

# HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

16 JULY 2019. 06.30-08.00 PM

UNHQ - CONFERENCE ROOM F

# BUILDING CLIMATE ACTION IN MOUNTAINS

13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



## Objectives

- Advocate for pro-mountain climate change adaptation policies
- Report on the Framework for Action for implementing mountains in the 2030 Agenda
- Encourage international commitment for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management
- Share innovative agricultural initiatives and ethical financial schemes for climate-smart mountain communities
- Build alliances and better data to promote the role of mountains as the world's water towers



## Moderator

**Mr Grammenos Mastrojeni**  
Coordinator for the Environment at the  
Italian Development Cooperation, Italian  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chair of the  
Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

## Panelists

**H.E. Ms Maria Ubach**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Principality of Andorra

**H.E. Ms Mirgul Moldoisaeva**, Permanent Representative of  
the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN

**Mr Jacques Ducrest**, Alternate Delegate of the Federal Council  
for the Agenda 2030, Switzerland

**Mr Josep M. Casals Alis**, Director of Agriculture. Ministry of  
Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of Andorra

**Mr Lucas Tavares**, Senior Liaison Officer, FAO LONY

**Ms Yoko Watanabe**, Global Manager, GEF Small Grants  
Programme, UNDP

**Mr Paul D. Egerton**, WMO Representative to the United  
Nations, Cabinet of the WMO Secretary-General

**Mr Giorgio Grussu**, Project Coordinator FAO Mountain  
Partnership Secretariat



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Permanent Mission of the  
Principality of Andorra  
to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Italy  
to the United Nations



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



SGP

The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



## Mountains and climate change (SDG13)

**M**ountain ecosystems are home to more than one billion people, or nearly 15 percent of the world's population, and provide essential services for downstream areas, particularly water regulation. Climate change increasingly threatens the ecosystems service provision by mountains and their support to mountain communities' livelihoods.

**A** recent study by ICIMOD states that even the most ambitious Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C by the end of the century would lead to a 2.1°C spike in temperatures. Such increase would induce the melting of one-third of the Hindu Kush Himalaya region's glaciers, a critical water source to some 250 million mountain dwellers and to 1.65 billion inhabitants of the valleys below. If global climate efforts fail, current emissions would lead to 5 degrees in warming and a loss of two-thirds of the region's glaciers by 2100. Continuous glacier retreat leads to extreme events and negative effects on downstream infrastructures and communities.

**R**estoring mountain ecosystems, adopting climate sensitive agricultural practices, reducing mountain people's exposure to climate risks and strengthening their adaptive capacity are essential to achieve the goals of ending poverty, zero hunger, clean water, clean energy, economic growth and reducing inequalities.

**J**oint adaptation and mitigation measures in mountains can improve the livelihoods of mountain people and reduce the risk of disaster both in the highlands and lowlands. There is a need to invest in generating and use climate and disaster risk information. This includes strengthened awareness of climate threats

and risks and development of hazard risk maps and early warning systems.

**O**ther important actions to be taken are to strengthen institutions for climate adaptation such as increasing the capacity of local staff to promote ecosystem restoration, improve mountain governance mechanisms and training of local staff in climate smart agriculture.

**T**o create equal opportunities for mountain peoples, whose main activity is often family farming, it is crucial to promote diversified livelihoods options such as improvement of value chains of mountain products, ecotourism, entrepreneurial and marketing capacities of producers and institutions, access to markets and establishment of ecosystem based services.

## The Mountain Partnership

The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations voluntary alliance of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, established in 2002. Its main mission is to improve the lives of mountain peoples and protect mountain environments around the world.

Currently, it has 370 members, of which 60 are governments. In December 2017, the Mountain Partnership endorsed a framework for action to increase and coordinate the efforts of its members towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under the Framework for Action, members commit to review their policies and strategies to reflect the relevance of mountains in their national development.

So far, 29 Mountain Partnership member governments have presented Voluntary National Reviews at the High-Level Political Forum, 14 of them at the HLPF 2019 and 15 at HLPF 2018.

