



World Humanitarian Summit Commitments: ICVA's commitment to principled and effective humanitarian action

ICVA's vision is for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to be a critical milestone in the transformation of aid. Attracting world leaders, including heads of state and humanitarian leaders, and informed through a comprehensive consultation process, the Summit in Istanbul represents a critical opportunity for all humanitarian actors. It is an opportunity to commit, to call upon others, and to hold ourselves to account to take concrete steps to realise a more principled effective and efficient humanitarian aid for affected populations.

Throughout the WHS process, ICVA has consistently amplified NGO priorities, concerns, calls and commitments. Through ICVA's participation in Regional Steering Groups, the championing of the Principles of Partnership, and promoting the participation of national NGOs, NGOs from the global South and affected populations in WHS consultations, ICVA has ensured that diverse perspectives have been considered in WHS consultations and reports. Following the Summit in Istanbul, these voices must further shape the governance of the humanitarian sector.

ICVA's Commitments

The WHS represents an important opportunity for ICVA to reaffirm its commitment to principled and effective humanitarian action. Grounded in its mission¹, aligned with its [Strategic Plan](#), leveraging its position as a global humanitarian NGO consortium, through its Regional Hubs, and using its status as a standing invitee to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), **ICVA commits to applying its diversity and influence:**

- 1. To strengthen support to—and advocacy for—principled humanitarian action.**
Acknowledging that humanitarian principles are under severe threat, ICVA will advocate for the principles of *humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence*, with a focus on humanitarian partnerships, coordination, financing and forced displacement.
- 2. Recognizing insufficient opportunities for NGO engagement in humanitarian governance, to increase the understanding of, and sustained engagement by NGOs in humanitarian policy and decision-making processes,** with a strong focus on national NGOs, NGOs from the global South and NGO fora.
- 3. To advocate for governments, donors, the UN, NGOs and all humanitarian actors to fulfill their responsibilities to be accountable to those affected by crises,** and to better **institutionalize strong partnerships based on the Principles of Partnership** (*Equality, Transparency, Results-Oriented Approach, Responsibility and Complementarity*).
- 4. Acknowledging an evolving humanitarian landscape, to maintain strong partnerships with established humanitarian actors and promote stronger engagement with emerging humanitarian actors and regional organizations.**
- 5. To provide support to NGO fora,** through practical guidance on governance mechanisms, advocacy strategies and initiatives, and promote their engagement within the humanitarian system.

¹ As a global network of non-governmental organizations, ICVA's mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.

ICVA's Commitments for the High Level Leaders' Roundtable on Financing: "Investing In Humanity"

ICVA works to ensure humanitarian financing supports **principled and effective humanitarian action that meets the needs of populations affected by crises**. ICVA's vision is for the humanitarian system to move away from a centralized, one-system-fits-all approach, to an ecosystem of diverse actors, equally sharing risk, with contextualized responses whereby frontline responders receive adequate and timely resources. **Complementing ICVA's participation in the Humanitarian Financing High Level Leaders' Roundtable, and its support to the respective core commitments, ICVA commits to the following.**

Commitments to the Grand Bargain

ICVA's vision for the Grand Bargain is to make a difference for those operating at the field level, ensuring inclusivity and promoting adherence to principled humanitarian financing and action.

As an active participant of the Grand Bargain process, ICVA makes the following commitments.

1. To actively engage in the implementation the Grand Bargain, through:

i. *Harmonizing and simplifying reporting requirements.*

The [#LessPaperMoreAid](#) project, supported by ICVA members, has demonstrated the impact of donor and UN requirements on NGO staff in the field as it relates to reporting, audits and partner capacity assessments. The project produced a "Framework for Change" with practical suggestions for improvement, and has been a key input into the Grand Bargain discussions related to harmonized and simplified reporting - both narrative and financial. ICVA commits to continuing this initiative to facilitate more simplified, proportionate, and harmonized reporting requirements by the end of 2018.

ii. *Reducing management costs and harmonizing UN-NGO partnership agreements.*

The Grand Bargain commitment on reducing management costs includes an agreement to harmonize UN partnership agreements with NGOs. Utilising its expertise in facilitating strengthened NGO partnership agreements with UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA Country-Based Pooled Funds, ICVA commits to providing a platform for NGO engagement to ensure this harmonization positively impacts frontline responders, grounded in trust and guided by the Principles of Partnership.

iii. Further to the above, and leveraging its current role as co-chair of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team, ICVA will actively advocate to: improve *frontline responder access to funds; promote financial transparency; and increase multi-year funding.*

2. Actively monitor the Grand Bargain, entailing a dual focus of:

- i.** Participating in monitoring the implementation of the changes proposed through the Grand Bargain process; and,
- ii.** Monitoring the impact of the Grand Bargain on NGOs and frontline responders.

Commitment to improving NGO access to humanitarian financing

ICVA reaffirms its commitment to help humanitarian NGOs better understand, influence, and access humanitarian financing. To this end, ICVA will gather, synthesize and disseminate information to NGOs related to developments in humanitarian financing. ICVA will convene webinars, teleconferences, face-to-face meetings and develop educational tools to help NGOs better understand what is happening in the field of humanitarian financing.