

**HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE
GRAND BARGAIN
COMMITMENTS AT THE COUNTRY-LEVEL?**

GUIDANCE

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GUIDANCE?

We can make humanitarian aid more efficient and effective together – donors and humanitarian organisations.
We can reduce unnecessary costs and bureaucracy, ensure more resources for frontline delivery, and get more means into the hands of people in need.

THIS GUIDANCE IS FOR YOU IF:

- 1.** You want to understand better the priorities, the structure, and the main achievements of the Grand Bargain
- 2.** You want to learn how you can use the Grand Bargain commitments in your daily work as levers for more efficient and effective aid at the operational level
- 3.** You want to raise awareness at the operational level and create a feedback loop to inform the global policy level of how the commitments are being implemented on the ground

If you want to know everything about the Grand Bargain and its latest updates and news, [visit the website.](#)

WHAT IS THE GRAND BARGAIN?

THE GRAND BARGAIN,

launched during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016, is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organisations, who have agreed on 51 commitments to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian action in order to get more means into the hands of people in need. In 2021, after five years, the Signatories made a decision on the evolution of process, introducing a Grand Bargain 2.0 and reframing the overall objective to achieve ***“Better humanitarian outcomes for affected populations through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and great accountability, in the spirit of Quid pro Quo as relevant to all”***.

THE 51 COMMITMENTS, AGREED UPON IN 2016, RELATE TO THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS OF CHANGES:

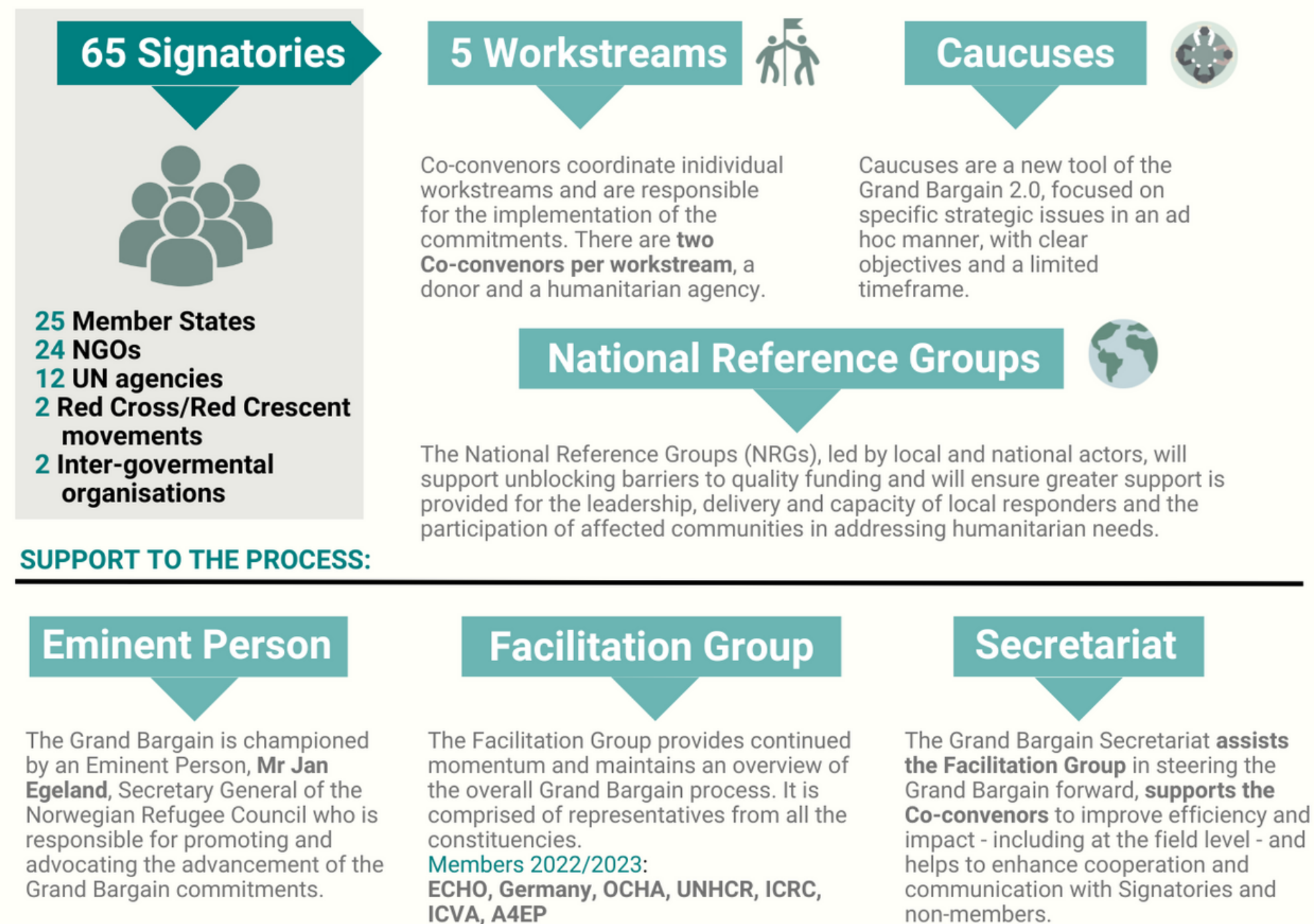
[1] Greater Transparency	[4] Reduce duplication and management costs with periodic functional reviews	[7] Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding
[2] More support and funding tools for local and national responders	[5] Improve joint and impartial needs assessments	[8] Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions
[3] Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming	[6] A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives	[9] Harmonise and simplify reporting requirements
		[10] Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors

1. THE GRAND BARGAIN 2.0 ENABLING PRIORITIES

To further focus the efforts, **two enabling priorities** have been agreed upon by the Signatories in 2021:

- A critical mass of quality funding is reached that allows an effective and efficient response, ensuring visibility and accountability.
- Greater support is provided for the leadership, delivery, and capacity of local responders and the participation of affected communities in addressing humanitarian needs.

2. THE STRUCTURE



3. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

A NEW CASH COORDINATION MODEL



was developed by the Grand Bargain caucus after years of stalled challenges, and subsequently endorsed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).



[Read about the new cash coordination model.](#)

Change is happening!

The IASC adopted a plan for the implementation of the model, according to which all country contexts will transition to the new model by March 2024.

PROGRESS IN HARMONIZING AND SIMPLIFYING REPORTING



through the creation of a simplified reporting template and individual actions taken by Signatories:

- The 8+3 template was developed to standardise and simplify reporting allowing humanitarian organisations to spend less time on bureaucracy and more on their core tasks.



[Access the “8+3” template.](#)

Did you know?

- **EU/DG ECHO** is piloting the 8+3 template.
- The 8+3 template is fully or partially used by:

Donors: Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UK, and the US (PRM)

UN: IOM, OCHA, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP

NGOs: CAFOD, Care International, Christian Aid, IRC, Mercy Corps, ZOA

RCRCM: IFRC

LOCALISATION BECAME THE NORM



Humanitarian organisations and donors are taking this direction, integrating the localisation aspect into their policies, strategies to achieve easier access to funds for local and national actors, which will increase long-term quality partnerships and will support institutional growth and development.



[Learn more about localisation within the Grand Bargain.](#)

A JOINT INTERSECTORAL ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK (JIAF)



was elaborated, embedded within the Grand Bargain, and endorsed by the IASC to support a broader contextual and intersectoral analysis, facilitating a common understanding of the needs, which are people-centered, and intersectoral, inclusive of underlying vulnerabilities and causal factors.

→ [Access the JIAF](#)

GOOD PRACTICES ON RISK SHARING



With the support of InterAction, the ICRC and the Netherlands commissioned an independent report picturing what enables successful risk sharing and what forms a barrier to it.

→ [Read the full report](#)

MULTI-YEAR FUNDING WAS RECOGNISED AS A PREFERRED MODALITY



especially in protracted crises, acknowledging also the importance of flexibility to enable the recipient to respond efficiently and effectively, and the need to channel multi-year funding as close to the frontline as possible.

→ [Read the commitments that the caucus members agreed to.](#)

How are Signatories implementing the commitments?

- **DG/ECHO:** committed to increasing by at least 30% the portfolio of multi-year funding by the end of 2023, compared to 2021.
- **Canada:** 58% of the current humanitarian funding is multi-year, an increase of 30% from 2016.
- **Germany:** 62% of the German humanitarian funding was multi-year in 2021.

[Find more examples here.](#)

STRENGTHENING EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORTING LOCAL HUMANITARIAN ACTION



was recognised as a priority, especially by building and fostering robust relationships between donors, intermediaries, and local/national organisations. To enable that, the intermediary organisations committed to having policies and procedures in place; local and national actors to cooperate with intermediaries in quality partnerships; and funding partners/donors to facilitate a shift in their own and intermediary behaviours by adapting policies, guidelines, and funding agreements, to hold themselves, intermediaries and local actors accountable.

→ [Read the final outcome document of the caucus.](#)

How are Signatories implementing the commitments?

UNHCR: launched a new specific grant for refugee-led organisations that takes into account specific barriers that they face as local actors including the requirement to be legally registered.

[Find more examples here.](#)

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE GRAND BARGAIN COMMITMENTS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL?

By signing the Grand Bargain agreement, all Signatories committed to implementing the commitments to make humanitarian aid more efficient and effective.

As a humanitarian working in an operational context, you can keep your own organisation, but also partners and donors, accountable for what they committed to.

How can you use the Grand Bargain commitments and achievements to facilitate your daily work?

YOU CAN ASK YOUR ORGANISATION/DONORS/PARTNERS TO:

Introduce tools for an efficient and effective humanitarian aid

The Grand Bargain delivered a lot of technical achievements, which can be used at the country level, to shift resources away from draining backroom activities to frontline delivery.

1. USE THE REPORT 8+3

A new 8+3 reporting was developed and piloted and is now ready to use. You can advocate with your donors to use it. The more donors adopt the 8+3 template as a standard, the greater the benefit of harmonisation, reducing the reporting burden across the humanitarian system.

List of Signatories using the template 8+3 available on page 5.

2. USE THE JOINT INTERSECTORAL ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

The Humanitarian Country Teams can utilise the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) and other tools developed on joint needs assessment and analysis and other tools developed to help improve the quality of their analysis and response planning.

Did you know?

Following an independent review of the JIAF in 2021, UN agencies, clusters, NGOs, and donors came together and agreed on the future scope and approach for joint needs analysis within the humanitarian programme cycle, especially committing to:

- Improve the quality of humanitarian response plans, through a richer cross-sectoral narrative of vulnerabilities and drivers of need.
- Install even more trust and confidence in magnitude and severity estimations, sharpening the focus through a more replicable, transparent process, that is also simpler and lighter to implement in crisis countries.

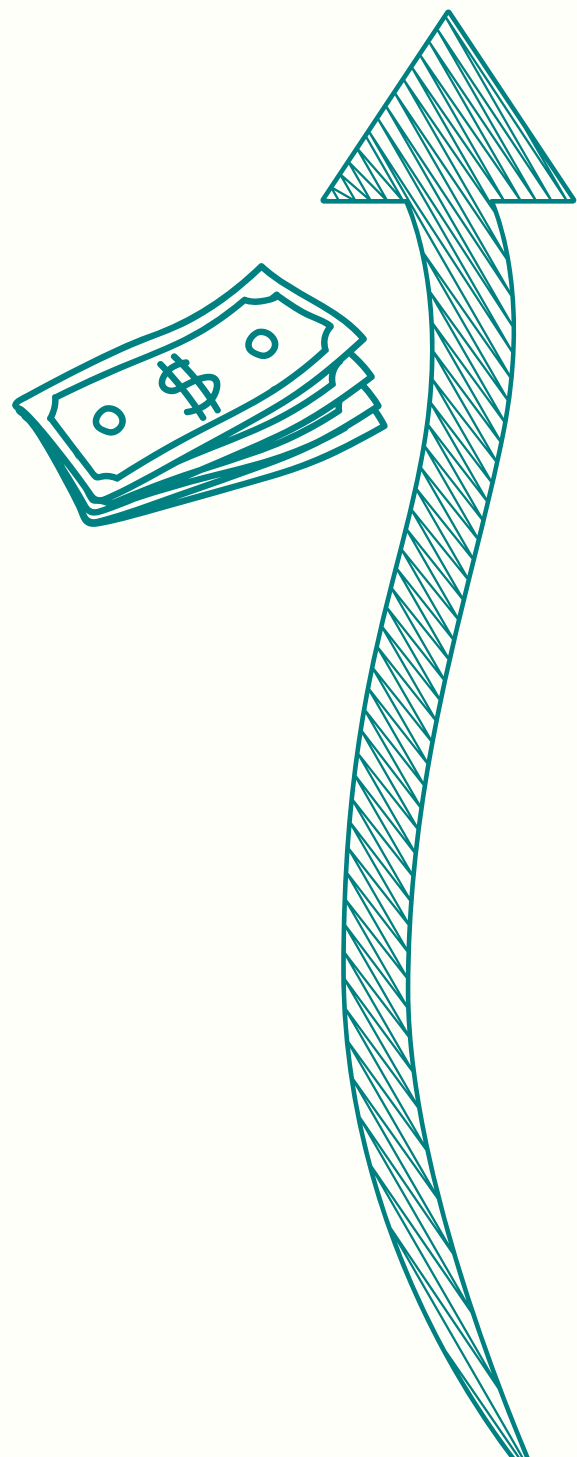
3. INCREASE ACCESS TO FUNDS FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESPONDERS

- In various contexts, there are pilot country-level financing mechanisms available, intended for or directly accessible to local and national responders.
- Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPF) allow donors to pool their contributions into single, unearmarked funds to support local humanitarian efforts.

YOU CAN ASK YOUR DONORS/PARTNERS TO:

Increase quality funding

Increasing multi-year and flexible funding is one of the core commitments that donors and humanitarian organisations committed to in the Grand Bargain – when negotiating your new grant/partner agreements, and if relevant in your operational context, ask for multi-year, flexible funding agreements. They produce better results and minimise administrative costs for both donors and aid organisations, facilitate a swifter response to urgent needs and investment in fragile, potentially volatile situations, emergencies, and disaster preparedness.



- Signatories committed to increasing multi-year and flexible funding instruments, and be transparent about how that funding is allocated, and ensuring its visibility.
- The members of the caucus on quality funding committed to even more specific actions. EU/DG ECHO, USAID/PRM, US/BHA, Sida and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA, ICRC, InterAction, IRC, and NEAR Network – recognised multi-year funding as a preferred funding modality, especially in protracted crises; agreed that multi-year funding should have at least some flexible arrangements to enable recipient organisations to respond efficiently and effectively; and recognised that multi-year funding should be channeled as close to the frontline as possible and that key intermediaries like UN agencies play a central role in cascading that funding.

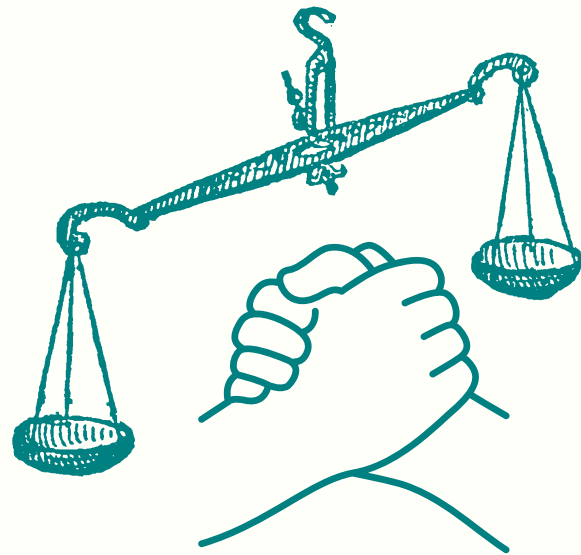
AS AID ORGANISATIONS, AIM TO:

Increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and visibility

In a "Quid pro quo" spirit, aid organisations committed to increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and response plans and to document the impacts on programme efficiency and effectiveness. Furthermore, they committed to be more transparent and regularly share information with donors and increase the visibility of unearmarked and softly earmarked funding, thereby recognising the contribution made by donors.

YOU CAN ASK YOUR DONORS/PARTNERS TO:

Establish more equitable partnerships



- **Make sure any partner agreements are based on principles of equitable partnerships**

Within the caucus on the role of intermediaries, A4EP, EU/DG ECHO, Germany, IFRC, NEAR, SCHR/World Vision, Switzerland, UNHCR, and UNICEF agreed that unless there are objective reasons against it, the preferred mode of delivery should be partnership with local/national actors, that overhead cost should be allocated to local/national partners, that investments should be made in the organisational development of local/national partners, that local/national actors should play a more prominent and more visible/active role in programme steering. To encourage this, donors should stipulate equitable partnerships through their selection process and/or their contractual provisions.

Inform yourself of the commitments that your own organisation/donors/partners made, and ask them to respect and implement them:



- **Hold the Grand Bargain Signatories accountable for what they committed to at the global level.**

There might be a disconnect between what the Signatories committed to at the headquarters, but has not yet trickled down to their offices at country level.

Did you know?

Every year, the Signatories have to report on the Grand Bargain Annual Independent Report the progress achieved and the challenges faced. → [Read the 2022 Annual Independent Report.](#)

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN 2023 WITHIN THE GRAND BARGAIN?



IMPLEMENTATION

Following the Signatories Meeting in November 2022, Signatories are called upon to endorse caucus outcomes and to ensure practical implementation of the results achieved so far.



CAUCUS ON THE 25% FUNDING TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL ACTORS

In 2023, the caucus members (USAID, EU/DG ECHO, Denmark, UNHCR, OCHA, IFRC, Save the Children, A4EP and the NW Syria NGO forum) led by the EP Office and NEAR continue to work together to find an agreement on how to increase direct and "as direct as possible" investment in local and national actors.

[Check the main achievements so far and updates.](#)



CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THE FUTURE OF THE GRAND BARGAIN

After the survey findings in September 2022 showed that all constituencies are in favour of continuing the process, but with changes to and simplification of the structure, the consultation on the future of the Grand Bargain continues in 2023, to come to an agreement on the priorities, structures and governance after June 2023.



RISK SHARING

The Netherlands, the ICRC and InterAction will continue to work with Signatories to develop jointly a framework for risk sharing. A high-level dialogue on the framework is envisaged at the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting in June 2023.



ANNUAL MEETING 2023

Grand Bargain Signatories come together every year for an Annual Meeting in June. The Grand Bargain Annual Independent Report will be published ahead of the meeting to provide an overview of the progress made in 2022 and the remaining challenges. The findings are based on the annual self-reports that each Signatory has to submit to be accountable for the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments.

LIST OF GRAND BARGAIN SIGNATORIES

MEMBER STATES

Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, EU/DG ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

OECD, World Bank

UN

FAO, ILO, IOM, OCHA, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WHO

RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT

ICRC, IFRC

NGOs

A4EP, ActionAid International, CAFOD, CARE International, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, Danish Church Aid, Danish Refugee Council, Global Communities, ICVA, InterAction, IRC, Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, Near Network, NRC, Oxfam, PADF, Relief International, Save the Children, SCHR, Syria Relief, Trócaire, World Vision International, ZOA International