

**AOSIS Statement on MVI Consultations with UN Membership, 28th April 2023, delivered by
Ms. Matilda Bartley, DPR, Permanent Mission of Samoa to the UN**

Excellencies,

I make this intervention on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

The calls by SIDS for an equitable system are longstanding.

Paragraph 10 of the Barbados Programme of Action of 1994 notes, (the) “analysis of the economic performance of small island developing States suggests that current incomes are (derived from) **sources which are neither endogenous nor secure**. Furthermore, those incomes have generally been **unstable over time**: natural and man-made disasters, difficulties in the international market for particular commodities and recession in some developed economies often reduce incomes in small island developing States dramatically...”

The income profiles of SIDS mask their inherent vulnerability. It provides little context to who these countries are, their coping mechanisms, and their ability to rebound after major catastrophic events. It was not until 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic that the multiple SIDS calls for measures that go beyond income, and instead contextualises their vulnerability in multiple dimensions, were taken onboard by the international community. Since that time, we have seen a marked increase in the notations of the importance of multi-dimensional vulnerability in issues of development and finance. We hope to also see complementary action.

The work of the High-level Panel, constituted to treat with this issue in the UN is nearing completion. It is AOSIS’ expectation that the outputs of this work will finally bring about the changes needed to fully affirm the equitable treatment of SIDS. The Panel has been charged with delivering an MVI that is **universal, multidimensional, exogenous, readable** and uses the best **available** data. We all know that satisfactorily delivering against these often-competing principles is easier said than done. These consultations are an essential opportunity for Member States to provide crucial guidance to the panel on where recalibration of these guiding principles may be necessary in order to deliver an MVI that truly serves the needs of the most vulnerable. The panel must therefore be responsive to Member States.

The Alliance also recognizes that the strictures on data gaps remain. Missing data does not allow for a true and complete picture on-the-ground of SIDS vulnerabilities. This is true across development indicators. What remains for analysis is therefore partial. A clear output of this process must be the necessary support to SIDS to enhance their data collection, thereby allowing for robust analysis in SIDS and for SIDS. It is also important to note that the MVI is part of an iterative process and will continue to be built up over time as better data becomes available, and as the indicators and methodology evolve.

AOSIS reserves at this time, comments on the indicators and the potential governance structure of the MVI. We will engage on these issues during the coming weeks as the panel continues with consultations.

The MVI is not an end in itself. Its definition will not force all providers of development finance to see the world we live in differently. But the MVI has the ability to provide context and understanding. It gives us the basis to treat with issues of financing development in a more just manner. AOSIS' vision remains steady in this respect – we need a more holistic approach to determine how development support is directed.

We look forward to robust discussions today, as we work towards a finalized and adopted MVI, and the eventual use of the MVI.