



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

Virtual informal consultations for LDCs, LLDCs, MICs, and SIDS on a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) for Small Island Developing States Wednesday, 10 May 2023

Excellencies and colleagues, Panel members,

I make this intervention on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Allow me first to thank the Panel and its technical sub-group for their steadfast commitment to engage with Member States to enhance understanding and ensure clarity.

The 2020 mandate on developing an MVI within the UN system concludes its first iteration this year. Auspiciously, it is also a year where we have seen and heard repeated calls for a reform of the way we view development and access to finance. Repeated assessments and reports highlight a system that is devoid of understanding and appropriate action. Meeting the multiplicity of commitments in international frameworks continue to slip from our grasp.

The work of the High-level Panel on developing an MVI is therefore paramount.

AOSIS has thoroughly reflected on the Panel's initial body of work and we continue to seek clarity on aspects of that work, not limited to the selection of some indicators over others, the methodology and the emerging output of the index. Fundamentally, any output is only as good as its input. We will submit formally, questions on, and requests for,

- Specific indicators, how we landed where we are, what was tried and abandoned, including the consideration of proxy data
- Sensitivity analyses for specific countries
- Further clarity on weighting of the pillars
- And the complimentary use of the MVI with other existing instruments

AOSIS will again submit requests for consideration of indicators that reflect a more thorough understanding of SIDS vulnerability, including exposure to international financial flows, total debt service as a composition of exports, indicators for slow onset events, populations concentrated in low coastal zones.

At the center of this work is a contextualization of vulnerability, what makes some countries vulnerable and how do we measure that vulnerability. Ultimately, some indicators are more

purposeful in this regard, and it would be good to hear from the Technical Sub-group their views on these essential indicators.

These consultations are an essential opportunity for Member States to provide crucial guidance to the panel on where recalibration of the guiding principles may be necessary in order to deliver an MVI that truly serves the needs of the most vulnerable. The panel must therefore be responsive to Member States.

AOSIS would support a governing body with broad membership, with persons representing the views of providers and receivers of development finance. There should also be a clear understanding of how a governing body would aid the further refinement of the MVI, including on addressing the obvious challenges in the collection of data, as well as assessments of the implementation of the MVI.

As we said at the start of these consultations, and a point we find important enough to repeat, the MVI is not an end in itself. Its definition will not force all providers of development finance to see the world we live in differently. But the MVI has the ability to provide context and understanding. It gives us the basis to treat with issues of financing development in a more just manner. AOSIS' vision remains steady in this respect – we need a more holistic approach to determine how development support is directed.

We look forward to robust discussions today, as we work towards a finalized and adopted MVI, and the eventual use of that index.

Thank you.