

Grand Bargain FAQ

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1. What is the Grand Bargain?

The origin

The High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2015., to identify solutions to the widening gap between humanitarian needs and resources available. Its [recommendations](#), issued in January 2016, include 1/ measures to reduce the need for humanitarian action through investments in preparedness and risk reduction and mitigation, 2/avenues to deepen and broaden the resource base for humanitarian action and 3/ a **“Grand Bargain on efficiency”** between the big donors and the main humanitarian organisations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action, with the following main objectives:

For aid organisations and donors to work more closely together towards:

- ⇒ More financial transparency.
- ⇒ More support and funding tools to national first responders.
- ⇒ Scale up use of cash-based programming and more coordination in its delivery.

For aid organisations to commit to:

- ⇒ Reduce duplication and management costs.
- ⇒ Periodic functional expenditure reviews.
- ⇒ More joint and impartial needs assessments.
- ⇒ A “Participation Revolution”: listen more to and include beneficiaries in decisions that affect them.

For donors to commit to:

- ⇒ More multi-year humanitarian funding.
- ⇒ Less earmarks to humanitarian aid organisations.
- ⇒ More harmonized and simplified reporting requirements.

The initial process and the commitments which were agreed

In February 2016, a series of consultations started under the leadership of Ms Kristalina Georgieva, who had co-Chaired the High-Level Panel, to decide on a road map to achieve the Grand Bargain objectives. These consultations brought together the biggest donors to international humanitarian assistance, the main UN humanitarian Agencies, the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement and the three NGO Coordination bodies which are represented at the [Inter-Agency Steering Committee](#).

The results of these consultations were presented at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, under the title “The Grand Bargain – A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need”.

Effectively, each participant in the consultations committed to specific actions, grouped under one or several of the ten Grand Bargain work streams:

- Greater Transparency
- More support and funding tools to local and national responders
- Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming
- Reduce Duplication and Management costs with periodic functional reviews
- Improve Joint and Impartial Needs Assessments
- A Participation Revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives
- Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding
- Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions
- Harmonize and simplify donor requirements
- Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors

The Grand Bargain is part of the humanitarians' contribution to Agenda 2030.

The expectations of what the Grand Bargain will deliver

It is anticipated that the implementation of the sum of these commitments will result in better aid, with humanitarian action moving from a supply – driven model dominated by aid providers to a demand-driven model, more responsive to the people being assisted; that humanitarian actors will become better at working together and with others, based on complementarity and value add; and finally, that it will result in significant efficiency gains which can be invested in the delivery of aid.

Translating the commitments into reality: what are is happening now and what are the next steps

Since the presentation of the Grand Bargain commitments in May 2015, each signatory is developing its own plan of action to meet its commitments.

Where collective action, or close coordination is required, this is being taken forward within and across the relevant work stream(s) with the facilitation support of the work stream(s) co-convenors. *(For the list and contact details of work stream co-convenors, see Question 4 below).*

Progress will be reviewed at an annual open event dedicated to the Grand Bargain to be held on the side of the [ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment](#).

Structure and contacts

The Grand Bargain is championed by an Eminent Person, responsible for promoting the Grand Bargain and helping keep the momentum. Ms Kristalina Giorgieva has taken on this role until the end of 2016, with a new Eminent Person to be announced shortly.

The Grand Bargain process is supported by a one-person [Secretariat](#), hosted by the Secretariat of the [Inter-Agency Steering Committee](#).

[A Facilitation Group](#) has been established to provide continued momentum to the overall Grand Bargain process. The composition of this group is reflective of the different Grand Bargain constituencies. Please contact the Secretariat if you want to be in touch with the Facilitation Group.

Each work stream is co-convened by one donor government representative and one humanitarian Agency or organisation.

2. What does it mean to be a Grand Bargain signatory? What are the benefits and obligations/ expectations? How does my organization sign up? How do I link up with specific work streams?

While the Grand Bargain is not a binding agreement, those that have signed are signaling that they take these commitments seriously and that they will be transparent in reporting back annually on what they achieve and on what they are still working on (*see Question 3 below*).

For agencies, organisations and institutions which want to sign up, please contact the Grand Bargain Secretariat.

For Agencies, organisations and institutions which want to engage with a specific work stream, either to contribute to its work or to implement all or some of its commitments, please contact the Secretariat.

Please note that you do not need to have signed up to the Grand Bargain to engage with a specific work stream.

3. How is the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments being monitored?

Progress on the implementation of Grand Bargain commitments will be presented at an annual open event held on the side of the [ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment](#), on the basis of self-reports by each Grand Bargain signatory, as well as the findings and recommendation from an independent annual report commissioned by the Facilitation Group.

4. Where do I find more information about the Grand Bargain?

More information about the Grand Bargain is available at:

<http://www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861>

If you do not find the information you are looking for on this webpage or in this document, please contact SCHR.