

UN Member State Consultation on MVI – April 28, 2023
Canadian Statement

- I would to begin by thanking the Panel for its efforts in advancing work on the MVI, and developing a prototype index and the opportunity for consultation.
- Canada recognizes the importance of the development of an MVI, and we are supportive of these efforts.
- We recognize the vast amount of work that has gone into the consideration of indicators, and challenge faced by the panel in selecting indicators that maintain the universal applicability of the index, while also striving to capture the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS.
- I will provide some initial feedback on the prototype, with detailed feedback from Canada to follow in writing by May 12th.

Methodology

- Canada appreciates the focus on keeping the framework of the MVI simple, and the focus on structural factors.
- We think that high vulnerability, even if only to some risks, should be the primary concern rather than moderate vulnerability across several risks.
- We would welcome further clarity on the weighting and interaction between indicators.

Preliminary Rankings

- We noted that of the most vulnerable countries, many were in Sub-Saharan Africa, including fragile and conflict-affected states.
- We therefore consider it important that these countries feed into the consultation process, in addition to other vulnerable groups of countries such as SIDS.

Indicators

- We noted that all concepts and indicators in the economic vulnerability dimension relate to trade. We are concerned that debt is not featured in the indicators, given that rising debt vulnerability is a key issue for many developing countries, including SIDS.
- We welcome the inclusion of gender equity as part of the indicators. We would suggest framing it as “gender equality”, and considering other possible indicators such as the prevalence of intimate partner violence.