

Comments of Bangladesh on the MVI, 29 June 2023

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

First of all, my delegation commends the two distinguished co-chairs and other high-level panelists for their hard work on the MVI for the small island developing states. We also thank the UN DESA and OHRLLS for their support to the panel in carrying out their responsibilities.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Nepal on behalf of the LDC Group.

We would like to inform the panel that our capital is still reviewing the indicators that have been made available to the member states on the proposed MVI for SIDS. We recognize that developing a MVI is a complex undertaking. Understanding how such an index would eventually affect a least developed, lower middle-income country like Bangladesh is equally challenging. Given the complexity and technical nature of the work at hand, my delegation as of now has only limited comments on some of the indicators. If the proposed MVI eventually applies to the LDCs and other vulnerable and all other developing countries, in addition to the SIDS, for which we understand that currently there is no specific General Assembly mandate, our delegation would make further comments or engage differently.

First, 'Poverty incidence' can be added as a new indicator under 'Economic Resilience dimension. The rationale behind the indicator is- vulnerability is high when poverty rate is high in any country or region. It is also an SDG indicator (SDG 1.1.1) which can be measured by 'proportion of the population living below the international poverty line.

Second, the existing indicator under Gender Equity, i.e., 'Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament' does not represent Gender equity fully. Proportion of women in managerial position could also be added either with the existing indicator or as a separate indicator under Gender Equity. It is also an SDG indicator (SDG 5.5.2)

Third, one more indicator can be considered under the Domestic Economic Capacity dimension, which is 'Technological Readiness'. Technological Readiness indicator can be measured by no. of science experts, expenditure on R&D, No. of Patents, Use of IT etc.

Fourth 'People using basic or safe drinking water' can be added as an indicator under the 'Effective Social Service Provision' dimension. It is also an SDG indicator (SDG 6.1.1)

Fifth, Proportion of population covered by social protection systems' can also be added as a new indicator under Social Resilience indicator as reflected in SDG indicator (SDG 1.3.1).

Distinguished co-chairs,

We understand that structural characteristics and availability of data are key factors of including or excluding certain indicators. But for us, what is important if the MVI applies to our country, is that that index should be representative of all our vulnerabilities, which are decided on the basis of broad consultations and clear mandate of the UN.

We would like to once again thank the co chairs and panelists for their excellent works on the MVI for the SIDS.

I thank you.