



PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 February 2022

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 8(a) of resolution 76/203 dated 17 December 2021, whereby the Assembly, welcoming the Secretary General's recommendations on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use, decided to establish a representative high-level panel of experts co-chaired by two eminent persons, one of whom shall be from a small island developing State.

The General Assembly subsequently, called upon the President of the General Assembly to appoint the members of the panel and to task them with carrying forward the work to finalize the multidimensional vulnerability index by December 2022. Accordingly, through my letters dated 23 December 2021 and 12 January 2022, I informed my intention to establish a 12 member high level panel of experts (inclusive of two co-chairs) and task it with its work as early as possible but no later than February 2022.

In order to ensure a large and diverse pool of candidates, the panel has been drawn from the public sector, academia, civil society, and the private sector. I had also invited interested Member States to submit through the respective Chairs of the regional groups, names of potential candidates whom you wished for me to consider for appointment to the panel. I wish to thank all the Member States which submitted nominations.

In the selection of the high-level panel, apart from relevant experiences, expertise, skills and qualifications, as outlined in the terms of reference, due consideration has been given to ensure regional, and gender balance. Accordingly, I have decided to appoint the following individuals as members of the panel.

- H.E. Mr. Gaston **Browne**, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda;
- H.E. Ms. Erna **Solberg**, former Prime Minister, Norway;
- Ms. Natalie **Cohen**, Assistant Secretary for Development Strategy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia;
- Dr. Leonard **Nurse**, Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, University of West Indies, Barbados;
- H.E. Mr. José Luís **Rocha**, Ambassador, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cabo Verde;
- Ms. **Xiheng** Jiang, Vice President, Senior Research Fellow, China Centre for International Knowledge on Development;
- Professor Edgar E. **Guitierrez-Espeleta**, former Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica;
- Dr. Omar **El-Arini**, Senior Advisor on governance of the Financial Mechanisms of the Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC, Egypt;
- Dr. Lino **Briguglio**, Professor, University of Malta;

- H.E. Dr. Fatumanava Pa'olelei **Luteru**, Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations;
- Ms. **Tan** Lee Woan, Dean of Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; and,
- Dr. Louise **Fox**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, African Growth Initiative, Global Economy and Development, the Brookings Institute, United States of America;

Further, I have decided to appoint H.E Mr. Gaston Browne and H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg as Co-chairs to lead the work of the panel.

I count on your continued support to the panel as it carries forward its work to finalize the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States by December 2022.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest considerations.



Abdulla SHAHID

All Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York