

MEETING SUMMARY
Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Date: 25 March 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00 pm (New York Time)

Member Organizations in attendance: CARICOM, Commonwealth Secretariat DCO, ECLAC, FAO, GEF, IAEA, GLIPSA, INTRACEN, IRENA, OLA/DOALOS, PIFS, UNDESA, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UN-HABITAT NY, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNDRR, UN-OHRLLS (Organizer), UNOPS, UN RC (SAMOA MCO), RCO (Micronesia), RCO (Cabo Verde), World Bank, RC office (Barbados MCO), WIPO, WTO

Chair: Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director of OHRLLS

Summary:

The IACG meeting, the first in 2021, held a focused discussion on the preparation of the Secretary-General Report on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, which included updates on (1) the multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI), (2) the development of a monitoring framework for the SAMOA Pathway (3) the review and examination of the disaster related funding and support environment for SIDS. The meeting also received a brief report on the IACG Work Plan for 2020 and a brief presentation on Workplan for 2021 from OHRLLS. DCO also provided an update on the MCO review and implementation and COVID-19 recovery plans, followed by discussions. Members also got an opportunity to provide an update on their COVID-19 recovery plans.

1. Opening remarks – OHRLLS

- **Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox**, Director of OHRLLS, noted the pandemic continues to impact constituencies and how members are able to serve. She commended the UN for rising above the occasion and demonstrating some agility to be able to serve in such a difficult context.
- OHRLLS was able to engage in several SIDS related activities on a range of issues including on access to concessional financing, debt sustainability, sustainable energy solutions, Oceans and food security. The issues of access to finance and debt sustainability remain critical for SIDS recovery. Some of the activities included:
 - Co-organizing a discussion on debt risk in SIDS, in the context of the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond process.
 - Together with AOSIS, engaging in a number of initiatives, including with the UK on how to increase SIDS access to development financing and to devise concrete solutions for a resilient post COVID-19 recovery.
 - With FAO, OHRLLS sought to raise the profile of food security issues arising from COVID-19.

- Facilitated SIDS national focal points engagement on COVID-19 through regional virtual meetings, in which many members participated.
- She further underscored that issues of access to finance also underpin the work on the development of the multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI), including the work spearheaded by the SIDS Resident Coordinators.
- The chair noted the vaccines roll out, and the risk of vulnerable constituencies not receiving them at a pace that is required. To better understand the scale of COVID-19 vaccines distribution to the most vulnerable countries, including SIDS, OHRLLS will be extending its campaign, [TheMostVulnerable91](#) campaign, to also focus on access to vaccines by LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
- She also encouraged members to update [the SIDS events calendar](#) to keep everyone abreast of what SIDS related meetings will be taking place. OHRLLS is planning several meetings including the SIDS Global Business Network / Virtual Forum – *Leveraging Partnerships for the Development of Ocean Energy in SIDS*, co-organized with IRENA, and the Annual meeting for SIDS national focal points planned for the last quarter in the Caribbean region, in which invited members who wishes to participate to attend.
- The chair informed OHRLLS is leading the preparations for the LDC 5, to be held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 23-27 January 2022. The African Regional preparatory meeting was held virtually on 22 – 26 February 2021. Africa has three (3) SIDS (Comoros, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe) which are also LDCs. The Asia Pacific Regional Review is scheduled to take place from 18 to 22 April 2021.
- She concluded her remarks by underling the importance of the MVI and the need for a unified approach.

2. Preparation of the SG's Report

a) Preparation of the SG's Report on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

- DESA recalled **paragraph 20** of [A/RES/75/215](#), requesting the Secretary- General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session, *"a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, including on progress made and continuing challenges faced, on the implementation of the present resolution, building on the discussions and outcomes of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, convened in September 2019, and on the efforts to assist small island developing States to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic"*.
- **On 23 February 2021**, a letter was dispatched to UN Member States – the member Entities of Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs-Plus (UN EC-ESA Plus), members of the IACG and to other SIDS stakeholders, inviting them to participate once again in the annual survey by the UN Secretariat (via a Questionnaire), to provide information on new and updated actions taken at all levels to address the priorities of SIDS. The word limit of this year's contribution has been reduced to 500 words, taking cognizance of the other matters to be reported in a 8000 words limit report. IACG members were reminded to submit their inputs to DESA by **30 April 2021**.

b) Update on the Multidimensional vulnerability index

- DESA referred members to **Paragraph 8(a)**, [A/RES/75/215](#) which requests the SG to ***provide recommendations as part of his report on the present resolution to the General Assembly at its 76th session on the potential development and coordination of work within the UN system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use.***
- ON 17 February, UNDESA and UNOHRLLS held a briefing to Member States, the UN-system entities and other stakeholders on the history and status of ongoing work within the UN system on the development of the MVI for SIDS and articulated the UN Secretariat strategy of moving this mandate forward which will be included: **Technical Webinar Series** (UNDESA); and Member **States Briefing** (OHRLLS)
- Invitations to the Technical Webinar series, beginning 5th April, were issued to organisations including UNDP, UNEP, OECD, the World Bank, the IMF, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat; and the SIDS Resident Coordinators Network, with some having formally expressed their interest: UNCTAD, WMO, FAO, GEF and UNICEF. The Commonwealth Secretariat, the Asia Development Bank, the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative, Professor Lino Briguglio, retired Professor of the University of Malta, whom in 1992 presented the first known attempt at constructing a vulnerability have also confirmed their participation. An invitation was also made to IACG members.

c) Update on the development of a monitoring framework for the SAMOA Pathway

- DESA referred **to resolution 74/217 adopted on 19 December 2019, which;**

*“20. Recognizes that improved data collection and statistical analysis are required to enable small island developing States to effectively plan, follow up on, evaluate the implementation of and track success in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, in this regard **calls upon the Secretary-General, within existing resources and in consultation with Member States, all relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant stakeholders, to identify the Samoa Pathway priority areas not covered by the Sustainable Development Goals or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,6 and, if any are identified, to develop forthwith targets and indicators for those priority areas while ensuring complementarities and synergies and avoiding duplication, in order to strengthen monitoring and evaluation,** and noting the work being done by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to develop a toolkit for a harmonized approach to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway as a whole, and to provide recommendations as part of the report of the Secretary-General*

on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly, at its seventy-sixth session;”

- To deliver the mandate, the work involved requires a two phased approach;(1) undertaking an alignment exercise with SDG Targets and Identification of SAMOA Pathway issue area gaps and their respective targets and (2) identification of indicators and related work based on the targets selected by Member States.
- The work has progressed towards completion. The Secretariat will provide this work to member States and to members of the IACG for their comments and suggestions with the view to presenting the same to the 2nd Committee for deliberations.

d) Update on the review and examination of the disaster related funding and support environment for SIDS

- The General Assembly in Resolution 74/217 adopted on 19 December 2019, in operative paragraph 10, ***Calls upon the Secretary-General to conduct, in consultation with Member States, all relevant UN system entities and other relevant stakeholders, an examination of the disaster-related funding and support environment, with a view to the possible development of a targeted voluntary disaster fund, mechanism or financial instrument, coordinated with and complementary to existing mechanisms, to assist small island developing States in managing disaster risk and building back better after disasters, and to report at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly;”***
- The work involved will require the following phases; (1) undertaking an Assessment (scoping study) of all funding for climate and disaster resilient development to SIDS. The study should identify and clarify the nature and scope of all funding (concessional, non-concessional, grants, bi lateral, multilateral etc.) for climate and disaster resilience to SIDS and provide an analysis of trends and recommendations (2). Based on recommendations design a targeted voluntary disaster fund, mechanism or financial instrument, coordinated with and complementary to existing mechanisms, to assist SIDS in managing disaster risk and building back better after disasters including recommendations for operationalizing and its sustainability.
- This work is progressing towards completion. Members of the IACG and member States will be provided a copy of the Assessment for comments, prior to referral to the 2nd Committee for further deliberation.

Discussions

- **RCO (Samoa MCO)** informed that the work led by the RCO Network to contribute to the process of the development of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index is advancing. The work brings a perspective from the field, drawing from field resources - economists and the strategists, and is undertaken with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Professor Jeffrey Sachs. There has also been brainstorming on ways in which

the MVI could benefit the UN system itself and most importantly, ensuring that development cooperation is guided by a measurement of vulnerability.

- She also informed that the SDG fund has launched an exercise to collect ideas, proposals for a dedicated line of funding, in line with a recommendation for a dedicated line of financing from the SDG fund to the Small Island Developing States.
- **UNEP** has been working on indices and expresses its commitment to support the MVI process.
- The development of a monitoring framework and review and examination of disasters, requires support from all the different agencies that are working on this issue. It will be important to have a clear roadmap, and to ensure Agencies could receive documents to give adequate time to provide reactions, to better support and contribute to this work.
- The **Chair** underscored the opportunity to come together to find, not only common ground, but a common voice and message of the UN system on the MVI. The MVI and the discussions at the UNSG office recognizes that this is a complicated issue and many efforts in the past have failed. Therefore, there is a need to learn from those, and to make sure that the final recommendations have the UN behind it, the key member states and already have a measure of buy-in from the main development partners, including financial institutions. The recommendations should be technically feasible and implementable by partners.
- **CBD** pointed out the opportunity for alignment of the work on an MVI with that on the development of its post 2020 global biodiversity framework. The CBD is negotiating new global goals and targets for biodiversity, and these includes aspects that are intrinsic to biodiversity, including disaster risk reduction and vulnerability and livelihoods etc. The lack of data in many parts of the world and in developing parts of the world, could benefit from alignment on the MVI process and the discussions on the indicators for the post 2020 framework, including the sharing/reporting of information against these indicators.
- **UNDP** has prepared a discussion paper on the multi-vulnerability index, which was shared in February. Several presentations on the work have been made based on the request of the different development partners including OECD. UNDP plans to bring this work into the context of the MVI process led UNDESA and OHRLLS to avoid having parallel processes, and so that the UN system speaks with one voice.
- **CARICOM** emphasized the need for a strategic approach on the MVI, including clarity on what is the ultimate objective: whether it is to revive or enhance advocacy for SIDS access to concessional resources etc. CARICOM made reference to the High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond (FFDI), co-hosted by Jamaica and Canada, and the need for special consideration with respect to financing for middle

income, highly vulnerable countries, given that they are the ones that have been left out of initiatives like the DSSI.

- **CARICOM** wanted to know when the MVI process will conclude, and when an MVI could be strategically used to advance the interests of the SIDS. It would be especially important for the middle-income Caribbean SIDS to have a very strong platform on which to advance their interests, and to have a tool that they can use in critical processes, like the FFDI.
- In relation to monitoring, in October 2020, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) established a Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) that will essentially collect data and support implementation and monitoring of implementation of both the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and SDGs. It seeks to be a multi-stakeholder mechanism, including development partners, which emphasizes complementarities. CARICOM will consult with DESA and OHRLLS to ensure implementation is carried out in a mutually supportive and complementary manner with existing mechanisms.
- The **Chair** thanked the IACG for their cooperation in this process. She reemphasized the importance of strong coordination within the Group, in order to achieve positive outcomes in the current process. Members of the IACG working on this matter need to work collectively, within the DESA/OHRLLS led process to ensure that it is a success.
- **DESA**, responding to RC (Samoa MCO), confirmed support for the request of RCO's to be the last on presenting on the webinar series on the MVI.
- On timeframes, **DESA** informed that the SG report should be ready by the 16 of July, and that 30 April is the date for submissions of input from members.
- **DESA** emphasized that UNGA resolution 75/215 focuses on the (1) potential development, (2) potential use and (3) potential finalization of the MVI. The SG's recommendations will be guided by this mandate.

3. Report on IACG Work Plan for 2020 and Workplan for 2021

- **OHRLLS** referred members to the recently shared IACG work plan (2021). To take stock of what transpired in 2020, the IACG workplan for 2020 was also shared.
- Taking stock of 2020, OHRLLS noted that COVID-19 had an impact on 2020 work plans. Many key events including the UN Oceans Conference, and the annual meetings for NFPs were postponed, or replaced, where possible, by virtual meetings. The IACG was able to hold only two meetings. Nonetheless, the IACG was still able to deliver along all three work streams, albeit with necessary adjustments in priorities and focus. OHRLLS thanked all members of the IACG who initiated, supported and collaborated on many of the virtual events.
- The 2021 plan, includes the following proposed areas work:

- (i) IACG meetings will continue to provide an important forum for the exchange of information on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Members will continue efforts toward enhancing synergies and collaboration in the respective work on SIDS, in the context of COVID-19 recovery.
 - (ii) Members will continue to provide inputs to the formulation of the Secretary-General Report on Follow up to and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.
 - (iii) The IACG will hear briefings and exchange information regarding the implementation of the MCO review, identifying critical issues for discussion and follow up, with the assistance of DCO in particular for their important contributions to these discussions.
 - (iv) Members will continue to provide support to the SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) Network, including in the preparation of the third annual meeting to be held in the Caribbean region, tentatively in fourth quarter this year. The SIDS RC network will continue to have a critical role in this regard.
- The importance of enhancing coherence, complementarity, and collaboration in the planning of activities cannot be underestimated. These may include undertaking joint activities, interagency projects, and other forms of cooperation, including in the context of the High-level Political Forum, and the General Assembly, as well as the SIDS partnership framework, Global Business Network and other SIDS related processes.
 - The **Chair** underscored that the overall objective of the IACG is achieving a better coordinated UN in support of the SIDS. The IACG meetings provide an opportunity to get to know better what members are doing, to find better possibilities for further collaboration and coherence in our work.

Discussions

- **DESA** highlighted the work to develop, agree and commence contributing relevant information into a “Post MTR Matrix” as reflected in the IACG work plan. DESA will design the Matrix and share it with members of the IACG for their comments. This is a follow up the outcome document of the High-level review of the SAMOA pathway, which makes some specific calls to individual organization.
- **UNEP** suggested members to make better usage of the UN platform that DCO has championed in response to COVID-19 which includes a set of programmatic indicators were negotiated across the UN system, to follow up the implementation taking place at the country level, through UNCTs etc. It is important to use this existing mechanism to avoid duplication and to have a more coherent reporting to member states.
- **UNEP** also suggested following up on other resolutions, emanating from the Second Committee, which equally highlight further areas that complement UN system received through the SAMOA Pathway resolution to ensure coherence in responding to the different mandates by member states.

- The **Chair**, in responding to UNEP, emphasized finding coherence at all levels with national, the regional actors and the headquarters and different organizations. The growing number of RCs participating in the IACG is commendable, and this needs further strengthening.
- In responding to UNEP, **DCO** supports the use of the UN platform for information. However, this requires inputs from all members; joint work plans and joint work plans require the engagement of the whole system. The IACG workplan should also indicate that the bulk of this work should be done by the Agencies and entities across the UN system. DCO is happy to come and brief members and underscoring that this requires increased action by all.
- **RCO (SAMOA MCO)** flagged that meetings of the priority thematic groups, an area of critical importance under the MCO review, has not been well attended. A substantive partnership with DESA, OHRLLS and all other partners around to create a functional mechanism (not another committee, nor another working group) to integrate the emerging work within the remaining five-year cooperation frameworks as a priority is suggested.
- **OHRLLS** requested further written inputs into the IACG work plan by 09 April. The workplan remains a living document.

4. Update on COVID-19 recovery plans by IACG members

a) Update on COVID-19 recovery plans and MCO review and implementation

- DCO informed members of a recent SDG principals' meeting on the 22nd of March. In terms of the MCO implementation, many of the entities have started to do more. Their inputs will go into the secretary general's report to ECOSOC (QCPR). Members can look for more details in the subsequent month.
- For the country implementation plans, cooperation frameworks will be developed so as to enable each country to produce its own plan. The Pacific has already completed theirs, and the Caribbean will be done by May 2021.
- Regarding financing, an agreement has been made for the Global SDG Fund to have an initiative specifically for SIDS.
- There has been some progress on South-South cooperation, albeit little, which is led by the UN South Cooperation Office.
- A Multi-country office has also been established in the Northern Pacific which will also have a resident coordinator by summer 2021.
- There is an additional allocation of about USD 25 000 for the outposts of the resident coordinator offices in the individual countries to enhance coordination in those.
- There is somewhat underwhelming work in terms of global strategies for SIDS that have been done by UN entities. This will require more work to be done by some of the entities in terms of their specific policy or strategy work in SIDS. At the Principals review meeting,

the DSG shined a light on the limited progress to ensure entities can pick up the pace of implementation on the seven main areas of implementation of the MCO.

Discussions

- **RCO (SAMOA MCO)** recalled that while countries have established national focal points, the MCO review also called for entities to establish focal points for small island developing States at the subregional, regional and/or headquarters level to ensure tailored and coordinated follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway, in line with cross-cutting and horizontal priorities. Once these focal points exist, OHRLLS could bring these into the SIDS national focal points meeting for a discussion on what the UN system has to offer.
- The SDG fund allocation for the SIDS should not be a once off allocation of funds. Entities could link their strategies with the financing mechanisms that are being established by the fund. There is a need for joint exercises by the UN with some allocations to allow joint programming and mobilization of additional resources.
- On the Northern Pacific office, the two RCs in the Pacific continued with some preparation of the cooperation frameworks, to ensure the oncoming RC does not have to begin planning and programming entirely from scratch. There will be cooperation frameworks for each of the three MCOs in the Pacific. The Pacific needs a strategy on how best to work with national, leveraging national expertise, since it can be very difficult to be present everywhere. Building national capacities is necessary to ensure there is staff to complement on the ground.
- Regarding coordination in the AIS region, the **Chair** indicated that a meeting of ambassadors will be needed to discuss the options available.
- **OHRLLS** also informed that work is currently ongoing to find ways in which coordination can be enhanced within the AIS region to assist the SIDS in COVID-19 recovery.
- **UNESCO** wanted to know what coordination mechanism exists for the AIS region, especially UN coordination in the region which is lagging compared to the Pacific and Caribbean region. The African continent is already plagued with vulnerability; the SIDS in Africa are therefore more vulnerable.
- In response, the **Chair** underscored the issues with regards to coordination including the geographic spread of SIDS countries in the AIS region. The AIS Ambassador from Cabo Verde has been advocating for better coordination in the AIS region. The role the Indian Ocean Commission could play has been a focus, but this is limited because it does not cover all countries. There is still a need for a meeting of the ambassadors from the AIS regions to discuss the options for better coordination in the region.

- **OHRLLS** recalled that past meetings of the SIDS national focal points, including in the context of COVID-19, have raised the issue of better coordination of the UN system. OHRLLS will be reaching out to partners to come up with ways for better coordination in the AIS SIDS.
- **RCO Cabo Verde** noted that building on the SIDS national focal point meeting that was held in Cabo Verde, the RCO Cabo Verde office has continued working with the different SIDS in AIS region, which includes exchanges and informal engagements on potential common solutions to common challenges for covid-19 recovery and sustainable development. The **RCO Cabo Verde** is supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with an active participation of the Ambassador to build a proposal to try and foster relationships and exchanges among SIDS from the AIS region. There is room to focus on digital solutions, developing common solutions that aim to overcome remoteness, that has been laid bare by COVID-19.
- **Cabo Verde** is also representing the AIS region with regards to the MVI process led by RC network.
- **DCO** expressed ambition to carry out peer exchanges and some workshops around SIDS and is hoping to get leadership buy in in the Pacific and Caribbean region. DCO, however, will try to work with all SIDS, whether they are a standalone country with its own cooperation framework or whether they are part of an MCO. SIDS have lot of commonalities that makes facilitating pure exchange and learning important.
- **UNESCO** emphasized that even without an existing coordination mechanism among the countries themselves, the UN should be creative to forge coordination solutions amongst the UN. The UN should be very nimble and flexible to adapt the situation in Africa. The two big regional hubs, Nairobi and Dakar, could be instrumental to better coordination. Special attention should be given to the Lusophone countries, which are hampered to fully participate due to the language challenge.

Update on COVID-19 recovery plans

Process

- **DCO** emphasized integration of COVID-19 recovery plans into the overall UN country team response. The guidance on COVID-19 recovery plans is that going forward COVID-19 recovery get incorporated into cooperation frameworks and the regular UN country team programming. Common Country Analysis (CCA), annual joint planning should take cognizance of the impact of COVID-19. The guidance has been communicated in several fora, including with all RCs. Most Country teams have stand-alone COVID-19 joint plans that have either ended or ending in 2021. For the cooperation framework starting in 2022, it should fully integrate COVID-19 impact. For legacy UNDAFs that runs through to 2022, then the COVID-19 Joint Work Plan should be incorporated into other joint work plans.

Data

- For the global response to COVID-19, a set of programmatic indicators were negotiated across the UN system. These are led by different UN agencies responsible for collecting the information from across the UN system. Some of the indicators, reveal the following including from SIDS:
 - *Number of people accessing essential (non-COVID-19 related) services:* 240 million people supported with essential non-COVID related services, 2 million in SIDS.
 - *# of health facilities receiving UN support to maintain essential immunization services:* 26, 218 supported in 2020 (2000+ health facilities in SIDS).
 - *# of community health workers receiving UN support to maintain essential services:* 50 000+ health workers in SIDS.
 - *Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning:* 263 Million supported (5 million + in SIDS).
 - *Number of beneficiaries of social protection schemes and services* (2.3 M + people in SIDS
 - *Number of social dialogues, advocacy and political engagement spaces facilitated:* 47 National, and 44 sub-national in SIDS.
- **DCO** underscored that it will be great to expand this data initiative beyond the COVID-19 response for SIDS.
- The **Chair** informed that OHRLLS is doing a lot of advocacy work, and that work could link with this data to ensure there is no duplication of effort as OHRLLS is also tracking the numbers of numbers of specific COVID-19 support and vaccinations etc.

b) Update from IACG members

- **UNEP's** new medium-term strategy seeks to ensure that no one is left behind, and thus has embedded this core principle. An important key area, beyond COVID-19 response, related to the impact and result of the work carried by the UN, is the ability to report as underscored by the DSG. UNEP is working on data (high quality, credible, disaggregated) to support not only the COVID-19 recovery plans, but the CCAs and cooperation frameworks. UNEP is using environmental data and analysis through the [World environment Situation Room](#) to support CCAs to ensure the cooperation framework have a strong environmental component.
- With the framework of the four of the regional fora of ministers, UNEP has specific discussions on how to support SIDS and their specific mandates and decisions at that level that goes from this regional environmental forum. There are also specific initiatives that UNEP is supporting directly through its program of work or with the support of other entities and regional organizations on data to increase the capacity of member states to have information to inform their work on the ground.
- **RCO (SAMOA MCO)** requested that a meeting of the SDIS national focal points be dedicated to a discussion of the lessons learnt in the response to COVID-19. It could be

convened to leverage the value of conversation around how SIDS responded to COVID-19 and on moving forward from a health crisis of such magnitude.

- There is a need to launch a thematic priority group on Social protection for SIDS. The last year's QCPR report of the SG does not speak about regional thematic priority groups. A conversation around the different facets of social protection in SIDS, which are different and also includes informal social protection mechanisms will be beneficial.
- **UNESCO** drew members attention to the ethical issue regarding vaccines – access, patents – and urged that these issues should be part and parcel of the dialog the UN should be having with countries in the north in support of the south who generally have limited economic power and lack the technology to produce their own vaccines. It was a call to go into the heart of the problem.

5. Any Other Business

There were no requests from the floor under any other business and the meeting was adjourned.