

Second Preparatory Committee Session for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development: Side Event

A Vulnerability-Informed Approach to Financing for Sustainable Development

3 December 2024, 3:00pm - 4:30pm, CR-12

The international community recognizes vulnerability as a serious obstacle to sustainable development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda noted that the level of concessionality of international public finance should take into account the level of development of each recipient, including income level, institutional capacity and vulnerability (paragraph 73), despite this commitment, concessional financing windows still remain largely reliant on meeting lower income thresholds, measured by Gross National Income per capita (GNI pc).

Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which despite being among the most vulnerable countries to the adverse impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe climate-related shocks, receive only a small proportion of Official Development Assistance (ODA), face some of the highest debt burdens and pay almost twice as much in interest on sovereign debt as developed countries. SIDS were at the forefront of advocacy to develop the UN's [Multidimensional Vulnerability Index](#) (MVI), which provides a quantitative assessment of structural vulnerability and resilience, using a common methodology for all countries.

This side event will consider how the new global agreement on financing for sustainable development can be vulnerability-informed, taking lessons learned from the process to develop the MVI. A panel discussion will explore how vulnerabilities shape the financing needs of countries, how the MVI could be used by development providers to identify and fill vulnerability financing gaps, and how vulnerability could be considered in practice to inform approaches to development finance.

Programme	
3:00pm – 3:15pm	<p><i>Moderator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, DESA <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS · Mr. Nuno Sampaio, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal and Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee for FFD4
3:15pm – 3:50pm	<p>Panel discussion: A vulnerability-informed approach to financing for sustainable development</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mr. Roland Mollerus, Director, Economic Affairs, OHRLLS <p><i>Panelists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ms. Kilisitina Tiane Tuameiapi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Kingdom of Tonga · Representative of the Government of Zambia (<i>TBC</i>) · Mr. Olivier Cattaneo, Team Leader, Senior Policy Analyst – Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD · Mr. Mathieu Verougstraete, Head of Resilient Infrastructure and Finance for Resilience, UNDRR · Dr. Emily Wilkinson, Director, Resilient and Sustainable Islands Initiative, ODI · Respondent: Ms. Ritu Bharadwaj, Director Climate Resilience and Loss, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
4:00pm – 4:25pm	<p>Interactive discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · All
4:25pm – 4:30pm	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mr. Roland Mollerus, Director, Economic Affairs, OHRLLS