

# Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain 2.0 Caucuses

September 2021

## Introduction

The Grand Bargain achieved many significant results, but, as highlighted by the 2021 Annual Independent Review conducted by ODI, most of these have been at the technical level. Inputs from the constituency consultations, workstreams and individual agencies made it clear that the discussions in the Grand Bargain 2.0 need to be further narrowed down and elevated to a more political level to address the root causes of the issues and promote transformative change of the system. To this end, and based on inputs from constituency consultations and further refined by ODI, the Grand Bargain Signatories endorsed a new, more flexible model based on “caucuses”, which involves relevant and concerned Signatories that agree to monitor, drive, and encourage progress on specific commitments at the political level, in the spirit of quid pro quo. The concept is further described in the Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework and its Annexes which were endorsed at the Annual Meeting in June 2021. This document supplements these by outlining specific criteria and processes for the establishment of the caucuses.

## 1. Establishment of a caucus

In order to initiate a caucus, Signatories with a particular interest in or a commitment to a certain area take up specific actions from the Grand Bargain 2.0 framework and proactively and independently recruit other key stakeholders to work together in a closed format to allow for an open and frank discussion, exchange of views, analysis of bottlenecks and decision making on enabling priorities, outcome pillars or specific commitments. In this role, the Signatories become self-appointed “champions” of a caucus. Champions of the caucus should present a clear problem statement, demonstrating the importance of key issues that have a wider interest or buy-in among Signatories and potential solutions for consideration. The Facilitation Group members as representatives of the constituencies will provide feedback or ask the champions to revise the proposal if they think it does not meet these criteria or fit with the wider underlying structure of the Grand Bargain 2.0. Based on the information provided by the caucus champions, the Secretariat will regularly inform the Signatories of the newly established caucuses, and of the progress and developments of the caucuses in the bimonthly newsletter or ad hoc, as needed. The results of these discussions are brought back to constituencies to be adopted and actioned, or emulated. Caucuses are not intended to be fixed structures – they should be flexible, adaptive, informal and peer-to-peer, focused on shared interests and a common goal, which may be a specific shift or change, or something more far-reaching. Caucuses’ objectives are political and not technical, as such the involvement of key actors is key for success.

Any Signatory can be a champion and start a political caucus by communicating its elements as defined in the criteria for establishment of caucuses (see below) and inviting relevant

stakeholders to the caucus. Among the proposed caucuses, the Eminent Person (EP) and the Facilitation Group will prioritise a limited number of strategic ones to support within their capacity (not more than three caucuses at a time), identified for their potential for collective change. Signatories are still welcome to pursue other parallel caucuses but will most probably not be able to benefit from strengthened support by the EP and the Facilitation Group, including attention from their Sherpas. However, in the spirit of collective ownership of the Grand Bargain 2.0 all caucuses are accountable to the Signatories and should communicate their establishment to the Secretariat.

Caucuses should collaborate with each other whenever possible, ensuring a more holistic approach to the Grand Bargain 2.0.

### **1.1 Criteria for establishing a caucus**

- **SCOPE**

A caucus should be focused on very specific, elevated and political issues that have the following five characteristics:

1. Impasse, defined as a stalled challenge or trade-off among several stakeholders or constituencies that requires specific decision-making at senior level, rather than one that involves overcoming technical challenges
2. Collective relevance
3. Transformative potential
4. Explicitly linked to the two enabling priorities and the four strategic outcome pillars<sup>1</sup>
5. Remain within the scope of the Grand Bargain workstreams and commitments and/or two crosscutting issues (risk and gender)

- **PROBLEM STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVE**

A caucus should identify a clear problem statement within the defined scope (see point #1) and define an actionable objective.

- **TIME-BOUND**

A caucus should identify the timeline, within which the objective will be achieved. According to its nature, the caucus may include a one-off level meeting, one or more high level meetings, supported by technical-level ones. This process should happen within the timeline. The duration is flexible for each caucus according to the topic and the needs, but it should be limited and defined.

- **PARTICIPATION**

- A caucus can be proposed by Signatories, interested in working together to resolve a specific issue. The Signatories who propose a caucus are self-selected champions and are also responsible for pushing the progress of the caucus, convening meetings and ensuring communication with the EP, Facilitation Group, and the

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<sup>1</sup> As agreed in the Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework and annexes.

Secretariat. The EP or Facilitation Group may appoint champions or co-champions if deemed necessary.

- Signatories who would like to participate in a caucus should demonstrate their interest or relevance for achieving the objectives of the caucus. To ensure efficient decision-making, the caucuses should be limited to a small number of active participants that play a key role on the topic or unlocking a bottleneck while ensuring sufficient information exchange through the Secretariat so that the Signatories are informed of the developments in the caucus. Participation is not by constituency, but by relevance. This means that in some cases all five constituencies will be involved, in others only relevant ones, according to the thematic. In cases when not all constituencies will participate in a caucus, sufficient information exchange should be ensured to allow the non-participating constituencies the opportunity of providing feedback, if any.
- Participation in caucuses is not restricted to Grand Bargain Signatories, as there might be non-Signatory key stakeholders needed to advance the progress.
- The participants should have a decision-making power in their institution. It is important that the participants in the caucus have senior-level buy-in and engagement from their institution and are prepared to action decisions. Depending on the nature and objective of the caucus, the participants might be at a Principal level, or Director/Sherpa level.

- MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The caucuses are accountable to the Signatories. To ensure accountability, caucuses are obliged to communicate through the Secretariat:

1) The establishment of the caucus, including:

- Problem statement, including how the issue fits the criteria of scope (see point #1)
- The objective of the caucus
- Planned timeline
- Participation

2) Progress as relevant

3) Outcomes

- TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If technical work needs to be undertaken, the Signatories proposing a caucus should identify in what manner this will be pursued – e.g. through an ad hoc working group, or through existing entities (workstreams or IASC Reference Groups), in which case those entities must have been consulted and agreed to the work prior to the caucus being proposed.

- ROLE OF THE EP, FACILITATION GROUP AND SECRETARIAT

The EP and the Facilitation Group do not have the capacity to follow in detail all caucuses. They will focus on a limited number of caucuses, selecting either from those proposed by the Signatories or by workstreams, identified for their potential collective change, but not

more than three caucuses at the same time (see Par #1). Therefore, the role of the EP and the Facilitation Group with the remaining caucuses will be as follows:

- 1) The EP and FG will be informed of the problem statement, timeline, progress and final outcome through the Secretariat by the caucuses' champions,
- 2) If the problem statement is too vague or too technical, the Facilitation Group can ask the champions to improve it or address it through a workstream or another process (e.g., IASC) instead of activating a caucus. Technical work necessary for the political work in a caucus should be done elsewhere. The final decision to establish a caucus remains the responsibility of the champions, relying on the acceptance to participate by the other invited Signatories.
- 3) Will not be responsible for ensuring the participation of the key actors to the caucuses, this is the responsibility of the champions.
- 4) Will not be responsible for the progress and outcomes of the caucuses. This will periodically be monitored through the Secretariat.