

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Independent Expert Advisory Panel for the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index

1. BACKGROUND

The international community has now acknowledged structural vulnerability as a serious obstacle to sustainable development, due to the damage caused by exogenous shocks and stressors, to which countries are increasingly being exposed. As such, the General Assembly in August 2024 adopted Resolution 78/322¹ on the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).

Paragraphs 9(b) of this Resolution, creates an Independent Expert Advisory Panel (hereafter the Panel), as part of the governance mechanism for the maintenance of the MVI, to *inter alia* prepare recommendations on future technical updates to the multidimensional vulnerability index to reflect new and emerging concepts of structural vulnerability and lack of structural resilience and their associated indicators, as well as new data. Members of the Independent Expert Advisory Panel are appointed by the Secretary-General (Paragraph 11), in consultation with Member States.

2. THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL

The Independent Expert Advisory Panel, is an expert body composed of 15 members, including a minimum of 5 from Member States, who will serve in their personal capacity and appointed by the Secretary General.

The Panel is a part of the governance mechanism established to maintain the MVI, which also includes:

- a MVI Secretariat which will act as the secretariat of the multidimensional vulnerability index, and which will compute the index on a periodic basis, and fulfil other duties and responsibilities necessary and appropriate for the upkeep, maintenance, improvement of and reporting on the index, including the provision of capacity-building support to Member States and;
- the UN Statistical Commission which will provide technical reviews of future technical improvements to the multidimensional vulnerability index;

¹ [n2421279.pdf](#)

Membership and Composition

In accordance with Para 12(a) of Resolution 78/322, Panel Membership is expected to reflect adequate geographical and gender balance and must have demonstrated expertise in economic development, or social development or environmental protection. Panel Members will serve in their personal capacity, without remuneration, and be drawn from a wide range of development experiences including *inter alia* the public sector, academia, civil society, and private sector. In particular, experts should have *inter alia*:

- an understanding of the complex and interrelated aspects of vulnerability reduction and resilience building in their 3 dimensions;
- a strong understanding of the policies, frameworks, and operational practices of IFIs and MDBs, with specific knowledge on how performance-based allocation (PBA) systems are designed, as well as familiarity with their application in determining concessional financing and investment priorities;
- intimate knowledge of the challenges faced by developing countries from different regions of the world and at different levels of economic and social development and the design and/or implementation of relevant policies to address these challenges
- an understanding of the development assistance policies of key global development partners

Term of Office

The term of office of the Panel members is four (4) years. Individual members may be reappointed for a period not exceeding 1 additional 4-year term.

Functions of the Panel

In accordance with paragraph 16 of Resolution 78/322, the functions of the Panel are as follows:

- (a) **Triennial review of the MVI.** The Panel will review the MVI to *inter alia* recommend future improvements, to ensure continued relevance, robustness and accessibility, and ensure that indicators for potential addition or removal adhere to the criteria for data sources recommended the report of the High-level Panel on the MVI;
- (b) **Monitors developing country progress**, including their vulnerability reduction and resilience building efforts. The Panel also monitors countries' progress and alerts the UN General Assembly of any sign of deterioration of their

progress, or of any successes and lessons learned from the development and implementation of relevant programmes and practices, as appropriate.

(c) Considers issues identified by the UN Statistical Commission and the General Assembly

(d) Considers lessons learned. The Panel will consider the data and lessons learned from the application of the MVI and the utilization of the vulnerability-resilience country profiles, within the United Nations system and beyond as appropriate.

Frequency of Meetings & Reporting Procedure

The Panel meets at least once a year for a period not exceeding five working days. Its work will be conducted in English. Detailed analysis and recommendations of the Panel will be made available in various publications and in relevant reports of the Secretary General as appropriate.

Every three years the Panel reviews the MVI and prepares a triennial report with support from the MVI Secretariat. The review will recommend future improvements to the MVI, as necessary and appropriate, to ensure the continued relevance and robustness of the MVI.

The Panel will submit its triennial report through the MVI Secretariat to the UN Statistical Commission, which will provide technical reviews of future technical improvements to the MVI and present recommendations as needed. Triennial reports of the Panel together with the recommendations from the Statistical Commission will be submitted by the MVI Secretariat to the General Assembly as a report of the Secretary General.

The Panel will function virtually, as appropriate, but must be available for at least one (1) in person Meeting within the three years. Travel support (least cost, economy class airfare and a daily subsistence allowance) will be provided to Panel members for all in person meetings.

The Panel will establish its work programme and working methods at its first meeting.

Skills and Competencies of Panel Members

Required Qualifications, Skills and Expertise

- An advanced degree in the field of:
 - economics or econometrics, economic vulnerability, economic research and analysis, economic policy formulation, application of economic principles, international development or similar field related to the economic aspects of vulnerability
 - OR in environment and natural resources management, geography, planning, natural sciences, engineering, environmental/natural resources

- economic, or areas relevant to work on environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction issues
 - OR in social sciences, sociology, demography, population, statistics, economics, public policy, other relevant social science or field related to social vulnerability
 - OR in public sector management, public administration and or public sector finance.
- Extensive relevant experience (minimum of 15 years) including as a practitioner at a senior level in the specific area of expertise OR be considered an eminent person or pioneer in a particular area of study within academia, or private sector
 - A proven track record as an expert at a senior level in the economic and/or social and/or environmental aspects of vulnerability, risk, or resilience building within the public, private or civil society sectors and with knowledge and broad understanding of the complex and interrelated aspects of other vulnerabilities OR senior official in public administration and/or public or private finance and extensive public financial management experience at senior or managerial level.
 - Demonstrated experience at a senior or managerial level in the design and/or implementation of policies in relevant domains with a track record of innovative thinking and driving policy initiatives to achieve development results.

Desirable Skills and Expertise

- Strong qualitative and quantitative skills, with demonstrated experience in the measurement of vulnerability in any of its dimensions (economic, social, environmental) and/or resilience and with a solid grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of vulnerability indicators
- Prior experience working with data analytics, index creation, experience using data management and analysis tools, including Excel, databases, and data visualization platforms
- Prior work experience and proven results in a developing country in more than one region would be an asset
- Demonstrated ability to effectively interact and communicate with diverse stakeholders, including community groups, government officials, regional, intergovernmental organisations, international financial institutions, multi-lateral development banks and the multi-lateral donor community.
- Knowledge of the challenges faced by developing countries from different regions of the world and at different levels of economic and social development
- Knowledge of the international financial architecture and the access challenges of developing countries,
- Ability to translate analytical work into policy advice and operational, actionable, recommendations and to work effectively across sectors.

- A track record of innovative thinking and driving policy initiatives to achieve development results.
- Strong analytical and integrative skills to tackle multidisciplinary issues and a proven ability to effectively lead programs with a strategic vision and strong operational focus.
- Ability to lead corporate level dialogue on a broad range of issues related to vulnerability, risk and resilience.
- Prior experience in the development and/or use of indices would be an asset.

3.0 SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONSIDERATION

Interested Member States may submit through the respective Chairs of Regional Groups, names of potential candidates for consideration, along with a concise and detailed curriculum vitae, demonstrating their track record, and expertise as relevant to the work of the panel. Submissions must be sent no later than **7 March 2025**.

Submissions may be sent to Mr. Sai Navoti (sai.navoti@un.org), and Ms. Tishka Francis copied to Ms. Suzana Hrvatin (hrvatin@un.org)

For more information:

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