

MEETING SUMMARY
Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Date: 19 September 2024
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00 pm (New York Time)

Member Organizations in attendance: COMMONWEALTH Secretariat, CDRI, FAO, GEF, GLIPSA, ITC, IOM, INTERPOL, IRENA, PIFS, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNRCO (Samoa), UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDCO, UNDESA (Co-organizer), UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNOHRLLS (Organizer), UNIDO, UNWOMEN, WHO.

Chair: Ms. Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS Sub-programme, OHRLLS

Summary:

The IACG meeting focused its discussion on the follow-up on the implementation of ABAS, post the Fourth International Conference on SIDS. It discussed the ABAS Implementation Matrix, and the development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of ABAS. The meeting also discussed the next steps on the MVI, following the adoption of the MVI resolution on 13 August 2024. The key and immediate tasks include establishing a relevant existing United Nations entity, which will act as the secretariat of the multidimensional vulnerability index and constituting of an Independent Expert Advisory Panel to take the MVI forward. The meeting also heard an update on UNGA79 SIDS related events, including the Summit of the Future. The fifth (In-person) Annual SIDS National Focal Points Meeting in Vanuatu on 14-16 October was highlighted as a key activity in ensuring coherence in the implementation of ABAS at the global, regional and local levels.

1. Opening remarks by IACG Co-chair(s)

UN-OHRLLS

Delivering her opening remarks, **Ms Tishka Francis**, Head of the SIDS sub-programme:

- Congratulated the IACG for the success of the [SIDS4](#) Conference in Antigua and Barbuda, highlighting it as a pivotal event that established a political declaration, [ABAS](#), to guide the next decade. She noted the collaborative effort of UN entities, regional commissions, Member States, and development partners for its success.
- Underscored the need for a multi-faceted approach to achieve resilient prosperity in SIDS, ensuring the integration of the sustainable development priorities enshrined in **ABAS** into

strategic and work plans of members, and aligning with the work to implement the 2030 Agenda in SIDS.

- Noted the development of an **Implementation Matrix** to align the UN system and international organizations with ABAS, which aims at ensuring a mapping of relevant actors and roles to ABAS.
- Emphasized the importance of UN engagement with initiatives like the **SIDS Centre of Excellence**, the **SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS)** and global data hub.
- Underscored the need for a robust M&E framework, noting OHRLLS and DESA have set up an **interagency task force (IATF)** to deliver this by **June 2025**.
- Heralded the adoption of the [MVI resolution](#) by the General Assembly (GA) as a significant advancement in the agenda and the need for ongoing support to implement it.
- Noted OHRLLS will leverage ABAS to advance sustainable development for SIDS. The USG, Ms. Rabab Fatima, is prioritizing advocacy during the UNGA79, and in the context of the [Summit of future](#) and will continue to strongly advocate for SIDS in various fora, while also engaging bilaterally with leaders.
- OHRLLS will also lead broader resource mobilization.
- Emphasized **ensuring coherence in the implementation of ABAS at the global, regional and local levels**. In this context, OHRLLS will continue to engage the [SIDS national Focal Point network](#), with the next NFP meeting scheduled in Vanuatu from October 14-16, as part of the [engagement strategy](#) launched at SIDS4.

UNDESA

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS unit, UNDESA, providing brief opening remarks:

- Conveyed warm greetings from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and expressed gratitude for the support from members leading up to the fourth International Conference on SIDS.
- Noting the implementation phase has begun, thanked the members of the IACG for their continued assistance to its implementation.
- Underscored four immediate tasks emanating from the ABAS that demands concerted efforts from the IACG, **by June 2025**:
 - i. Developing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework.
 - ii. Strengthening the **SIDS Partnership Framework**
 - iii. Enhancing coordination among involved entities, noting ABAS reference on the potential establishment of a single SIDS entity; and the

- iv. Work on **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)**, emphasizing the substantial work related to the MVI and congratulated colleagues on the recent adoption of the MVI resolution, acknowledging the support received for intergovernmental processes.

2. Follow-up on the implementation of ABAS

2.1 ABAS implementation Matrix

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS unit, UNDESA, provided an update on the ABAS implementation Matrix, which included the following:

- Providing the context on the development of implementation matrix for the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), noted that prior to the SIDS4, there was an effort to create a matrix that detailed provisions from the agreed document “on how SIDS get there,” which was circulated among organizations attending SIDS4.
- At the Conference, the matrix was discussed at a meeting with the Principals of the organizations, and also circulated to all group members, for which feedback/inputs has been received from some members.
- The purpose of matrix is to capture agreed sections of ABAS on “*How do small island developing States get there*” - which includes advancing economic resilience, reforming international financial architecture to address financial gaps and improve access to financing. The matrix allocates specific paragraphs to IACG entities responsible for their implementation.
- Mr. Navoti emphasized that the matrix will continue to be updated and circulated. It is designed to assist in monitoring of the implementation of ABAS, complementing the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Relevant institutions/Organizations will annually report on their implementation progress, referencing specific paragraphs and tasks they are responsible for, to inform a broad spectrum of stakeholders including Member States on progress.
- The matrix was developed to indicate responsibilities of members of the IACG and will be revisited in the coming years to solicit updates on each provision's implementation. The focus is on actionable sections of ABAS regarding SIDS on *how SIDS get there*.

Discussion

- **FAO** congratulated DESA and OHRLLS on the success of the SIDS4 meeting. FAO asked for clarification on the implementation matrix received prior to the Principals’ meeting, specifically regarding FAO’s contributions and the formal process of populating the matrix. In response, DESA affirmed that a formal request was circulated with the matrix and

promised to resend a copy of that letter to provide clarity on the expected input from FAO, emphasized aligning FAO activities with previous requests. DESA also appreciated FAO's past cooperation.

- **UNDP** echoed congratulations on SIDS4 and asked about the deadline for Agencies to provide their inputs on the matrix, which delineates how they will contribute to implementing ABAS priorities. DESA acknowledged input from some agencies, stating that while there is no fixed deadline, however, timely contributions are important. The matrix is a "living document," and members are encouraged to provide timely updates to ensure a collective understanding of agency responsibilities. This will assist in preparing annual reports for the SG on implementation of ABAS.
- **UNESCO** raised some concern about the emphasis in the matrix, noting that some areas important to SIDS were not reflected in the current approach and sought better inclusion in the framework. DESA, in response, recalling agencies like UNCTAD tailored its approach to the Matrix, encouraged UNESCO to adapt and focus on areas they have a mandate in, encouraging adjustments to better reflect broader SIDS needs.
- **UNCTAD** acknowledged the complexity and challenges for participation at the SIDS conference, and further sought clarity about the relationship between governance structures of the interagency task and how mandates overlap, particularly regarding the monitoring and implementation frameworks. In response, DESA noted the interagency task force is responsible for developing the monitoring and evaluation framework, focusing on targets and indicators. Although task force members might overlap with agency groups, they are typically experts in relevant fields, differentiating their roles.

2.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of ABAS (UN-OHRLLS and UN-DESA)

- The chair, introducing this sub-agenda item, emphasized both DESA and OHRLLS place great importance on carrying out the M&E mandate on behalf of the Secretary-General.
- The lack of a timely monitoring and evaluation framework for the SAMOA Pathway was identified as an impediment to its effective implementation, thus the strong commitment to ensuring the M&E Framework of the ABAS is usable and effective.
- Both OHRLLS and DESA briefed on the progress in developing the M&E framework, which the chair underscored will form the basis of a comprehensive data-driven mid-term review of the ABAS in 2028 and drive implementation of the agenda through to 2034. The briefing covered four main areas: (1) Methodology, (2) Update and Progress, (3) Timeline and (4) Outreach.

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS unit, UNDESA, providing an update on the methodology and progress on developing the M&E framework for ABAS noted the following:

Methodology

- The approach to this work is informed by the mandate in paragraph 38 of the ABAS, which asks the United Nations Secretary-General to convene an inter-agency task force to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets and indicators, by no later than the second quarter of 2025.
- ABAS underscores the framework *should build on the monitoring and evaluation framework for the SAMOA Pathway, in line with the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and use data from existing reporting mechanisms where possible and should not be overly burdensome or create new processes or requirements for SIDS.*
- The work is also guided by the recommendations of the technical workshop convened by DESA and AOSIS, in March this year (2024), which were endorsed by all AOSIS Permanent Representatives.
- It is envisaged the M&E Framework will have two elements: A Quantitative Assessment, and A Qualitative Assessment
- The Quantitative Assessment will be presented via an annual report, in terms of Paragraph 40 of ABAS.
- The Qualitative Assessment will be delivered and discussed during the annual SIDS segment of the HLPF, under the auspices of the ECOSOC.
- The work to be undertaken will progress in two phases, **firstly the identification of targets** which will be followed by **the development of a corresponding indicator framework.**
- ABAS is unequivocal that the framework should be in line with the targets and indicators of the SDGs and use data from existing reporting mechanisms where possible.

Progress to date

- Concomitant to ABAS, an inter-agency task force (IATF) has been established. Some of its members include IACG members and may have already been engaged through member's entities. The IATF constitutes **33 entities (46 individual experts)**, including UN entities and development banks, whose work is guided by their Terms of Reference, to ensure that the IATF play its pivotal role in ensuring the targets and indicators of the ABAS M&E Framework are aligned to the SIDS Context.
- The first meeting of the IATF was convened on **12 September**. With members now with access to the relevant tech, including access to SharePoint, all members of the IATF are providing documentation on targets and indicators they are already tracking. The information will culminate in a discussion paper, paving way to ensuring the ABAS M&E

Framework is harmonized with existing data that is collected on SIDS, to minimize as far as possible the reporting burden on SIDS.

- Given the size of the group, work has also begun to **identify members of a core working group** who can provide targeted expertise to develop the indicator framework.
- This working group will include members of the Regional Commissions (ECLAC, ESCAP, ECA etc.) who have been in integral in related work and will play an important role in preparing comprehensive biennial reviews.
- A preliminary mapping of international and regional agreements has been undertaken by DESA and OHRLLS, which will be taken forward by a consultant with expertise in developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The mapping will enable identifying synergies and gaps, including where new indicators may need to be developed, to ensure the M&E Framework comprehensively covers the ABAS.
- The methodology and terms of reference for the inter-agency task force were developed in consultation of the **UN Statistical Division**, who brought to bear their experience, for example from developing SDG indicators.

The Chair, **Ms. Tishka Francis**, Head of the SIDS sub-programme, briefing on the anticipated timeline and outreach activities noted the following:

Timeline

- Para. 38 of ABAS outlines the mandated timeline for completing this work by no later than the second quarter of 2025 [June 2025.]
- DESA and OHRLLS are organized to abide by this timeline, which will enable the work of the IATF to be reflected in the annual Report of the UN Secretary-General on SIDS, which is usually due in July each year.
- It is anticipated that the framework will be discussed and endorsed via the annual SIDS resolution in next year's Second Committee Session.
- To achieve this, the Secretariat is working to develop a draft set of targets for endorsement by AOSIS in November.
- Subsequent to this, the work will move to develop the indicator framework by early 2025, to allow sufficient time for a validation exercise ahead of finalizing the framework.

Outreach

- The importance of regular outreach and consultation with key stakeholders to ensure the framework is fit for purpose cannot be overemphasized.
- The plan is to formally consult AOSIS at key moments, including engaging with representatives from national statistical agencies and planning ministries as part of the validation process.

- Regular briefings with member states will be convened, following IATF meetings, to update them on progress and seek input, as needed.
- Where appropriate, civil society, academia, and the private sector with relevant expertise will be consulted in a targeted manner on targets and indicators.
- There is also a planned briefing targeted to SIDS RCs – first one, **in the margins of the upcoming Global Resident Coordinator Retreat**, to build support for the new framework and discuss opportunities for RCOs to engage.
- In this context, OHRLLS is convening the fifth in-person SIDS National Focal Points meeting taking place in **Vanuatu from 14-16 October** which will have a dedicated session to discuss how the NFPs can play a role in the reporting and monitoring of the ABAS once it is developed.
- The IACG will continue to be informed on the progress on the development of the M&E framework

Discussions

- **UNEP** expressed concerns about the potential additional workload imposed on both Member States and the UN System due to numerous reporting requirements. She emphasized the need to streamline efforts and integrate activities including with the existing QCPR framework to avoid overburdening entities, citing previous experience with a detailed M&E questionnaire regarding the SAMOA Pathway that added complexity.
- **OHRLLS** acknowledged the concern and agreed on the importance of harmonizing tasks and aligning efforts to minimize additional burdens on Member States and agencies. OHRLLS assured that the need for alignment and harmonization is being taken into consideration.

3. Update on the MVI (UN-OHRLLS and UN-DESA)

The Chair, **Ms. Tishka Francis**, Head of the SIDS sub-programme, providing an update on the MVI, mentioned the following:

- Significant progress has been made since the last update on the MVI in April 2024.
- Many of the IACG members were following the intergovernmental process, marked by active engagement of Member States on significant discussions around the MVI's applicability, scope, custodianship and governance and ways to further improve it that would allow for the implementation of the index.
- After about three rounds of consultations, the [MVI resolution \(78/322\)](#) was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly on 13 August 2024.
- Some of the key elements that Member States agreed on in the resolution include:

- i. preserving the two-tiered structure of the MVI as proposed by the Panel. These are: the Universal level quantitative assessment; and, the Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profiles (VRCs)
 - ii. maintaining the guiding principles for the panel's work, that is, multidimensionality, universality, exogeneity, availability and readability
 - iii. inviting the UN system to consider using the index and to provide evidence that could underpin any future improvements to the index
 - iv. inviting the international financial institutions, international organizations and multilateral development banks to consider using the MVI as a complement to their existing practices and policies
 - v. calling for the establishment of the governance structure of the MVI, with the addition of a role for the Statistical Commission to review future proposed improvements to the MVI.
- Since the adoption of the resolution, OHRLLS and DESA commissioned work on how the United Nations system currently addresses multidimensional vulnerability in its work from planning to programming and delivery of results.

Ms. Anya Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer, UNDESA, providing further updates on the MVI noted the following:

- In line with the MVI Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 August 2024, immediate tasks include establishing:
 - (1) A relevant **existing United Nations entity**, which will act as the secretariat of the multidimensional vulnerability index.
 - (2) An **Independent Expert Advisory Panel** (Similar to CDP expert and Secretariat setup).
- DESA and OHRLLS will begin identifying an appropriate existing UN institution to host the MVI Secretariat (*No new institution will be created*). During the high-level panel's work, several UN entities with experience in maintaining similar indices were consulted. The first task will be to approach these and potentially other entities to express their interest.
- TORs for the entity are yet to be developed. However, these will include ensuring maintenance of the index's integrity, working with Member States, ensuring transparency, having sustainable financing, and other principles outlined in the panel's report. Staffing and logistic considerations will also be essential.
- The relevant existing United Nations entity, which will act as the secretariat of the MVI, and the members of the Independent Expert Advisory Panel will be **appointed by the**

Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, by no later than the end of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly.

- The panel of **15 independent experts**, including **a minimum of 5 from Member States**, will be drawn to represent a good mix of expertise, self-sufficient for the task at hand, as well as to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance;
- The **Statistical Commission will oversee future improvements to the index**, including adding or modifying indicators, to ensure data accuracy and satisfy Member States' concerns.
- Work is also needed to **identify national-level indicators for the VRCPs**, which remain undeveloped. Nonetheless, the UN system is encouraged to begin using the tool in specific ways to collect data to inform future improvements.
- A study, mandated by last year's SAMOA Pathway resolution, is underway to understand **how multidimensional vulnerability is addressed within the UN system**. The consultant for this study, will present findings, which will guide integrating multidimensional vulnerability into UN Development System processes.

The Consultant, **Ms. Simona Marinescu**, providing an update on her work to understand how multidimensional vulnerability is addressed within the UN system, provided the following remarks:

- Congratulated the IACG for the achievements throughout the year, emphasizing the integration of the MVI into global frameworks – ABAS, now in the [Pact for the future](#), and its ongoing development.
- The report, developed to operationalize paragraph 13 of [Resolution 78/232](#), utilized three information sources: desk review, a questionnaire distributed to UN entities, and conversations with UN representatives. This included a conversation with the United Nations Strategic Planning Network, which comprises 432 staff of UN agencies, during an organized discussion, and a follow-up meeting planned.
- A policy choice is necessary to adopt the MVI and VRCPs, aiming to make development cooperation and finance more just and equitable by complementing GNI per capita. This involves revisiting financial rules to adapt allocations based on MVI.
- The UN system needs to demonstrate ownership of the MVI, including the need test these, and feed into the independent expert advisory panel, which will require UN system input.
- While there is general familiarity with the index amongst UN in SIDS, it is not the same across other constituencies, underscoring a need to address gaps in understanding the MVI's value among broader constituencies.
- Agencies are encouraged to integrate the MVI into their strategic and operational plans, providing a new perspective based on structural vulnerabilities, including in cooperation

frameworks. The index can offer insights into national profiles across health, poverty, and economic dynamics.

- There is value in considering the MVI and VRCPs in the graduation process. It is also crucial to test the MVI against SDG progress, distinguishing performance based on particular circumstances.
- There is need to consider how financial rules and regulations might change using MVI-based allocations. This requires also engaging with executive boards of organizations - with specific Financial Rules and Regulations- to discuss proposals.
- There is need for methodologies for multidimensional vulnerability-based development and to test MVI indicators against indices such as the MPI, PCI, HDI etc.
- For the secretariat and UN organizations, focus should be on necessary methodologies and strategies for MVI and VRCP usage, embedding them in the QCPR, and engagements with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) including in upcoming events, such as those focused on financing for development, are crucial for positioning MVI as a quality standard.
- Thanking contributions from members, noted the draft report is now with at DESA and OHRLLS for their review.
- Underscored while the process to integrate and use the MVI may be slow, similar to indices like the HDI and MPI, continuous testing and feedback into the Advisory Panel will be crucial.

Ms. Anya Thomas, Economic Affairs Officer, UNDESA, in response:

- Emphasized the General Assembly expects the UN system to lead in the use and application of the MVI. The UN's proactive involvement is crucial, as International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are unlikely to initiate action without seeing successful *proof of concept* from the UN.
- Efforts are underway to incorporate language supporting the MVI into the current Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution, with input from the G77.
- There is collaboration with the Development Coordination Office (DCO) to incorporate insights from the consultant's work into upcoming guidance for Cooperation Frameworks (CCF) and Common Country Analyses (CCA).
- Underscored the importance of engaging with staff responsible for the strategic planning of organizations to ensure the integration of MVI into policy is comprehensive and systematic.
- Further emphasized the goal of integrating the MVI at the policy level is to ensure it effectively rolls out across UN programming and initiatives.

Discussions

- **UNESCO** congratulated members on the adoption of the MVI; and noted UNESCO's programming approach is not based on GDP but rather on resources allocated to programs, to assist member states regardless of their development level. Prompted by the MVI, UNESCO is planning to integrate the MVI into its next program and budget cycle, developing a tool for support based on multidimensional vulnerability in UNESCO's domains. UNESCO also inquired about outreach efforts to organizations and if there are any with OECD for collaboration on fund allocation principles, emphasizing the need for joint efforts with the secretariat.
- **DESA/OHRLLS consultant**, Ms. Simona Marinescu, acknowledged UNESCO's contribution to the process and stressed the need to embrace the universality of the MVI beyond the SIDS community. She further highlighted the importance of using MVI structurally within programs ensuring UNESCO's efforts within the Cooperation Framework reflect the MVI properly. Testing the structural features of countries is crucial to formulating policy responses.
- **UNEP** expressed interest in the outcomes of the report of the assessment of MVI use in the UN System, underscoring the need for broad participation from UN entities in using the MVI. UNEP suggested establishing a '**community of practice**' within the UN system to facilitate learning and adaptation as entities begin to implement the MVI. This would help share best practices and insights across various UN entities.
- **DESA** emphasized the need for testing the MVI and encouraged organizations to explore and define potential applications themselves. DESA noted many developed countries want UN signals about the MVI's use. The plan is to also work with the DAC to explore possibilities. DESA lauded the community of practice idea, and noted international interest in the MVI, mentioning requests from entities like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to start testing the tool. DESA emphasized the MVI as a universal index, relevant for all developing countries, and advocated for looking beyond the focus on SIDS to include diverse contexts.
- **OHRLLS** reiterated that IFIs are awaiting signals from the UN system on the MVI, and independently reviewing the MVI as a solid framework. The secretariat will continue its engagement with IFIs, multilateral development banks (MDBs) and agencies to explore potential uses. The chair also supported the idea of a 'community of practice' and underscored the need for continued collaboration and feedback on MVI's use.
- **UNDRR** asked whether entities that provided feedback on the assessment report will have an opportunity to review it and sought clarification on what that review process would entail. In response, the **consultant** noted she advocates for replicating the risk framework DRR uses for non-disaster situations and assured that after receiving feedback from DESA and OHRLLS, will revert to all colleagues with feedback.

4. Any Other Business (AOB)

The session provided an update on the **UNGA79** and related events, and **the fifth (In-person) Annual SIDS National Focal Points Meeting**.

4.1 Update on UNGA79 and related events (Summit of the Future etc.)

- Sai Navoti provided an update on the "Summit of the Future," set to take place from the 23rd to the 25th, emphasizing the significant involvement of colleagues in the preparations.
- The Summit, established by UN resolution 77/568, aims to produce a "Pact for the Future," consisting of five chapters focused on sustainable development, international peace and security, science and technology, youth and future generations, and transforming global governance, with cross-cutting issues like human rights and poverty reduction.
- Ongoing negotiations on a global digital compact and future generations' declarations are to be annexed to the Pact, to be adopted by the summit's conclusion.
- Action days are scheduled leading up to the summit to foster stakeholder engagement, with specific focuses like youth and digital security. Various side events and civil society meetings are also planned to demonstrate partnerships and support for multilateralism.
- The summit will draw many world leaders, and further details and updates can be found on the United Nations website. Excitement is building as New York prepares for the summit and the forthcoming opening of the General Assembly. Many world leaders are arriving for Action Days and the Summit.

Ms. Tishka Francis briefly touched on upcoming key meetings, which includes, amongst others:

- i. The **AOSIS Leaders Meeting** (*Closed meeting*) on Monday, 23 September 2024
- ii. The Building Resilient Futures: **The SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service (DSSS)** event on Saturday, 21 September 2024
- iii. The **Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)** Leader's meeting, on Wednesday, 25 September
- iv. And the **Pacific Island Forum's meeting** on the 27th of September.

4.2 Fifth (In-person) Annual SIDS National Focal Points Meeting

Ms. Tishka Francis, providing an update on the SIDS NFP meeting noted:

- Preparations are underway for a [fifth \(in-person\) SIDS National Focal Point meeting](#) in Vanuatu from October 14-16.

- The theme of the meeting is *Coherent implementation of the ABAS - strengthening the role of the SIDS NFP network*. This will be the first meeting of the network post SIDS4 and will set the stage for its future work in the context of ABAS.
- The objectives of the meeting will be to dive a little bit more deeply into the key elements and objectives of ABAS, discuss and identify specific challenges and opportunities in implementing the ABAS, and strengthen the partnerships between NFPs and key stakeholders.
- The concept note and the provisional program for the meeting are available on [OHRLLS's website](#). Five sessions, including four substantive discussions with presentations, interactive dialogues, and a site visit on the last day are envisaged.
- Some 16 focal points have registered so far, and the meeting will have representatives from the RCOs, the regional commissions and partners who expressed interest in attending.
- OHRLLS **will share information on virtual participation** for those who will not be able to attend in person. Members are **encouraged to share this information with your regional representatives** who may be able to attend from the region or might be on the ground in Vanuatu already.

The meeting adjourned with a commitment to share a record of the meeting to members in due course.