

RC-led development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

Messages for 17 February intergovernmental discussions

(for internal consultations)

- We, the UN Resident Coordinators of the SIDS are committed to the sustainable development of the SIDS in line with the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other global goals that SIDS have adopted in the pursuit of which taking an analytical approach that identifies vulnerabilities and resilience gaps is critical.
- We acknowledged the Member States' call on the UN system through GA Resolution A/Res/75/215 to report at the 76th UNGA on a potential Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and its potential use. Owing to the enhanced capacities of the RC function and the Resident Coordinator Offices as a result of the UN reform, we embarked on a joint analysis of the multidimensional vulnerability of the SIDS with the aim to contribute to the wider UN effort responding to the Resolution, within the process led by UNDESA and OHRLLS.
- To ensure the joint RC effort leads to a strong and independent output, a partnership with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Prof. Jeffrey Sachs has been established for the development of a multidimensional vulnerability analysis and index options that could inform a good discussion with the Member States at the 76th UNGA. To advance the work that the RCOs are doing and support the partnership, SDSN has recruited a senior economist who works closely with the RCOs and Prof. Jeffrey Sachs for the timely conclusion of the analysis and the index options. RCOs mobilized together USD 145,000 to fund the senior economist position and the work is set to begin on 24 February.
- The approach that the RCOs forming the Technical Group for this work is taking is to bring under review all MV indices produced to date, refine the analysis, consult with all stakeholders (SIDS, development partners, IFIs etc.) and come up with a sound report by April 2021 to feed into the UN S-G Report that UNDESA leads on.
- Various MVI options and potential use recommendations resulting from the UN RCOs- SDSN partnership will be presented to the Member States for their consideration and decision at the 76th UNGA.
- We count on the guidance of UNDESA and OHRLLS in this process to ensure a coherent approach and optimal use of the time and resources we have towards the MVI production. The RCs are keen to bring into this process the perspectives from the field and the strategic thinking of the RCOs that now include very senior staff, both international and national.
- While the MV analysis is still a work in progress, the RCs want to give a higher emphasis to social and human vulnerabilities and ensure the three dimensions - economic, environmental and social - are properly factored into the index.

- The MVI will provide a very powerful instrument to the UN development system in analyzing SIDS contexts and strengthening relevance of Cooperation Frameworks, Joint Programmes and development investments to enhance value for money and expedite progress.
- The UN RCs/RCOs together with OHRLLS and UNDESA will count on the support of AOSIS and other Member States in fostering good expert dialogues around the MV analysis and the Index options at the appropriate time.
- We acknowledge the important role that UNDESA and UNDP play in ensuring the development of the MVI benefits from the broader engagement of in-house expertise and partner organizations.
- Feedback received from the Member States in this meeting will guide our action moving forward.

Should need be to say it, I will add:

- The intention of the RC-led effort is not to produce an index for ranking and comparability purposes. What we want to do is to produce a methodology and a tool that SIDS will use in defining their special case for development and in discussing terms of access to development cooperation in their engagement with development partners and IFIs.