

Comments on the Interim Report of the High-Level Panel On The Development Of A Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)

The following proposals are presented to strengthen the language in the following paragraphs:

Para 37 (to ensure alignment with paragraph 15 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030)

Environmental vulnerability is the risk of **small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset** natural hazards, **as well as related environmental risks**. Some of them may result from structural vulnerability to climate change and anthropogenic or socio-natural shocks and stressors that are exogenous in origin.²² Vulnerability to climate change, which is a specific kind of vulnerability, is also an important component of environmental vulnerability. It stems from a risk of long-term change in geophysical conditions rather than from a growth handicap in the medium term. In other words, it is more physical than economic, and has a longer time horizon. Vulnerability to climate change is understood here as a vulnerability to a specific global and progressive stressor, likely to translate into country-specific shocks and stressors through various events. Exposure to climate change is a central challenge for many countries as it implies the diminution of the overall usable land surface either through desertification or sea-level rise or the intensification of natural hazards.

Para 50iii.

Supporting infrastructure and connectivity e.g. Infrastructure development: Infrastructure supports inclusive and sustainable growth, expands markets, creates job opportunities, promotes competition, and contributes to a cleaner future. Infrastructure improves lives by connecting people to opportunity **and basic services**. The general level and quality of infrastructure, while influencing connectivity and integration to global markets can also affect a country's resilience to shocks, in that it can lead to better responses (at a lower human and economic cost), **and fewer disruptions if infrastructure is risk-informed**.

Para 73.

73. Third, strategic planning and ex-ante funding for resilience building need to be scaled up to protect vulnerable countries that are most exposed to the adverse effects of shocks of various dimensions and origins. A stronger focus on ex-ante strategies is needed as the business case for a preventive rather than curative approach is clear.¹ Prevention has far lower human, financial and environmental costs than reaction and response. This is true for low frequency high impact shocks or hazards but also for higher frequency, lower impact shocks. **Shocks and stressors** are

¹ UNDRR "International Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction: Target F"

harmful for inclusive growth as they exacerbate existing inequalities and disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable people. Considering vulnerability in the international cooperation frameworks of development partners is a critical aspect of its effectiveness for risk-informed and resilient development.

Para 74.

Finally, it may be necessary to mainstream risk reduction, vulnerability and resilience, in a more systematic manner, into UN programmes at global, regional and national levels, the work of IFIs and MDBs and in the development assistances policies and programmes and policies of development partners.