

STATEMENT

DELIVERED

BY

H.E MR. ENKHBOLD VORSILOV

**AMABSSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
VICE CHAIR OF THE GROUP OF LLDCS**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE GROUP OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(LLDCS)**

**DURING THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF
THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL
VULNERABILITY INDEX FOR SIDS**

**10 MAY 2023
10am-1pm
Virtual**

Please check against deliver

- **Excellencies;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 32 Member States of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).
2. Allow me at the outset, to express our sincere gratitude to H.E Mr. Gaston Browne, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; and H.E Ms. Erna Solberg, former Prime Minister of Norway, the Co-Chairs of the High-Level Panel of Experts on a Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) for Small Island Developing States, for convening today's Meeting and briefing our Groups of Countries, on this ongoing process.
3. We further thank the Members of the High-Level Panel for their hard work and efforts in this process. We look forward to engaging constructively, for its successful conclusion.

Excellencies,

4. The LLDCs face enormous challenges to achieve economic growth. The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing vulnerabilities of LLDCs.

5. Many LLDCs are heavily dependent on primary commodities making them vulnerable to shocks and price fluctuations. Our ability to realise the SDGs and aspirations contained in the Vienna Programme of Action is further eroded by the current food crisis, rising energy costs, and acute shortage of development financing.
6. Poverty is on the rise in many LLDCs, with 25 per cent of the population living below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day; and Food security remains a challenge.
7. Unemployment rate has increased from 4.6 per cent in 2015 to 5.7 per cent in 2021.
8. Furthermore, LLDCs' external debt has increased significantly. As of 2022, two LLDCs were characterized as debt distressed, nine at high risk and eight were at a moderate risk of debt distress. This is so, as almost half of LLDCs are also LDCs.
9. We therefore, wish to make the following remarks regarding the Interim Report of the High-Level Panel on the development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States;
 - We are considering the contents of the Interim Report carefully to see how the vulnerabilities of the LLDCs have

been well captured. There are enormous technical details that require sufficient time for us to delve into the substance at this stage.

- The LLDCs support the overall structure of the framework for an MVI for SIDS, that considers both the vulnerability and resilience in the environmental, economic, and social domains of the SDGs.
- While we support the Secretary General's recommendations that called for a more systematic and comprehensive consideration of vulnerabilities of developing countries, particularly for countries in special situations, we believe that the work of the High-Level Panel should be based on the resolutions (A/RES/77/245, A/RES/75/215, A/RES/74/217) that mandated the process. We are concerned that the High-Level Panel might not have engaged the LLDCs in the process of developing the index as, indeed, there was no mandate to expand the index beyond SIDs.
- For LLDCs, we are of the view that the MVI indicators should reflect challenges of our group of countries, emanating from our lack of territorial access to the sea, isolation from world markets, high trade costs, and climate change vulnerabilities

especially drought, desertification, land degradation and melting of glaciers. These and other challenges impede our developmental trajectory.

- Additionally, we implore the Panel to use quality data collected in a structured way, from credible sources and clear references and comparisons for the indicators.
- We further wish to reiterate the importance of inclusive consultations and transparency in the development of the MVI, to be a success.

10. We look forward to further engaging in this process to ensure that the report paves way for an inclusive conclusion.

I thank you for your kind attention.