zealand and Australia have continued our efforts to support a more effective and efficient humanitarian system in line with key Grand Bargain commitments. We have continued to support the localisation agenda through our advocacy and humanitarian action. After Tropical Cyclone Yasa impacted Fiji as a Category 5 system in December 2020, New Zealand and Australia both supported the Government of Fiji to lead its own response to the disaster and funded Fijian civil society groups to deliver locally led assistance that was informed by their close engagement with populations impacted by the cyclone.

New Zealand and Australia have also made considerable progress in our provision of quality humanitarian funding, however we are aware that the efficiency and effectiveness of our partners will be further strengthened if we are able to do more. We are committed to exploring ways to further

enhance quality funding in the coming phase and will look to share experiences with other donors to this end.

New Zealand and Australia note the findings of ODI's independent review of the Grand Bargain's first five years. The report sets out the progress which signatories have made across many workstreams and we commend the efforts that all constituency groups have made since 2016. The report also clearly states that much room for improvement remains and in the coming period New Zealand and Australia will look to our operational partners to further empower local actors and drive much greater progress towards meaningful participation and strengthened accountability to affected populations.

The rapid increase in humanitarian needs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic means the reform agenda which the Grand Bargain represents is more relevant now than ever before. As we enter the Grand Bargain's second phase, New Zealand and Australia are committed to continued reform of the humanitarian system and we look forward to working with other signatories to realise the ambition of the Grand Bargain 2.0, through concerted practical action and reforms.