

Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

Final text

The General Assembly,

PP1 *Recalling* its resolutions 78/232 of 22 December 2023, 77/245 of 30 December 2022, 76/302 of 17 December 2021 and 75/215 of 21 December 2020, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP2 *Recognising* that sustainable development is multidimensional and affected by multiple, intersecting, exogenous and endogenous factors, and that vulnerability to adverse exogenous shocks and stressors poses risks for sustainable development, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP3 *Recognising also* that income-based measures may not fully reflect all development realities, vulnerabilities and challenges, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP4 *Highlighting* the need to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems, and provide financial and technical support to improve data collection and statistical analysis in developing countries, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP5 *Noting* the lack of a universally accepted, international quantitative benchmark to measure exogenous structural vulnerability and lack of resilience to exogenous shocks across multiple dimensions of sustainable development at the national level, that can be used to complement Gross National Income per capita, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP6 *Recognizing* that the Panel, and its report, were guided by the Secretary General's Report A/76/211, including on multidimensionality, universality, exogeneity, availability and readability, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP7 *Recalling* paragraph 10 of resolution 77/245 of 30 December 2022, which, *inter alia*, supported the proposed definitions for structural vulnerability and resilience and the two-level structure outlined in the interim report of the High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States as the basis for the Panel's continued work, guiding the selection of appropriate indicators to inform vulnerability across all sectors of sustainable development, the proposed governance structure and the development of the country vulnerability-resilience profiles; ***Agreed ad ref***

PP8 *Noting* the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, developed by the High-Level Panel, has a two-tiered structure, comprising a universal level quantitative assessment of structural vulnerability, understood as exposure to adverse external shocks and stressors and lack of resilience and Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profiles, which can provide a more detailed, tailored and individualized characterization of a country's structural and non-structural vulnerability and resilience, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP9 *Recognizing* that the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index does not address endogenous factors, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP10 *Noting* also the importance of upholding data ownership, integrity, reliability, accuracy and simplicity in the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP11 *Noting* also the Panel's finding of a weak correlation between income level and both vulnerability and lack of resilience, and that even for some countries that have sufficient resources to invest in resilience building and may reach high income status, their vulnerability remains a threat to their sustainable development, and the importance of measuring and addressing vulnerability even within developing countries with a relatively high national income, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP12 *Noting* the Panel's finding that it is difficult to establish any vulnerability threshold or cutoff analogous to income cutoffs, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP13 *Noting* that the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index provides an assessment of vulnerability by measuring the risk of harm from exposure to adverse external (exogenous) shocks and stressors, was designed to reflect structural challenges, and is not a general measure of development or policy performance, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP14 *Acknowledging* the various indexes produced by the United Nations, including those developed by the UN Committee for Development Policy, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP15 *Acknowledging* that the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index is a living tool, that is a complement to, and not a substitute for, existing indices and metrics, and that it can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of development realities, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP16 *Recognizing* the potential to further improve the MVI, *inter alia* by considering additional indicators to be included in future iterations of the index as well as indicators for potential refinement or removal, to effectively capture the vulnerabilities of all developing countries, ***Agreed ad ref***

PP17 *Recognizing* that the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index may inform future initiatives that go beyond GDP, ***Agreed ad ref***

The Final Report

1. *Welcomes* the work of the “High-Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States”, takes note of its final report and decides to advance the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index; ***Agreed ad ref***

Scope

2. *Notes* that, although initially proposed by Small Island Developing States, the index aims to capture exogenous vulnerabilities and lack of resilience to exogenous shocks of all developing countries, so as to ensure credibility and comparability, under the guidance of the Secretary General's Report A/76/211; ***Agreed ad ref***

Applicability

3. *Stresses* that the use of the MVI is voluntary, guided by the specific needs of the end user and informed by national contexts; ***Agreed ad ref***

4. *Further stresses* that the MVI should not be used directly or indirectly as a criterion to limit or hinder the ability of any developing country to access development cooperation, including through existing arrangements and practices; ***Agreed ad ref***

5. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates and where applicable, to consider using the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, including the Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profiles, in their relevant programmes of work and reporting, focusing on the countries interested in its use, as a complement to existing measures; ***Agreed ad ref***

6. *Encourages* the entities of the United Nations development system to gather data and lessons learned on early implementation of the MVI and share this information, with a view to improve the index; ***Agreed ad ref***

7. *Notes* the work of the international financial institutions, international organizations and multilateral development banks to consider structural vulnerability, and invites them to consider using the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, as appropriate, as a complement to their existing practices and policies, in line with their respective mandates;

8. *Invites* development partners to explore using the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, as a complement to existing policies, to inform their development cooperation policies and practices, taking into account the priorities of those countries interested in its use; ***Agreed ad ref***

Custodianship and Governance

9. *Decides* that the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index will be maintained by: ***Agreed ad ref***

- (i) a relevant existing UN entity, which will act as the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index Secretariat, and which will compute the index on a periodic basis, as well as 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; ***Agreed ad ref***
- (ii) an Independent Expert Advisory Panel, which will prepare recommendations on future technical updates to the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index to reflect new and emerging structural vulnerability and lack of structural resilience concepts and their associated indicators, as well as new data; ***Agreed ad ref***
- (iii) the UN Statistical Commission, which will provide technical review of future technical improvements to the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index;

10. *Decides* the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index Secretariat will present a triennial report to the UN General Assembly, commencing at its 80th session, in line with the sub-item, on future improvements to the index, informed by timely technical input and recommendations from the Independent Expert Advisory Panel and UN Statistical Commission, respectively; ***Agreed ad ref***

11. *Decides* the relevant existing UN entity, which will act as the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index Secretariat, and the members of the Independent Advisory Panel will be appointed by the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, by no later than the end of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly; ***Agreed ad ref***

12. *Decides* the Independent Expert Advisory Panel will: ***Agreed ad ref***

- (i) comprise fifteen independent experts, including a minimum of five from UN Member States, who will serve in their personal capacity, without remuneration, with a good mix of expertise, who are to be drawn from the fields of economic development, social development and environmental protection, in order to avoid the need to engage the assistance of consultants and so as to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance; ***Agreed ad ref***
- (ii) conduct its work virtually, as appropriate; ***Agreed ad ref***
- (iii) comprise members who are appointed for a four year term and who are eligible for reappointment; ***Agreed ad ref***

13. *Decides* that UNDESA and UN-OHRLLS, within their respective mandates, should continue to act as interim secretariat for the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, until a relevant existing UN entity is appointed to act as the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index Secretariat by the United Nations Secretary-General; ***Agreed ad ref***

14. *Requests* the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure that adequate resources are available to support the work on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, including its periodic review, in particular for travel for the members of the Independent Expert Advisory Panel who are from developing countries, especially from Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, when in-person meetings are needed; ***Agreed ad ref***

15. *Requests* all entities involved with the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index to ensure consistency and complementarity with existing intergovernmentally agreed arrangements for data, indicators, indices and metrics, and as appropriate those related to the 2030 Agenda;

Ways to further improve the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

16. *Requests* the Independent Expert Advisory Panel to recommend future improvements triennially to the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index to ensure continued relevance, robustness and accessibility, and ensure indicators for potential addition or removal should adhere to the criteria for data sources recommended in the High Level Panel Report to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index; *Agreed ad ref*

17. *Requests* the Statistical Commission to advance technical reviews on the future improvements for the MVI, including on the potential addition or removal of indicators, and to present recommendations triennially as needed;

18. *Also requests* the Independent Expert Advisory Panel to also consider the data and lessons learned from the utilization of the Vulnerability Resilience Country Profiles, as well as the initial application of the MVI within the UN system; *Agreed ad ref*

19. *Invites* the United Nations System to promote improved understanding of vulnerability and share data and lessons learned from the implementation of the MVI among stakeholders, encompassing the IFIs, including MDBs, international organizations, research institutions, think tanks, civil society and the private sector through specialized events, workshops, training sessions, and online presentations; *Agreed ad ref*

20. *Also invites* the United Nations System to scale up capacity building programmes for developing countries to improve their national statistical systems, including the ability to collect quality, accessible, timely, reliable, comparable, data, including disaggregated data; *Agreed ad ref*

Vulnerability – Resilience Country Profiles (VRCPs)

20. *Stresses* that the Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profiles should be country-led and strictly voluntary; *Agreed ad ref*

21. *Further stresses* that the Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profiles may be taken into account to enhance, inform and contribute to national development plans and processes, including the development of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, as appropriate; *Agreed ad ref*

22. *Requests* the Secretary General to: *Agreed ad ref*

(i) develop an electronic handbook with guidance for developing Vulnerability-Resilience Country Profiles, based on the principles set out in the High Level Panel's report, including a standard structure for the profiles to ensure consistency and comparability between them; *Agreed ad ref*

(ii) pilot test the Vulnerability Resilience Country Profiles in at least four interested developing countries from different regions with different contexts and features; *Agreed ad ref*

(iii) conduct online workshops to familiarize developing countries with the development of Vulnerability Resilience Country Profiles; *Agreed ad ref*

Multidimensional Vulnerability Index Reporting

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its 80th Session under the item entitled "Sustainable Development", a sub-item entitled "*Multidimensional Vulnerability Index*" which will be considered triennially. *Agreed ad ref*