



Standard Operating Procedure for Grand Bargain Signatory Requests

Context:

The 'Grand Bargain' is an agreement between donors and aid providers who have a shared understanding that increased effectiveness and efficiency within humanitarian action can translate into a better-quality response, which maximizes impact to people in need of humanitarian assistance. It is essentially a 'Grand Bargain on efficiency,' unique in that its members collaborate as peers, meet on a level playing field where all are perceived as equals, in a 'quid pro quo spirit' of reciprocity, trust and mutual respect.

The Grand Bargain envisions transformational changes in humanitarian action. This includes gearing up cash programming, delivering greater funding for national and local responders, cutting bureaucracy through harmonized reporting requirements, providing increased un-earmarked money and multi-year funding to ensure greater predictability and continuity in humanitarian response.

The Grand Bargain consists of 51 voluntary commitments, bracketed under ten work-streams. The Grand Bargain has a light overarching structure, which includes an Eminent Person, Facilitation Group, Secretariat and Co-convenors for the ten work-streams. Each work-stream is convened by two Grand Bargain signatories, one donor and one humanitarian organization.

Grand Bargain signatories:

The number of Grand Bargain signatories has increased from the original 30 to over 50, with indications that this number will rise further.

The Grand Bargain requires that a series of changes in the organizational and working practices of its signatories and members will be forthcoming. Thus, realizing the Grand Bargain commitments necessitates that Grand Bargain signatories commit to taking the internal steps to embed the process within their organizational practices. This is in addition to signatories committing to work across, and within the Grand Bargain work-streams.

The Grand Bargain commits signatories to contributing towards advancing international humanitarian action, establish a 'rapport de force' between donors and operational agencies. Contributions can be financial, operational or both.

Grand Bargain Secretariat

To guide the process for parties interested in becoming a Grand Bargain signatory, the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group has outlined the following guiding principles:

- Membership is based on the declaration of an organization or member state that they are signatory to the Grand Bargain.
- Interested stakeholders commit to endorsing the spirit and principles of the Grand Bargain in its entirety, and to maintaining a level of ambition and commitment to the process.
- Would-be signatories also commit to working in a collaborative and collective manner with other signatories to develop tools, standards and policies required to advance the Grand Bargain objectives.
- Interested parties are encouraged to outline what policy steps or changes they are undertaking to meet and forward the commitments encapsulated in the 10 Grand Bargain work-streams.
- Although the Grand Bargain is a voluntary commitment and there is no mechanism to enforce implementation of commitments, aspiring signatories should commit to allocating staff and resources to advancing the Grand Bargain commitments where it is possible.
- Grand Bargain signatory applicants must commit to holding themselves accountable for delivering on the initiative's commitments, and publicizing this information through participating in the annual Grand Bargain self-reporting exercise. The self-reporting exercise provides an understanding of the extent of progress made in advancing the Grand Bargain objectives.
- Signatories commit to submitting their self-reports within the stipulated timeframe, and agree that in the spirit of transparency their self-reports will be a publicly available document. Failure to self-report on a consecutive basis, may ultimately result in signatory status being reassessed, with a decision being taken in consultation with the Grand Bargain Sherpas at the Grand Bargain annual meeting.
- Expressions of interest in becoming a Grand Bargain signatory are to be conveyed to the Grand Bargain Secretariat, which will be forwarded to the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group for endorsement or otherwise.
- Applications are to be made on a [common template that is accessible on the IASC-hosted Grand Bargain webpage](#).

The Grand Bargain Facilitation Group will:

- Review each signatory letter of intent on a case-by-case basis, in an impartial and fair manner, informed solely by considering the willingness of the applicant's organizational and agency mandate to advance and deliver the Grand Bargain commitments and the ability to contribute to the Quid Pro Quo.
- The Facilitation Group agrees to conveying its opinion on the signatory applicant's request to the Grand Bargain Secretariat, in a timely manner.

Grand Bargain Secretariat

The Grand Bargain Secretariat will:

- Inform the interested signatory of the Facilitation's Group decision on its application.
- The Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, through the Grand Bargain Secretariat, will provide a written explanation to the signatory applicant in the event that their request is not supported.
- The Grand Bargain Secretariat will inform existing Grand Bargain signatories when an organization or member state has declared themselves signatory to the Grand Bargain.
- The Grand Bargain Secretariat will share relevant Grand Bargain contact and mailing lists with the new signatory, and provide any related briefings that may be requested by the new signatory.
- The Grand Bargain Secretariat can support new signatories with 'horizon scanning' for opportunities to integrate their activities with the work of different Grand Bargain work-streams.

Finalization of the onboarding process

- Once the decision is taken and the new Signatory is informed, the Chair of the Facilitation Group will:
 - a) Send an official email to the new Signatory to officially welcome it to the Grand Bargain.
 - b) Send an official email to all Signatories informing them that a new member has joined the Grand Bargain.
 - c) Messages described in points 'a' and 'b' can be sent directly by the Facilitation Group Chair or by the Secretariat on behalf of the Chair.
- Grand Bargain Signatories formally endorse the new Signatories once a year at the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting.