

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain 2.0 Caucuses

September 2021

Introduction

This document serves as an annex to the Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain caucuses. While it attempts to respond to some of the most frequently asked questions by the Signatories, please also note that **caucuses are not envisaged as rigid and fixed structures**. They are meant to be a **flexible and agile tool to unblock a challenge or identify a trade-off** among several stakeholders or constituencies that **requires specific decision-making at senior level**.

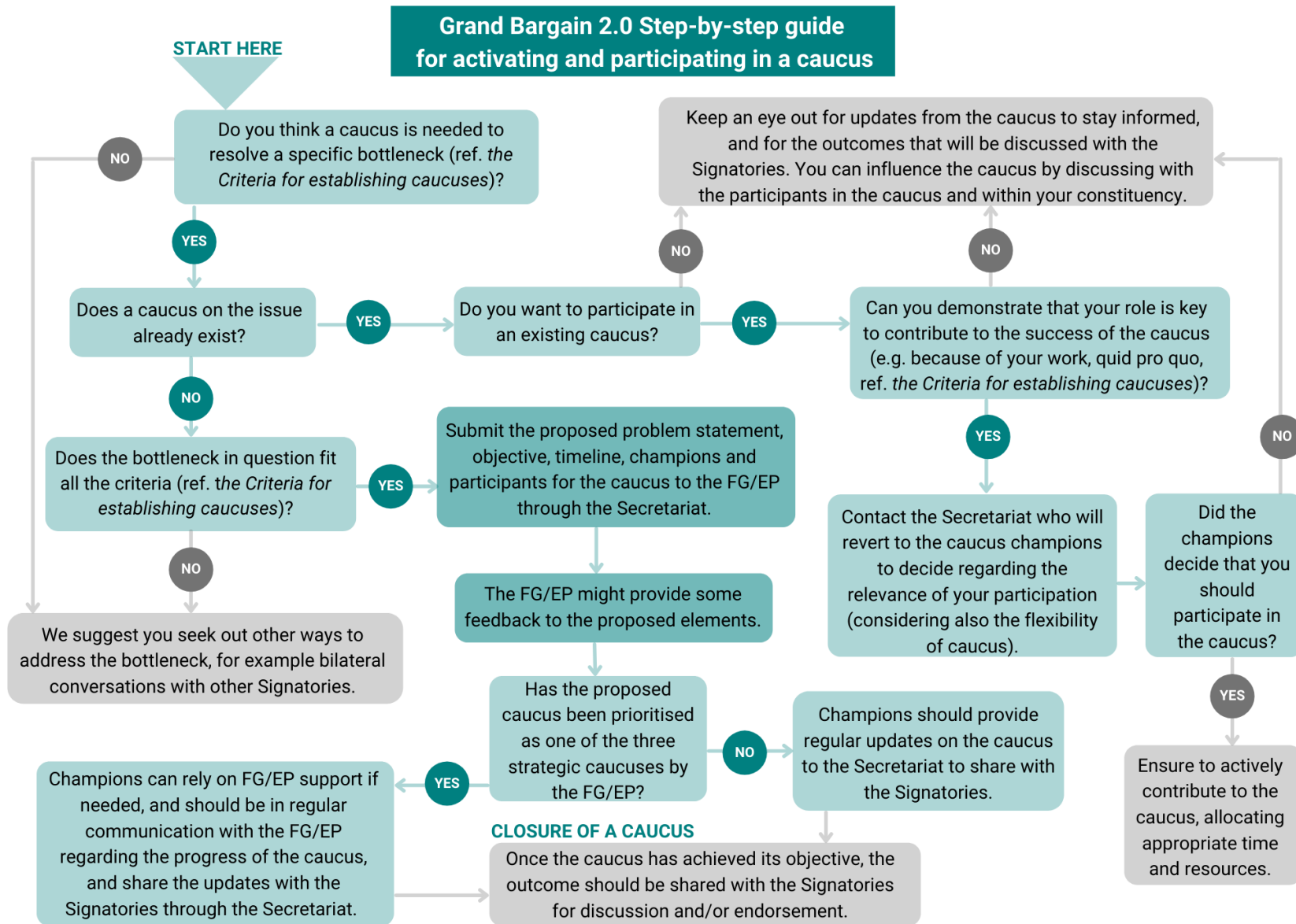
Therefore, not all answers can be provided as there should be enough space for individual caucuses to adapt their ways of working to their specific needs. This document will be updated and shared with the Signatories, with new questions added as needed. Signatories are also encouraged to suggest proposals to unresolved questions.

As a reminder, caucuses are (ref. *Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain caucuses*) focused on very specific, elevated, and political issues that have the following characteristics:

- Political bottleneck, defined as a political trade-off among constituencies that requires specific decision-making from seniors, rather than one that involves resolving technical challenges
- Collective relevance
- Transformative potential
- Explicitly linked to the two enabling priorities and the four strategic outcomes
- Remain within the scope of the Grand Bargain workstreams and commitments and/or two crosscutting issues (risk and gender)
- Defined through a precise problem statement
- Timebound
- Include only those actors that can actively contribute to unblock the issue to allow for effective and efficient process and ensure those that are key to resolve an issue are involved

The caucus activation

The below flowchart provides a step-by-step guidance of the process for activating or participating in a caucus. Should you have any questions after you have read the flowchart, refer to the FAQ section below.



Frequently Asked Questions

This section addresses the questions the Facilitation Group (FG) and the Secretariat have received so far from the Signatories. It will be updated and shared with the Signatories as needed.

Section 1 – Format of the caucuses

Q1. What is a caucus closed format? How is it different from how the workstreams have been operating?

Workstreams have the objective of addressing several commitments. They are coordinated by two Co-convenors (one donor, one humanitarian organisation). They have generally an open membership, and they are not time-bound. As such, workstreams have a broader scope. Under the overall Grand Bargain 2.0 approach workstreams are free to continue their work if they feel still relevant, but won't receive significant support from the FG or the Eminent Person (EP). Depending on the decision of the Co-convenors, some workstreams will cease entirely.

On the contrary, caucuses are tools for resolving very specific and elevated political issues that cannot be addressed through technical means, such as the workstream. Furthermore, the purpose of the caucuses is encouraging open discussion and providing a 'safe space' to bring difficult issues out. The document *Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain caucuses* defines the criteria for determining whether a specific issue should be addressed through a caucus, and indicates the guidance for participating, technical support, and monitoring of a caucus.

Q2. Which is the expected level of seniority participating in a caucus?

A caucus is meant to unblock a political bottleneck at an elevated level. As such, senior decision makers have to participate to discuss and take decisions. In many cases those decision makers are at Principal or Director level, depending on the individual institution.

The engagement of the senior decision makers will depend on the individual caucus. If the caucus is a one-off high-level meeting, the most senior decision maker should participate. But if the caucus envisages a longer process, the senior decision makers might only engage at the beginning to provide the direction and at the end to endorse the outcomes of the caucus, while the work in the middle is done at a less senior level.

For the three prioritised strategic caucuses, the FG and EP may provide support in ensuring the participation of senior decision makers as appropriate.

Q3. Where will the technical work be done? How do the caucuses relate to the IASC?

In some cases, technical work will have to be undertaken to support the political decision-making in the caucus. This can either be done in the relevant workstream (in agreement between the caucus champion(s) and workstream Co-convenors), an ad hoc working group if needed, or in existing fora (in agreement with the members of the fora), including the IASC. Complementarity must be ensured across various conversations and/or platforms.

Q4. What can be expected from the FG, EP, and the Secretariat?

The document *Criteria for establishing caucuses* defines specific roles for the FG, EP, and the Secretariat in the three prioritised strategic caucuses. For all other caucuses, the FG and EP will not have the capacity to provide support, while the Secretariat will only be able to support by sharing the information produced by the caucus champion(s) with the Signatories. Caucus champions should submit regular updates to the Secretariat, who will in turn distribute them to all Signatories through the bimonthly newsletter.

Section 2 – Participation

Q5. Who are the caucus' champions? Is there an established process for this?

Due to the different nature of the bottlenecks that will need to be addressed through caucuses, there is no one-size-fits-all approach for identifying the champion(s) of the caucuses. It is important to recognise that a flexible approach should be adopted.

Ideally, champion(s) are self-selected, based on their relevance to contribute to unlocking the bottleneck. Preferably, each caucus should not have more than two co-champions.

However, for the three prioritised strategic caucuses (ref. 'Role of the EP, Facilitation Group and Secretariat' in the document *Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain 2.0 caucuses*), the FG and EP may support the identification/selection of champion(s) as needed, for example in case of an impasse in the identification of champion(s).

Q6. Who should participate in a caucus?

In the spirit of a more streamlined and focused process, endorsed by the Signatories, and 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. Caucuses' participants are those that can contribute to collective change in an active way. Being interested in an issue is not enough. The potential capacity to produce impact is fundamental.

In addition, caucus participants need to allocate time, resources, capacity and, more importantly, political leverage, to the success of the caucus. In cases when smaller actors are key to contribute to a caucus, but do not have the appropriate capacity or resources, they should discuss with champion(s) how their meaningful participation can be supported.

Caucus champion(s) are responsible for ensuring the optimal participation in terms of relevance for the caucus that allows for effective and efficient discussions and decision-making. In case a stakeholder who has been identified as essential for solving the bottleneck, but has not expressed the interest to participate, the champion(s) should actively reach out to ensure the stakeholder's participation.

For the three prioritised strategic caucuses, the FG and the EP may support the identification of key actors and encourage their participation.

Q7. Can non-GB Signatories join a caucus?

Yes, if the specific non-Signatory is identified as fundamental for addressing the bottleneck by the champion(s) and other participants. It is the champion(s)' role to approach and activate the non-Signatory actor(s).

For the three strategic caucuses, the FG and EP can also indicate and approach external actors as needed.

Q8. Do all constituencies need to be included in each caucus? Do we need to ensure a constituency balance?

As outlined in the *Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain caucuses*, 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.

Section 3 – Process

Q9. How does the FG/EP decide on the three prioritised strategic caucuses?

The three prioritised strategic caucuses will be chosen from those proposed by the Signatories or flagged by continuing or closing workstreams as key remaining issues. FG as constituency representatives and EP will discuss collectively and decide on the prioritised strategic caucuses based on the potential for transformative change and contribution to achieving the enabling priorities. Signatories will be informed about this decision in a transparent manner. The FG and EP will periodically take stock of the caucuses, and prioritise new ones as needed (once the existing strategic prioritised ones are resolved).

This does not exclude Signatories from launching other caucuses (that are not prioritised by the FG/EP).

Q10. What can I expect from a caucus if I am not a part of it?

According to the *Criteria for establishing caucuses*, every caucus has to indicate a problem statement, objectives, timeline, workplan if any (e.g., meetings planned), and participation. Based on the information received from the caucus champion(s), the Secretariat will share it with the Signatories.

Throughout the course of the caucus, regular updates on its progress will be shared with the Signatories. The champion(s) can request the Secretariat to distribute (but not to develop) information.

Once the caucus has achieved its objective or come up with a proposed solution, the Secretariat will share the outcomes with the Signatories for their consideration, input and/or endorsement as appropriate, upon receiving the information from the champion(s).

Please note that as caucuses are meant to be flexible and agile by nature, there is no template for providing these updates as well as the number of updates during the process can vary depending on the caucus.

If a Signatory is not part of the caucus, but wishes to influence its work, it can liaise with the participants of the caucus, for example at constituency level, to reach a collective approach to the issue. Signatories can also adopt a representation approach, whereby a group of Signatories could nominate one organisation to represent them in a caucus, where relevant.

Q11. What are the means of working in a caucus?

Depending on the nature of the caucus, means of working may include a one-off level meeting, one or more high level meetings, supported by technical work if needed (see question in the first section for further information). The way of working of caucus should depend on its problem statement, scope of work and objectives. But fundamentally they are vehicles for dialogue, discussion, and resolution of challenging issues. This means their work may be a combination of technical examination of the means to resolve a problem alongside senior level agreement to reach a solution.

Q12. How can I join a caucus?

Please refer to the flowchart above for the process for activating and/or participating in a caucus. The final decision on the participants lies with the caucus champion(s), except in case of prioritised strategic caucuses where the FG/EP might intervene if needed.

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.

Please see questions above for information on what to expect if a Signatory is not part of a caucus.

Q13. What is the timeline for establishing a caucus and for closing it?

All caucuses are timebound but depending on the nature of the bottleneck the caucus is addressing, the timeline of the caucuses will vary. Champion(s) have the responsibility of identifying a clear timeline and plan of the caucus.

The initial process of activating the caucus as showcased in the flowchart should not take more than a month.

Q14. What if a Signatory does not agree with the final decision of a caucus it is not a part of?

Caucuses do not adopt decisions binding for other Signatories. In cases where a proposed solution or outcome affects the collective, the outcomes will be shared with the Signatories for their consideration, input and/or endorsement as appropriate.

Q15. Do all three suggested caucuses need to be launched at the same time?

The three prioritised strategic caucuses can start and finish at different times – as they will have different objectives and timelines, they likely will not close at the same time, meaning the next prioritised strategic caucus can already be launched while the previous two continue.

Supporting the process - Checklists

This section provides the two following checklists:

1. Checklist 1: Criteria for creating a caucus
2. Checklist 2: Am I a good member to a caucus?

The checklists are based on the existing criteria identified in the document *Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain caucuses*. These checklists are not mandatory and are a **tool to support Signatories in their internal reflection and planning**.

Checklist 1: Criteria for creating a caucus

This checklist is non-mandatory and designed to support Signatories in making the decisions whether a specific bottleneck they identified should be addressed in a caucus. The checklist is based on the *Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain 2.0 caucuses*.

An issue or bottleneck should check all the boxes below to be addressed in a caucus. In case it doesn't match all the criteria, we suggest seeking out other ways to address the bottleneck, for example bilateral conversations with other Signatories.

Checklist 1:

- Is the issue specific in nature?
- Does the issue need the attention of senior decision makers in order to be resolved?
- Does the issue relate to an impasse, or a trade-off among several stakeholders or constituencies?
- Does the issue have collective relevance (i.e., are several Signatories or constituencies grappling with it? Would the wider community benefit from a solution to the issue?)
- Does the issue have transformative potential (i.e., would a solution to the issue have a wider impact and could be replicated or scaled up?)
- Is the issue explicitly linked to the two enabling priorities and the four strategic outcome pillars?
- Does the issue remain within the scope of the Grand Bargain workstreams and commitments and/or two crosscutting issues (risk and gender)?

Checklist 2: Should I participate in a caucus?

This checklist is non-mandatory and designed to support Signatories in making the decisions whether they should participate in a caucus. The checklist is based on the *Criteria for establishing Grand Bargain 2.0 caucuses*.

You should be able to check all the boxes below to participate in a specific caucus. In case your institution doesn't match all the criteria, we suggest keeping an eye out for updates from the caucus to stay informed, and for the outcomes that will be discussed with the Signatories. You can influence the caucus by discussing with the participants in the caucus and within your constituency.

Checklist 2:

- Does my institution have a unique knowledge or experience on the issue the caucus is tackling?
- Does the work of my institution importantly influence the bottleneck that the caucus is addressing, meaning that without the institution's involvement, the bottleneck will not be resolved?
- Is my institution willing to invest time and resources to participate in this caucus, actively contributing to an outcome?