Norway - Comments on MVI Interim Report

We would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for the interim report from the Highlevel Panel on the Development of a Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index.

Please find below the comments from Norway:

We agree with the point of departure of the report; that GNI per capita inadequately takes into consideration the scale, frequency, and impact of adverse external shocks and stressors that many countries regularly encounter. There is a need to base development support on a broader set of information and considerations.

We therefore welcome better indicators, to help improve the understanding and measurement of vulnerabilities and for addressing structural factors causing vulnerability. Identifying indicators that capture true "structural" vulnerability and resilience is challenging, which the report also mentions under social vulnerability. Also within the economic area, there are strong correlations between vulnerabilities and policies, and a separation of structural and non-structural factors may be difficult to implement.

The concept of measuring vulnerability and resilience through an index may serve well alongside thorough country analysis, like the proposed national vulnerability-resilience profiles. We therefore especially welcome recommendations on modalities for vulnerability-resilience profiles in the final report.

Better measurement and analysis of vulnerability is highly welcomed as supplements to existing development support criteria and allocation mechanisms. However, the possible use and repercussions of additional eligibility criterion for accessing existing allocation of development finance warrants further discussion, as this may dilute available resources, resulting in less support for countries who were already eligible according to existing criteria.

We look forward to receiving the final report with proposed indicators, their rationale, and a precise methodology for weighting and aggregating the indicators. We would be happy to comment on the final report as well.