



NEAR Proposals and Commitments

Grand Bargain, Annual Meeting

16 June 2021

How to ensure that the GB 2.0 as a whole is relevant at country level, focusing on local actor engagement (at all levels), accountability to affected populations

More local actors¹ to become signatories

This is a precondition for a structural and power dynamic change of the Grand Bargain. While we appreciate the recognition to bring more individual local actors, a more structured approach is necessary.

- *Global South governments to become Signatories.* Despite the apprehension, crisis-affected and crisis-at-risk Global South governments are ultimately responsible for their citizens and any humanitarian response and, therefore, need to be part of the conversation. We also believe that emerging donors, some both recipients and donors, need to be engaged in the conversation.

NEAR stands ready to lead a task-oriented and time-bound caucus to unlock challenges and identify ways forward to be recommended to the Facilitation Group and the signatories.

- *Targeting 10 LLNGOs networks to become Signatories.* An alleged apprehension that a plethora of LLNGOs would flood in to become signatories is an unfounded overestimation of their capacities and resources.

NEAR stands ready to facilitate consultative processes across the Global South to meet this target.

An independent, self-governed, and CSOs co-led National Reference Groups

¹ For the purpose of this document, local actors refer to Local and National NGOs. We do recognize that there are other Global South local actors that need to be part of the Grand Bargain, globally or nationally, but being a network of local and national NGOs, we don't feel we can talk on their behalf.

One of the ultimate goals of the humanitarian reform is that local actors are capable to render effective humanitarian response. In this regard, NEAR welcomes National Reference Group as one of Grand Bargain 2.0. new propositions. Notwithstanding, retrofitting is required for its operationalization.

- *Self-governed and being co-led by national CSOs.* Comprised of representation of all humanitarian constituencies including the LNNGOs networks, the governments, in-country UN and international actors, the group should act both as a national working structure and a communication channel with the Global conversation; being able to harness political and technical support as well as to meaningfully engage in global conversations.
- *Not a subsidiary to the Facilitation Group.* National Reference Groups are connected - via information-sharing mechanisms - to the Facilitation Group and maintain open channel and are part of the global working structures
- *Be informed by the country- based dialogue* developed in the framework of the Workstream 2 in the last 6 months. Learnings that have been already accumulated should be shared to guide processes in other countries.
- *Collegial relationship with country- level Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Teams.* Existing, or, in the absence of one, a newly constituted National multisectoral networks being co-led by CSOs in Global South countries is better positioned to lead in-country conversations concerning humanitarian matters – in equal footing with the UN and their subsequent structures.

A Facilitated Global South Outreach Platform

Effective needle-pin representation of the massive and diverse Global South CSOs in the Facilitation Group requires equally effective, honest, and as representative as possible voice. To this end, NEAR shall device outreach platform to ensure a structured and consultative voice from the Global South – it shall involve:

- LNNGOs representatives in the diverse working structures of the Grand Bargain – to exchange, learn and organise a stronger voice for the Global South
- LNNGOs co-lead of the different National Reference Groups
- Representatives of the become Global South Civil Society signatories
- Broader networks of LNNGOs – on a regular basis – who are not necessarily a formal part of the Grand Bargain, but are a necessary soundboard and space for ideas.

Inclusion of affected communities

One of Grand Bargain 2.0. aspirations, elusive notwithstanding, is the ownership of the humanitarian actions by the affected communities. NEAR is committed to support practical steps to promote this aspiration in practical terms.

- Encourage and facilitate the affected communities' seat in the National Reference Groups
- Organise annual or biannual virtual gatherings – with donor governments in particular – to interact with the affected communities
- Support LNNGOs to strengthen their own systems to optimise their being the closest to the communities, to be able to also channel the affected communities' aspirations.