



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

Fostering Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Small Islands

27 May 2024, 12:00-13:30, Room 5

Organized by: Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta

Background on the event

Climate change poses a global threat with far-reaching consequences, jeopardizing lives, economies, and ecosystems worldwide. Particularly vulnerable are Small Island States and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which face heightened risks due to their coastal economies and limited resources. International cooperation is crucial for providing support and reshaping the international financial architecture to address climate-related challenges. Recognizing the urgency, efforts like the development of a Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta, in collaboration with the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, aim to quantify and address vulnerability and resilience comprehensively.

Key Issues discussed

- The Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index aims for simplicity, transparency, affordability, and replicability. It distinguishes between inherent vulnerabilities (over which there is little control), from policy and community responses, whilst assessing past, current, and future climate performance, in one single index.
- An initial overview measuring climate vulnerability and major hazards related to climate change, demonstrate that SIDS exhibit higher vulnerabilities, while SIDS, LDCs, and Landlocked countries suffer from serious constraints due to higher costs of building resilience or inadequate resources.
- Current climate indices lack comprehensiveness in addressing multidimensionality, time scale, and replicability, hindering their effectiveness. By employing a synthesis min-max formula and focusing on broad country coverage, the Climate Vulnerability and Resilience Index aims to overcome limitations of current indices and provide a valuable tool for policymakers and researchers.

Key recommendations for action

- Conducting country profiles is essential to provide a more accurate picture of climate hazards. The index is expected to present countries ranked based on vulnerability and resilience scores, revealing trade-offs and dynamics between vulnerability and adaptation levels in four quadrants.
- The index seeks to inform climate finance allocation and resilience-building efforts by providing a comprehensive understanding of vulnerability and resilience. If successful, the index could supplement climate finance decision-making and support the loss and damage debate.
- Future steps include refining the index, publishing findings, exploring collaborations for its application, creating country profiles, and cooperating with relevant centres like the A&B SIDS Centre of Excellence Data Hub and the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence hosted by Malta.