



List of TOSSD recipients: proposals for expanding the list and next steps

International Forum on TOSSD (IFT)

Issues Paper¹

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Agenda item 6.a

1. Introduction

1. At its 17th meeting in July 2022, the TOSSD Task Force discussed the potential expansion of the list of TOSSD recipients.² The Task Force decided to i) temporarily adopt the list of ODA recipients from 2015 when the 2030 Agenda was agreed upon, complemented with an opt-in/opt-out mechanism; ii) consider, when available, the outcome of the United Nations' High-Level Panel (HLP) on the development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) for the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS); and iii) "keep exploring multidimensional criteria for reporting purposes, taking into account existing and future UN standards as available"³.
2. The expansion of the list of TOSSD recipients has proven effective in promoting more transparency in development support. From the 2022 reporting of 2021 activities onwards, TOSSD reporters were able to include in their data submissions support provided to Chile, Cook Islands, Seychelles and Uruguay⁴. TOSSD thus provides detailed information on official support received by these countries in 2021 and 2022. Moreover, the expansion of the list has allowed South-South co-operation (SSC) providers, such as Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay, to report more comprehensive data on their activities, fulfilling TOSSD's promise of being an inclusive statistical framework.
3. Regarding the development of an MVI, the HLP concluded the first version of the index and made it publicly available in July 2023⁵. The Secretariat has analysed the index, its components and potential benefits and implications, and explored how the index could be used to pursue the discussion on the expansion of the list of TOSSD recipients. While the HLP-MVI is not yet an established UN standard, it could be used provisionally, pending further deliberations that will take place at the United Nations.

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² Until then, the TOSSD recipients list had been the same as the list of ODA recipients complemented with an opt-in mechanism.

³ See the action points from the 17th TOSSD Task Force meeting [here](#).

⁴ The four countries were not on the list of ODA recipients for 2021 reporting but had been on the list in 2015.

⁵ See the website of the [High Level Panel of the MVI](#) and the outcome of the discussion in its [final report](#).



2. Applicability of the HLP-MVI to the list of TOSSD recipients: initial findings

4. Using the current list of TOSSD recipients as a basis, this section puts forward initial considerations on the applicability of the HLP-MVI as a criterion for updating the list, i.e., possibly expanding it with the SIDS that had been removed from the list of ODA recipients before 2015. It proposes applying the HLP MVI to the SIDS and presents two options for an MVI threshold for SIDS.
5. The HLP developed a conceptual framework for the MVI after 1.5 years of consultations and outreach. The UN Secretary-General mandated⁶ the panel to propose an MVI under the principles of multidimensionality, universality, exogeneity, availability and readability. As the final report from the HLP states, the primary objective of the MVI is to “provide a robust, acceptable, and simplified assessment of vulnerability that can be effectively operationalized by and for the benefit of vulnerable countries”.
6. According to the HLP final report⁷, the HLP-MVI determines vulnerability through a quantitative assessment of structural vulnerability and resilience, using a common methodology for all developing countries. The HLP-MVI includes economic, environmental and social dimensions of both vulnerability and resilience, represented by 18 indicators. The data sources for those indicators are mainly UN agencies, but also some non-official sources such as universities and not-for-profit organisations. In the HLP-MVI, the greater the MVI value, the greater the multi-dimensional vulnerability of the country.
7. The Secretariat investigated the HLP-MVI available data⁸ and identified four relevant findings for the discussions related to the TOSSD list of recipients:
 - The median for SIDS (57.0) is higher than the one for developing countries (52.8), as they tend to be more vulnerable than other developing countries.
 - Three SIDS at present classified by the UN as Least Developed Countries have a lower MVI than the median for SIDS, including São Tomé and Príncipe (53.5), Solomon Islands (55.9) and Timor-Leste (46.4).
 - Many dual providers/recipients, from all regions, have a lower MVI than the median MVI for developing countries. This is the case for example for Thailand (43.1), Tunisia (45.5) and Uruguay (44.7).⁹
 - The HLP-MVI does not include data on all developing countries, e.g., the Cook Islands.

⁶ See paragraphs 80-83 of [A/76/211](#) “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Report of the Secretary-General.”

⁷ Available [here](#).

⁸ Available [here](#).

⁹ See a data visualisation tool with the HLP MVI preliminary country scores [here](#).

8. In practice, the following SIDS¹⁰ included in HLP-MVI had been removed from the list of ODA recipients before 2015: Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, and Trinidad and Tobago.
9. A possible way to use the MVI as a reference for updating the list of TOSSD recipients would be to examine which SIDS listed in paragraph 8 have a higher MVI than the mean. The HLP stated in its aggregation procedures that “the final MVI score for a given country is an average of the country’s scores on the individual indicators, concepts, dimensions and pillars”¹¹. It notes that there is a minimal difference between the mean and the median, both in the case of all developing countries and for specific country groups (i.e., levels of income, Land-Locked Developing Countries and SIDS). The standard deviation is also low. This suggests that the aggregation procedures by the HLP have resulted in a well-distributed MVI.
10. Two options of thresholds could be considered: a) the mean HLP-MVI for developing countries, and b) the mean HLP-MVI for SIDS. The latter option would be more restrictive, as shown in the table below. The values of the HLP-MVI for the five SIDS removed from the list of ODA recipients before 2015, as well as for all other SIDS, are available in the Annex.

Options	Above the threshold	Below the threshold
Option a. Apply the HLP-MVI mean for developing countries (52.9)	Bahamas Barbados Saint Kitts and Nevis	Singapore Trinidad and Tobago
Option b. Apply the HLP-MVI mean for SIDS (56.63)	Bahamas Barbados	Saint Kitts and Nevis Singapore Trinidad and Tobago

11. The Secretariat welcomes members’ views on the proposed threshold.

3. Proposal for updating the list of TOSSD recipients and next steps

12. The Secretariat proposes that the list of TOSSD recipients be updated using the HLP-MVI methodology for SIDS.
13. Maintaining the current list of TOSSD recipients as a basis will ensure consistency of the data with the countries considered as developing countries in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The proposed additions are in line with the TOSSD narrative of inclusiveness, broad data coverage and the reporting to the SDG indicator 17.3.1.
14. The Secretariat further proposes keeping the opt-in/opt-out mechanism in place, as no methodology is perfect, and to keep the spirit of TOSSD of being an inclusive framework.
15. Depending on the feedback on the suggestion above, the Secretariat could present a proposal of an update of the TOSSD Reporting Instructions including a reference to the HLP-MVI for SIDS, during the

¹⁰ According to the list established by the United Nations: <https://www.un.org/ohrls/content/list-sids>

¹¹ Paragraph 49 of the HLP-MVI final report.

first meeting of the IFT Steering Group in May 2024. The Secretariat also proposes the inclusion of the following sentence in the TOSSD Reporting Instructions (under section 2.2.2. TOSSD recipients): *European Union and Development Assistance Committee member states will not be considered TOSSD recipients in any update of the List.* In the meantime, the Secretariat could already update the recipient classification to be included in the data solicitation package for the upcoming 2024 data collection round.

16. Upon the establishment of a UN standard for the MVI, the International Forum on TOSSD would need to reassess the appropriateness of the HLP-MVI methodology and the need for any subsequent changes to the TOSSD recipients list.
17. The Secretariat will continue monitoring the developments of the HLP-MVI, as well as other work that can influence the UN's final MVI standard. The International Forum on TOSSD and TOSSD data could also be well placed to give inputs to discussions at the UN on the MVI.

Issues for discussion

Members are invited to comment on the Secretariat's analysis and respond to the following questions:

- **Do members agree with keeping the current list of TOSSD recipients as a basis and considering the addition of other recipients based on multi-dimensional criteria?**
- **Do members agree with applying the HLP-MVI to the SIDS that are currently not part of the list of TOSSD recipients, and using the mean as a threshold?**
 - **If so, which mean should be used (developing countries [option a] or SIDS [option b])?**
 - **If not, what other thresholds or indicators could be considered?**
- **Do members have other suggestions on the use of the HLP-MVI for the list of TOSSD recipients?**
- **Do members agree with the proposed roadmap for updating the list of TOSSD recipients?**
- **Do members have any additional comments or suggestions?**



Annex I. Application of the HLP-MVI to SIDS removed from the list of ODA recipients since 2015

SIDS	Current TOSSD recipient?	Country MVI	Country MVI > mean MVI for Developing countries (52.9)	Country MVI > mean MVI for SIDS (56.63)
Antigua and Barbuda	Yes	61.7	Yes	Yes
Bahamas	No	59.9	Yes	Yes
Barbados	No	57.9	Yes	Yes
Belize	Yes	53	Yes	No
Cabo Verde	Yes	60.5	Yes	Yes
Comoros	Yes	60.3	Yes	Yes
Cook Islands	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cuba	Yes	46.6	No	No
Dominica	Yes	55.4	Yes	No
Dominican Republic	Yes	45.1	No	No
Fiji	Yes	51.7	No	No
Grenada	Yes	61.7	Yes	Yes
Guinea-Bissau	Yes	58.8	Yes	Yes
Guyana	Yes	46.4	No	No
Haiti	Yes	65.6	Yes	Yes
Jamaica	Yes	49.6	No	No
Kiribati	Yes	59.8	Yes	Yes
Maldives	Yes	72.2	Yes	Yes
Marshall Islands	Yes	58.9	Yes	Yes
Micronesia	Yes	64	Yes	Yes
Mauritius	Yes	52.2	No	No
Nauru	Yes	68.7	Yes	Yes
Niue	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Palau	Yes	57	Yes	No
Papua New Guinea	Yes	47.1	No	No
Samoa	Yes	62.5	Yes	Yes
Sao Tome and Principe	Yes	53.5	Yes	No
Singapore	No	52.4	No	No
Saint Kitts and Nevis	No	55	Yes	No
Saint Lucia	Yes	66.5	Yes	Yes
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Yes	61.8	Yes	Yes
Seychelles	Yes	54.5	Yes	No
Solomon Islands	Yes	55.9	Yes	No
Suriname	Yes	43.2	No	No
Timor-Leste	Yes	46.4	No	No
Tonga	Yes	57	Yes	No
Trinidad and Tobago	No	50.3	No	No
Tuvalu	Yes	64.3	Yes	Yes
Vanuatu	Yes	54.4	Yes	No