**UNSG Report July 2016 – April 2019**

The outline is largely based on previous SG reports and related resolutions, highlighting currently relevant themes and allow us to pull out a more substantive analysis of sustainable mountain development, including challenges and progress achieved within the 2030 Agenda. As standard practice, contents would be consolidated in close collaboration with concerned stakeholders.

1. **Introduction**

* Mandate/Background of the report, reference to the 2016 SG Report A/71/256
* General outline
* Key issues: urgency to act, need for holistic long/term approaches based on sustainability, resilience, inclusiveness.
* Advocacy and public awareness activities (International Year of Mountains, International Day of Mountains, main global events such as World Mountain Forum in Bishkek 2018)
* Reference to partners reached out to during consultation process (350+ MP members including 60 Member States)

1. **Background and challenges**

* General overview of the situation updating from previous report
* Present main challenges (including climate change, vulnerability to natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, poverty and food insecurity rates, political and social marginalization) faced by mountains and mountain communities (reference to family farming and indigenous populations)
* Lack of disaggregated data for sound analysis and policy advice

1. **Mountains and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (overview)**

* Emphasize link between mountains and 2030 Agenda
* The Framework for Action for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Mountains and implementation at regional level as supported by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.
* Progress (or lack of progress) towards relevant SDG mountain targets including Mountain Green Cover Index and the two 2020 targets as well as other relevant mountain targets outside SDG framework (highlighting if we are on track, if any urgency is needed and concerns with disaggregated data (if applicable).

**3A. Climate Change**

Mountain environments are very sensitive to climate change (SDG 13). Altitude, slope and exposition make mountain ecosystems very susceptible to variations in climate. Changes in snow lines or tree lines have consequences on the ecosystems and produce changes in habitats. In a 1.5 C world, glaciers in the Himalayas will lose 36% volume by 2100 (ICIMOD, Kraaijenbrink et al., 2017). Changes in the volume of mountain glaciers and in their seasonal melting patterns have an impact on water resources in many parts of the world. Continuous glacier retreat also leads to extreme events and new and evolving disaster risks for downstream populations and vulnerable transport and energy infrastructure.

This section highlights trends and challenges related to climate and in particular:

## Impact on mountain areas

## Regional trends

## Glaciers, snow and cryosphere issues

## Water issues

* 1. Mitigation and Adaptation to climate change including the FAO & Koronivia joint work on Agriculture and national examples and best practices if relevant
  2. Research

# **3B. Landscape Approach in mountains**

Focus mainly on SDG 15 (but also SDG 6, SDG 2/biodiversity), and also on uplands/lowlands interaction, and introduce the “territorial development” and agroecology perspectives as widely recognized as effective in comprehensively addressing mountain development. Reports from the mountain session reviewing SDG 15 during the Expert Group meeting in New York.

The section might address relevance of following issues to mountain development:

* 1. Watershed management, Sustainable water management and sustainable forest management

## Increasing occurrence of disasters and disaster risk reduction strategies

## Biodiversity conservation including agro-biodiversity

* 1. Land degradation and desertification
  2. Agroecology

**3C. Mountain economies and livelihoods**

Mountain provide livelihood to communities, with uneven share of national wealth, and therefore mountain communities often left behind. In mountains the main activity is largely family farming, which plays a key role for ensuring household food security as well as shaping mountain landscapes and conserving natural resources and biodiversity. Family farming communities and in particular indigenous peoples in mountains are custodians of spiritual and cultural values and of site specific knowledge. The Decade for Family Farming is an opportunity to promote national policies that support secure land tenure, access to resources, empower women and retain in mountain regions.

This section will focus on the linkages among SDG1 (No poverty) SDG 2 (sustainable agriculture, food systems and food security and nutrition in mountains), SDG 3 (Health), SDG4 (education), and SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG7 (energy), SDG10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), thus addressing the contribution of sustainable mountain development to the core principle of leaving no-one behind.

It will also look at innovation examples such as the participatory labelling of mountain products in seven countries and the creation of a Mountain Participatory Guarantee systems being implemented by MPS/FAO with IFOAM at global level.

Some trends and integrated approaches might be covered referring to:

* 1. Food insecurity and poverty in mountains
  2. Migration and urbanization
  3. Urban -rural linkages
  4. Social protection, Gender, indigenous issues
  5. Education and extension– example of the MPS IPROMO programme
  6. Sustainable food systems and Mountain Agriculture, Agrobiodiversity
  7. Mountain products and value chains – success stories from the Mountain Products Initiative including Nepal and second phase of project with UNDP
  8. Sustainable Mountain Tourism – example from the project on sustainable mountain tourism in the Philippines with Slow Food
  9. Affordable and clean/renewable energy
  10. Ecosystem based services in support of livelihoods

**3D. Governance**

Inclusive approaches to mountain development are conducive to more equitable and sustainable life in mountains, ensuring increased benefits for local communities and reducing outmigration trends. In this section the role of the Mountain Partnership will be presented, as the only UN alliance on sustainable mountain development, highlighting the need for specific pro-mountain policies, of cross-sectoral coordination at national level and other issues related to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), including domestic and international resource mobilization. The section will in particular focus on:

* 1. Policy and law – highlighting the positive role of mountain specific legal initiatives and investments – including PES.
  2. Cross-sectoral coordination – the role of the National Mountain Committees,
  3. Participatory approaches and peoples’ participation
  4. Partnerships, transboundary cooperation and Conventions (such as the Alpine and Carpathian conventions).

1. **Recommendations for sustainable mountain development**

Some possible recommendations are outlined below – these could be updated as the new ones will be distilled from the analysis of the contributions received. Recommendations may cover some of the following aspects:

* 1. **Recommendations for climate change:**

Action is needed to develop and implement measures to strengthen the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of mountain communities and reduce exposure to climate risks through increased generation and use of climate and disaster risk information such as strengthened awareness of climate threats and risks, development of hazard risk maps, early warning systems etc. Also the need to strengthen institutions for climate adaptation such as increase the capacity of local staff to promote landscape approaches, strengthened mountain governance mechanisms, training of local staff in climate smart agriculture.

* 1. **Recommendations related to landscape approaches:**

The need for mountain specific policies adopting a holistic approach that take into account an integrated landscape approach in mountains which addresses natural resource management, watershed management, sustainable water management and sustainable forest management, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, land degradation and desertification and agroecology through multistakeholder, transboundary approaches.

* 1. **Recommendations related to livelihoods improvement in mountain areas:**

Promoting diversified livelihoods options such as: improvement and shortening of value chains of mountain products, ecotourism, enhanced institutional, technical, entrepreneurial and marketing capacities of producers and institutions, increase access to markets, ecosystem based services schemes for mountain farmers.

* 1. **Recommendations building on the UN Decade for Family Farming**

Strengthening of mountain family farming with women empowerment and gender equality, specific policies for mountain family farming, securing land tenure, providing access to resources for mountain family farms and improving basic infrastructure in mountain regions.

* 1. **Recommendations related to international processes**

Prioritization of mountain issues with development agendas and processes, implementation of the Mountain Partnership Framework for Action for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Mountains commitments including the mentioning of mountains in the Voluntary National Reports, highlighting the role of mountain ecosystems and mountain communities in the UN Conventions and other relevant global fora )

* 1. **Recommendations related to financial mechanisms, including blended financing approach, partnerships with the private sector and creating an enabling environment**
  2. **Recommendations related to advocacy, knowledge management and outreach** Build on the multi-stakeholder membership of the Mountain Partnership and take advantage of the opportunities provided by International Mountain Day and other relevant UN days and decades)
  3. **Recommendations related to data:**

Increase the collection and dissemination of disaggregated data on mountain related economic, social, environmental and meteorological issues for policy advice at the local, national and regional level.