

Key points regarding the Interim Report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a  
Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index

1. Barbados welcomes the interim report and the work of the panel. This constitutes an important step forward towards the recognition of the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
2. As the Panel works towards its final report, Barbados considers that the following points should be taken into account:
  - a. There is need for greater clarity regarding the objectives of the index. The purpose of this exercise is to expand the eligibility of SIDS for concessional finance by highlighting their unique vulnerabilities that are not captured in GNI; too many different objectives will likely blunt the usefulness of the Index.
  - b. There is need for greater clarity on the relationship between a universally-applied index and a SIDS-specific index. If the Index is a universal measurement of vulnerability it should capture those vulnerabilities that are more linked to factors common to SIDS, like vulnerability to sea level rising, which are not captured well in GNI.
  - c. In keeping with the objective of Our Common Agenda to move “beyond GDP”, the index must focus on measuring that which is not measured elsewhere such as in GNI. Universal ranking of vulnerability should be compared with universal ranking of GNI to consider the additionality of this exercise.
  - d. Further details of the exact analytical tools the panel proposes to incorporate into the index are essential and urgently needed.
  - e. Numerical examples of the impacts of certain alternative methodologies, weightings, variables on the vulnerability ranking of all countries and not just SIDS (given universality considerations) is necessary.
  - f. One indicator for measuring universal vulnerability that highlights the vulnerability of SIDS and does not replicate the ranking of GNI that should be given particular consideration is: “the high probability of a country facing a greater than 5% loss of GDP from climate-related shocks or slow onset climate events over the next 24 months.”
  - g. Further information on the proposed Vulnerability/resilience Country Profile is required. This should include both the data content of the Profile – and the challenges in gathering the data – as well as the interactions between the Profile and the Index.
  - h. Emphasis must be placed on addressing the issue of data availability and gathering, given that the index must be forward-looking in view of the nature of climate vulnerability. National statistics gathering mechanisms must be strengthened and the type and nature of data collected should be expanded.
  - i. Additional opportunities for dialogue with and outreach to concerned member states and other stakeholders should be prioritized ahead of the completion of the final report.