



Technical Webinar Series
Development of a Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)
for small island developing States (SIDS)

CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

1. The need and call for the development of indices that adequately capture the special vulnerabilities of SIDS has been around since the adoption of the Agenda 21. The call was repeated in the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), mentioned in the Mauritius Strategy and re-echoed in the SAMOA Pathway. During the last 3 decades, a plethora of annual UNGA resolutions also carried similar repeated calls.

2. In June and August 2020, at the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences, the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), motivated by the dire economic and debt situation confronting many SIDS, wrote to the UN Secretary-General reiterating the need to move forward the work the MVI and requested the formal imprimatur of the efforts of UNDP to develop such an index. In his response, the UNSG stated that the ongoing work on the MVI, including the recent initiative of the UN-RCOs in SIDS, to advance and development of a composite index will be crucial to redefine eligibility for financing for sustainable development in SIDS.

THE MANDATE

3. On 29 December 2020, the United Nations General Assembly, in Paragraph 8(a) of its Resolution A/RES/75/215, called on the UN Secretary-General:

“To provide recommendations as part of his report on the present resolution to the General Assembly at its 76th session on the potential development and coordination of work within the UN system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use;”

4. The mandate emanating from the above-mentioned sub-paragraph requires the UN Secretary-General, as a part of his annual report on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in 2021 (UNGA76), to present recommendation (s) on the following:

- “ The potential development of an MVI for SIDS;
- “ The coordination of work on the MVI by the UN system;
- “ The potential (duration) finalisation of the work on the MVI; and
- “ The potential use of such MVI.

BRIEFING

5. On Wednesday 17 February 2021, 11:00 am—12:30 pm, UN DESA and UN OHRLLS will organise a briefing to Member States, the UN-system and other Stakeholders, to explain on how this work will be carried forward.

(Registration

Link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPage.aspx?fragment=FormId%3D2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccDkIBHhrfdJMkGyABRGo-IIUM1VZUDA5TzNLUDU1QjdGOExPOE43QVZaRS4u>



SECRETARIAT BRIEFING
Developing a Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index for SIDS
Wednesday 17 February 2021 11:00am—12:30pm

AGENDA

Registration Link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPage.aspx?fragment=FormId%3D2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccDk1BHhrfdJMkGyABRGo-IIUM1VZUDA5TzNLUDU1QjdGOExPOE43QVZaRS4u>

Facilitator/Moderator:

- ◆ Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director OHRLLS

Opening Remarks

- ◆ Ms. Fekita 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, OHRLLS
- ◆ Mr Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General, UNDESA

Presentation 1

“Development of Vulnerability Index for SIDS & UN Secretariat’s MVI Work Programme 2021.” (20 mins)

- ◆ Mr Sai S. Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA

Open Discussion

- ◆ Facilitated by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director OHRLLS (45 Mins)

Closing Remarks

- ◆ Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director OHRLLS