Mountain Partnership Governance
2022-2025

I.   Background and history

In 1992, the heads of state or government of most of the world's nations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED or "Rio Earth Summit") signed a plan for action, "Agenda 21". Its Chapter 13 is entitled "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development". Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) is generally described as "a regionally-specific process of sustainable development that concerns both mountain regions and populations living downstream or otherwise dependent on these regions in various ways" (Price and Kim, 1999).

Following the inclusion of Chapter 13 in Agenda 21, awareness and understanding of the global importance of mountains for the services they provide, as well as of the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems and communities increased, particularly through a series of important global and regional meetings (see Appendix 4) among scientists, development agencies and other key stakeholders. A specific outcome was the declaration of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1998, that 2002 would be the International Year of Mountains. In that year, many activities recognizing the diverse values of mountains and the importance of SMD took place worldwide. In addition, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg, the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions was established, with essential support from the Governments of Italy and Switzerland, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – the UN Lead Agency for mountains. This partnership, now known as the "Mountain Partnership" (MP), is a Type II Partnership, i.e. a voluntary transnational umbrella alliance of mountain actors (governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and private sector organizations) who are committed to collaborating to advance mountain-specific goals. Like other Type II Partnerships, the MP is not a legal entity. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was tasked with hosting and implementing a secretariat to support the MP.

Over the 20 years of the existence of the MP (2002-2021), its membership has grown to 437 members (as of 2 November 2021), including 60 national governments, 18 inter-governmental organizations, 9 subnational authorities, 24 global major groups organizations and 326 civil society and other organizations of great diversity in every respect. Many actions in support of SMD have been accomplished at all levels, from global – such as the inclusion of mountains in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – to local. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) has played an important role in creating an enabling environment for key actors to work together towards joint goals.

The basic elements of the governance of the MP were first defined in the document entitled "Mountain Partnership – Organization, Membership and Governance", resulting from the consultative process that followed the launch of the MP and officially endorsed by the MP at its second Global Meeting in September 2004 in Cusco, Peru. The main principles expressed in the governance chapter

refer to "participation of all members, accountability, responsiveness, consensus, transparency and flexibility".

Over the years of the MP's existence, the Governance has regularly been updated to reflect the changes in context and realities in which the MP operates.

The present document outlines the current elements governing the membership and functioning of the MP.

II.   Vision and mission

VISION: The members of the MP envision a world with increasing public and private sector attention, commitment, engagement and investment in SMD that:

- maintain and enhance the conservation, health, vitality and stewardship of mountain ecosystems for their inherent value and for the benefit of mountain communities and those who live in the surrounding lowlands;
- improve the social and economic well-being and livelihoods of, and opportunities for, both mountain people – particularly the most vulnerable – and those who live in the surrounding lowlands; and
- empower and enable mountain people to be fully engaged in the decision-making processes that determine the future of mountain communities and ecosystems.

MISSION: The MP is a [vibrant] voluntary alliance of governments and organizations committed to working together with the common goal of achieving SMD around the world. By tapping the wealth and diversity of resources, knowledge, information and expertise within its global membership, the MP engages in advocacy and stimulates concrete initiatives at all levels to address threats, improve quality of life and sustain healthy environments in the world's mountain regions.

III.   Guiding principles

Activities, events and projects that take place under the auspices of the MP are guided by the following principles:

- **Mission-driven** – MP activities focus on achieving the MP's mission;
- **Membership-driven** – MP members determine the MP's goals and objectives;
- **Mutual responsibility, inclusiveness and engagement** – Membership in the MP comes with responsibilities (see Section V.C) and requires willingness to fulfill the membership roles and responsibilities;
- **Balanced and representative participation in governance** – Balanced and representative participation is achieved both geographically in terms of major (mountain) regions and with regard to the diverse types of stakeholders that are MP members;
- **Transparency and collaboration** – MP members vow to operate their partnership in an open, transparent and collaborative manner, including transparency on financial matters related to the MP and collaboration, not only between and among MP members but also with entities that are committed to advancing SMD and that are not members of the MP;

76 - **Consensus-based decision making** – MP members strive to make decisions about the
77   Partnership by consensus (defined in Section VI); and
78 - **Building on existing activities** – MP members strive to maximize synergies, building on
79   current activities/initiatives and member strengths.

IV. Functions

81 The members of the MP intend their partnership to be an active and critically important platform for
82 advancing the global agenda on SMD. As such, membership in the MP should be an added value, and
83 the MP should enable members to implement their specific mountain-related mandate and initiatives
84 more effectively, visibly and collaboratively and to embed them into the global "mountain agenda".
85 Below are listed the main MP pillars of work for which the Partnership has a comparative advantage
86 and which require collaborative efforts among members to be achieved. The main pillars are:

88 - **Advocacy** – raising global attention to and awareness of SMD in relevant international
89   processes, including the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) of the UN
90   Conventions, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and other UN events, and promoting
91   tangible commitments from the international community for mainstreaming SMD into policy
92   processes;
93 - **Communication and knowledge management** – generation, validation and effective
94   communication of the growing body of knowledge and experience about SMD (including
95   traditional/indigenous knowledge as well as scientific and technical knowledge), as well as of
96   information and key messages about activities, events, projects, reports, etc. relevant to
97   SMD, to relevant target audiences to advance the mountain agenda;
98 - **Joint action** – promoting joint innovative initiatives that have impact on the ground, and
99   facilitating collaborative action among MP members and others on themes of relevance to
100   SMD;
101 - **Capacity development** – promoting activities, initiatives and projects aimed at transferring
102   beneficial knowledge and skills to develop and increase the capacity of MP members,
103   mountain communities, mountain dwellers, and institutions to achieve SMD; and
104 - **Resource mobilization** – collectively and individually identifying and raising funds for SMD,
105   and actively engaging potential resource partners (e.g. governments, donor agencies, private
106   foundations and corporations) for financial and in-kind resources for the achievement of the
107   MP's mission and the larger goal of SMD.

V. Membership

A. Criteria

111 The MP is a self-governed, voluntary alliance that is open for membership to governments and
112 subnational authorities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations. Civil society
113 organizations follow the UN definition as "any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized
114 on a local, national or international level". As such, individuals cannot be members. All members of
115 the MP must be committed to advancing SMD. They must also be willing and able to engage in
116 dialogue and collaboration with representatives of other MP members to further SMD.

117   The criteria for establishing and maintaining membership in the MP include:

118   • endorsement of the vision, mission and guiding principles of the MP;
119   • active involvement in SMD;
120   • be a formal entity with organizational capacity and access to resources (financial, in-kind or
121   both) within the organization to contribute to SMD and to play an active role in the MP;
122   • ability to access information and communication technologies to participate effectively in MP
123   activities;
124   • nomination of a focal point and an alternate focal point for regular interaction with members
125   and the MPS; and
126   • willingness to collaborate with other MP members and to fulfill to their membership roles and
127   responsibilities.

128   Interested governments and organizations may apply to become members of the MP by submitting
129   a request for membership to the MPS with a brief presentation of the purpose/mission and activities
130   of the government or organization related to SMD, along with a description of the contribution that
131   they intend to make for achieving the mission of the MP. The MPS shares the applications received
132   with the relevant Steering Committee members for information and advice   as appropriate.

133   ## B.   Categories of members

134   For the purpose of the MP work, and in order to reflect the scope of their action at local, national,
135   regional or global level, MP members are divided into five categories:

136   • Governments
137   • Subnational authorities
138   • Intergovernmental organizations
139   • Major groups organizations

140   The MP seeks to have representation from all of the major mountainous regions of the world, and it
141   classifies its members according to the following seven geographical regions:

142   1. Asia and the Pacific
143   2. Central Asia
144   3. Europe
145   4. Middle East and North Africa
146   5. North & Central America and the Caribbean
147   6. South America and
148   7. Sub-Saharan Africa

149   ## C.   Responsibilities

150   The members of the MP collaborate to achieve the five main pillars of action (outlined in Section IV).
151   They communicate their anticipated engagements for advancing the mission of the MP and ensure,
152   as a matter of solidarity and reliability, the implementation of these engagements. This approach to
153   accountability to the overall cause is an essential feature of a self-governing voluntary alliance,
154   especially one that includes members that are as diverse as those of the MP. In particular,

representatives of MP member governments and organizations are expected to fulfill to the extent possible the following core roles and responsibilities specifically in:

- participating in national and international fora, dialogues and negotiations related to SMD;
- raising attention about the importance of prioritizing SMD and of making the voices of mountain communities heard in national policies and international agreements and actively engaging with national focal points of relevant processes (e.g. UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, HLPF);
- promoting research and extension activities that are relevant to mountain-specific issues;
- sharing success stories, case studies, good practices and/or lessons learned with the MP members and for the MP databases;
- engaging in the identification of and, whenever possible, the mobilization of funds to promote investments in mountain areas;
- raising awareness about the need to prioritize SMD in national budgets;
- organizing capacity development activities (i.e. courses, workshops and trainings) to strengthen members' understanding of different aspects of sustainable mountain development; and
- initiating and/or participating in collaborative activities and joint initiatives with other MP members.

Loss of membership: If members are inactive for a period exceeding 3 years, the MPS will contact them and verify their interest to continue being a member of the Mountain Partnership. In case of no response, the MPS will make a recommendation to the Steering Committee for their removal from the list of members. Members no longer interested in being part of the MP are always free to inform the MPS of their desire to withdraw their membership. Confirmation of membership withdrawals, recommended by the MPS or requested by the members, will be done during the Steering Committee's meetings. The name of the member will be removed from the website of the MP.

VI.   Governing philosophy and mechanisms

A.   Philosophy

Mountain Partnership members seek to establish the minimum degree of structure that is consistent with the guiding principles, functions and objectives enumerated above, and that is necessary to effectively and efficiently achieve the outputs and activities described below.

B.   Main bodies

The principal bodies for governing MP activities include: meetings of the full membership of the MP, hereafter referred to as the Global Meeting (GM); a Steering Committee (SC) made up of a representative and balanced subset of MP members; and a Secretariat (the MPS). The roles and functions, composition and lines of accountability of each of these mechanisms are described below:

1. *Global Meeting*

Role and function: The GM is the highest governing body of the MP. Global Meetings serve as the means by which the full membership of the MP develops and expresses its intentions regarding the future direction of the MP. Typically, this is accomplished through the adoption of four-year strategies for advocacy and communication and of the revised governance paper. A GM is held – if possible –

194 once every four years with all members expected to participate in person. In case of funding or travel
195 restrictions, every efforts will be made to ensure virtual participation by members in key decision-
196 making sessions of the GM.

197 **Agenda:** The GM agenda includes items to ratify MP governance and planning documents, and any
198 future updates to them, but also a wide variety of knowledge sharing and networking activities
199 designed to advance the mission of the MP.

200 **Composition:** Global Meetings are open to participation from all members of the MP. Consistent with
201 the guiding principle of collaboration with entities that are working on SMD who are not MP members,
202 GMs are also open to observers that are not members of the MP. However, only MP members can
203 participate in decisions and voting.

204 **Voting:** The GMs take decisions by consensus. In exceptional cases, when a consensus is not reached,
205 decisions are taken by simple majority. Votes are cast through a written open ballot, unless a secret
206 ballot is requested (and voted) by the GM. In view of the possible hybrid nature of GMs, online voting
207 modalities shall be available to enable all MP members to vote.

208 **Funding:** Members are encouraged to contribute to the organization of GMs and to mobilize resources
209 to support their own and other members' participation. The MPS will also seek resources to ensure
210 that members from developing countries with financial constraints will be able to participate.

211 ### *2. Steering Committee*

212 **Role and function:** The SC serves as the representative body of MP members between the GMs: It

213 • oversees the preparation of the four-year advocacy and communication strategies and
214 governance paper and facilitates their implementation across the membership.
215 • oversees the work of the MPS and reviews and approves its annual work plan.

216 The members (and alternate members) of the SC do not represent their own institutions but their
217 electoral group (see paragraph 'Composition'). Steering Committee members in addition to the
218 knowledge of their own region have an understanding of global issues related to SMD.

219 The SC meets in person once per year, if possible, and virtually 2–3 times per year. Further meetings
220 can be called at the discretion of the Chair or, in the absence of the Chair, Vice Chairs as needed.

221 **Composition:** The SC is divided in electoral groups. It shall include no more than 18 seats. Electoral
222 groups are meant to represent the diverse membership of the MP, both in terms of the categories and
223 balanced representation of the world's mountainous regions (see Section V.B.).
224 The composition of the SC is as follows (for the clustering of the current members according to the
225 seven regions and electoral groups, please refer to Appendix 5):

226 • 1 representative of the national governments from each region (7 members);
227 • 1 representative of the major group organizations from each region (7 members);
228 • 1 representative of intergovernmental organizations (1 member);
229 • 1 representative of global major group organizations (1 member);
230 • 1 representative of the resource partner organizations to the MPS (1 member); and

231 • 1 representative of the host institution of the MPS (1 member).

232 For each SC member, an alternate focal point (government or organization) is chosen that participates
233 (see paragraph 'Selection of the Steering Committee members'; bullet 7) in the SC meeting when the
234 main focal point (government or organization) is unable to participate.

Chair and Vice-chairs

236 The SC has one Chair and two Vice Chairs.

237 The Chair is responsible for conducting the meetings of the SC. The Vice Chairs will conduct SC
238 meetings in the absence of the Chair. The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) of the SC are available in
239 Appendix 1.

Observers to the Steering Committee Meetings:

241 Mountain Partnership members who are resource partner organizations to the budget of the MPS can
242 request to be included in the resource partner organizations' cluster (i.e. electoral group 'Resource
243 partner organizations'; see Appendix V), if they so desire. If the resource partner organization is not
244 an elected member of the SC, it may act as an observer in its original electoral group.

245 The host institution of the MPS automatically receives a place in the SC and acts as an observer in its
246 original electoral group.

247 The Coordinator of the MPS participates in the SC meetings as an observer.

248 Other observers (e.g. experts, resource persons) may be invited to SC meetings – pending SC's
249 approval – as required by the agenda of a particular session.

Selection of the Steering Committee members:

251 <u>Nomination of candidates to be elected members of the SC</u>

252 1) During preparations for the GM, MP members within each electoral group are invited to
253   express their interest in becoming a member of the SC. The deadline for MP members to
254   advance their candidacy is one month before the start of the GM.
255 2) The nomination process is carried out within the different electoral groups and may be
256   facilitated, upon request, by the MPS.
257 3) Nominations are to be sent to the MPS and will be published on the MP website until the date
258   of the closing of the nominations.
259 4) Following the closing of nominations, the selection of SC members will be made within each
260   electoral group during the GM by means of voting.

261 <u>Voting rules</u>

262 1) Mountain Partnership members cast their vote in person or virtually during the elections that
263   will take place during the GM.
264 2) In the exceptional case that a member of the MP can neither physically nor virtually attend
265   the GM, they may choose to nominate a proxy (i.e. to delegate their vote to another member)
266   from the same electoral group and delegate the power to cast a vote on their behalf.

3) Members of the MP shall inform the MPS by written form of the choice to delegate their vote to another member attending the meeting, at latest the first day of the GM, indicating the name of their proxy and the date that the proxy has accepted to vote and act on their behalf at the GM.

4) The member receiving the proxy will have a free mandate. Voters do not have restrictions concerning the number of proxy votes they are able to cast.

5) The vote will be carried out through a written open ballot.

6) In case of a draw among two or more candidates, voters cast their vote again but are only able to choose from the two leading candidates. The process is repeated until a candidate gains the majority of the votes. In case of a draw in the final vote, members are able to vote exclusively on their behalf and not on behalf of their proxies.

7) The member in each electoral group receiving the second most votes during the elections will be appointed "alternate focal point". If for lack of candidates, an electoral group has only one nominated member, the elected SC member selects an alternate focal point at their discretion.

Duration of the Steering Committee mandate:

1) The mandate of the SC members is four years long, starting from their election day. Steering Committee members may be re-elected. If the GM cannot be organized every four years, the mandate of the SC members will be extended until the GM takes place. If deemed necessary, the MPS in consultation with the Steering Committee will organize online elections.

2) At their first meeting, the SC members select a Chair and two Vice Chairs for two years.

Accountability: The SC is accountable to the GM.

Funding: SC members are encouraged to mobilize their own resources to participate in SC meetings also by requesting support from the respective electoral groups. Funding needs should be considered and discussed within the respective electoral groups when applying for the SC seat. The MPS will seek resources to support the participation of those members from developing countries with financial constraints.

3. Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Role and function: The MPS plays an active and supportive role to the MP membership as a whole, and to the SC, providing services that link MP members and initiatives, fostering synergies and complementarities to promote closer collaboration and achieve greater coherence in MP efforts. In this role, the main tasks of the MPS are to promote advocacy and capacity development activities, and provide communication and information services, knowledge management and as a networking and liaison point for MP members. In addition, the MPS promotes the identification and mobilization of resources and investments for SMD.

The main focus of work of the MPS is at the global level. However, the MPS provides support, upon request, to regional and national level processes and initiatives. The MPS interacts regularly with all members independently of the geographical scale with which they are engaged. Members are encouraged to provide in-kind or cash contributions to allow for the setup of these regional or sub regional MP structures.

307 The detailed ToR of the MPS are available in Appendix 2, the ToR of the Coordinator of the MPS in
308 Appendix 3.

309 **Hosting:** The MPS is currently hosted by FAO, building on its formally designated role as the UN Lead
310 Agency for mountains and benefiting from the support of FAO's divisions and extended network of
311 regional, sub-regional and national offices. In its current hosting arrangement, the MPS is required to
312 coordinate within FAO with regard to its formal roles, functions and operations. The hosting
313 arrangement of the MPS is reviewed every four years at the GM.

314 **Accountability:** The MPS is accountable to the SC and to the GM.

315 **Funding:** The MPS is funded through financial and in kind contributions from MP members. FAO
316 provides in kind and in cash contributions to the MPS based on its needs and the availability of
317 funds. It also hosts the MPS and provides support through access to its extensive technical and
318 political networks.

319 ## VII.   Putting the Mountain Partnership into practice

320 ### A.   Geographical scale of MP action: a multilevel governance approach to work and
321 ### collaborate with multilevel governing states
322

323 The mandate and actions of the MP cover global, regional,[1] national and local levels. This is reflected
324 in the variety of the MP's membership, which consists of international, regional and national
325 organizations and institutions, national governments and subnational authorities working actively on
326 the mountain agenda.

327 The national level is critical for the functioning of the MP, and national governments are key
328 supporting partners of the MP's work. Cooperating with national governments allows the MP to reach
329 and collaborate with subnational and local authorities. The MP is also better able to share its
330 experiences regionally and globally through collaborations with national governments.

331 The establishment of national committees or other national multistakeholder mechanisms is
332 encouraged as relevant systems to support national dialogue and to mainstream SMD in national
333 institutions and organizations. National committees are also encouraged to collaborate with similar
334 bodies in other countries to promote regional cooperation on SMD.

335 National focal points are the essential link between local, national, regional and global level through
336 their active engagement and outreach to the focal points of the major international processes,
337 including the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and HLPF.

338 The coordination of MP activities at regional level is ensured by the regional representation in the
339 Steering Committee. Members in a specific region should engage in regular information and
340 experience sharing and mutual support so that the regional representatives in the SC (see Appendix
341 5) can adequately advocate for the interests, needs and realities of the region as well as of their

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[1] Regional level in this document refers to supranational level.

342 respective electoral group. Regional coordination is not only important for coordination within the
343 regions but also for the support and reinforcement of the outreach activities of the MPS.

344 The aggregated impact of the activities of all MP members is realized at the global level. The SC and
345 the MPS provide the global perspective to the MP as a whole and ensure that mountain issues are
346 brought up in global processes and negotiations.

B.   Monitoring evaluation and reporting

348

349 The MP has a simple and cost-effective monitoring and evaluation system. It aims at ensuring the MP
350 fulfils its mission of being relevant to its members and that MP members contribute to its
351 achievements. For this purpose, surveys of members are carried out on a regular basis and on ad hoc
352 topics by the MPS under the guidance of the SC. The results of the surveys are shared with all members
353 and on the MP website.

354 The results of the surveys, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat Annual Report, resource partner
355 organizations reports and the triennial UN Secretary-General's Report on Mountains contribute to
356 lessons learned and are the main means of verification of the implementation of the activities of the
357 MPS and MP members.

C.   Language policy

359 At the global level, English is the communication language for the MP. To the extent possible, and
360 when financial resources are available, key MP communication products will be made available in
361 English, French, Spanish and Russian. At the national level, members are encouraged to reach out to
362 members and other stakeholders as much as possible in local languages. Support of members for
363 translating key documents from English into other relevant languages is encouraged.

D.   Use of the Mountain Partnership logo

365 Not every mountain-related initiative of MP members is automatically a MP activity. As a general
366 principle, an initiative should only be marked with the MP brand if it is clearly derived from the MP.
367 More specifically, an activity or initiative can be labeled as being implemented within the framework
368 of the MP if the following criteria are met:

369 • at least two partners are involved in or contribute to the initiative; and
370 • the initiative is clearly related to SMD and contributes to the MP mission and objectives.

371 It is important that all initiatives that are being implemented under the MP label are reported to the
372 MPS in order to ensure proper communication to the entire membership. Simple visual brand
373 guidelines are provided in the Communication Strategy.

E.   Activities

375 The MP members are expected to engage in activities related to the five pillars of work of the MP,
376 and as described in the Advocacy Strategy and Communication Strategy for 2022-2025.

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Appendix 3: Terms of Reference – Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership
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Appendix 4: Key milestones in the history of the Mountain Partnership

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Appendix 5: Electoral Groups

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Appendix 1

Terms of Reference

Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership

The Steering Committee provides programmatic orientation to the Mountain Partnership and serves as a representative body of its members. Each member of the Steering Committee represents a larger group of members and, accordingly, they are responsible for providing well prepared and consolidated input to the work of the Steering Committee – input which is based on a thorough consultation process with their constituency groups. Whenever possible, the Steering Committee will make decisions on the basis of consensus. However, if needed, the Steering Committee will vote and decisions will be approved by a simple majority with an open ballot. Secret ballots can be adopted if requested by Steering Committee members and approved by the simple majority of the Steering Committee members. For efficiency and cost-effectiveness, the Steering Committee works in English and therefore elected members and alternates should have a working knowledge of this language. Alternate Steering Committee members support the work and participate in Steering Committee meetings when standing members are absent. The Steering Committee carries out the following main responsibilities and tasks:

- Engage the members in the implementation of the MP strategies and the 2030 Agenda for Mountains;

- Actively promote the Mountain Partnership at local, national, regional and global levels, and foster interaction with potential partner organizations, including potential resource partners;

- Facilitate dialogue and the creation of networks among Mountain Partnership members from different constituencies and regions;

- Oversee the preparation of the Mountain Partnership governance and strategy documents ;

- Monitor the achievements of the Mountain Partnership;

- Monitor and oversee the work of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and approve its annual work plan;

- Endorse the selection of the Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (See appendix 3);

- Meet in person once per year and online 2─3 times per year, and interact on a regular basis through electronic communication as needed and requested by the Chair. In person meetings should be favoured in conjunction with any other suitable event to increase synergies;

- Elect a Chair and two Vice Chairs of the Steering Committee with a two-year mandate - renewable; and

- Review, on a regular basis and with support from the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the MP membership, including removal of inactive members.

- Choose IMD theme, based on the suggestions made by the MPS.

422   • Ratify the appointment of MP Ambassador, based on the suggestions made by the MPS.

423   **Appendix 2**

424   **Terms of Reference**

425   **Mountain Partnership Secretariat**

426   The Mountain Partnership Secretariat plays an active and supportive role to the Mountain Partnership
427   membership as a whole, and to the Steering Committee, providing services that link Mountain
428   Partnership members and foster synergies and complementarities to promote closer collaboration,
429   avoid duplication, and achieve greater coherence in Mountain Partnership efforts. The annual work plan
430   of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat derives from the priorities identified by members during the
431   Global Meeting and is approved annually by the Steering Committee. The MPS publishes an annual
432   report, which includes details of the activities carried out. The Secretariat is led by a Coordinator of the
433   team who ensures the functioning of the Secretariat. The Coordinator of the MPS participates in the
434   meetings of the Steering Committee and supports the Chair of the Steering Committee in the
435   organization of the respective meetings. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat carries out the following
436   main responsibilities and tasks:

437   • Develop and maintain linkages and provide support to Mountain Partnership members and
438   regional initiatives and act as a networking and liaison point for them;

439   • Provide conceptual input to the Mountain Partnership and coordinate and facilitate its
440   activities;

441   • Provide knowledge management, communication and information services which
442   complement with other Mountain Partnership member's efforts;

443   • Promote and provide advocacy for sustainable mountain development and support the
444   representation of the Mountain Partnership at key events including though the development
445   of Policy Brief;

446   • Lead the observance of International Mountain Day at the global level;

447   • Develop capacity on sustainable mountain development through the organization of training
448   courses, summer schools, online forums and learning platforms;

449   • Develop, maintain and update the Mountain Partnership website newsletter and social
450   media channels;

451   • Prepare annual work plans and progress reports as required by the Steering Committee and
452   resource partner organizations;

453   • Provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the preparation and
454   implementation of Global Meetings and Steering Committee meetings;

455   • Review new applications for membership and process them according to the criteria defined
456   by the Steering Committee, and analyze, on a regular basis, the commitment of Mountain
457   Partnership members and communicate the results to the Steering Committee;

458 • Compile information on the activities of Mountain Partnership members in the
459   implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountains;

460 • Solicit contributions from MP members and provide inputs, as requested, for the
461   preparation of the UN Secretary-General reports and UN General Assembly resolutions on
462   SMD;

463 • Liaise with Secretariats of UN conventions (e.g. United Nations Convention on Biological
464   Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations
465   Convention to Combat Desertification) and other global initiatives (e.g. in relation to disaster
466   risk reduction, water, forests, etc.) relevant for SMD

467

Appendix 3

Terms of Reference

Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat is managed by a Coordinator. The Coordinator will be ratified by the Steering Committee and recruited under the rules and procedures of the host organization. The Coordinator plans and supervises the implementation of the work of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat by carrying out the following main responsibilities and tasks:

- Recruit, coordinate, supervise and provide leadership to the work of Mountain Partnership Secretariat staff;

- Provide support to the work concerning the strategic orientation of the Mountain Partnership in consultation with the Steering Committee;

- Prepare the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's annual work plans and progress reports in consultation with the Steering Committee;

- Provide financial and budgetary oversight for the funds that are established for the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, or that are channeled through the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, including carrying out budget holder responsibilities;

- In consultation with the Chair of the Steering Committee, organize, convene and ensure reporting on regular meetings of the Steering Committee;

- Lead resource mobilization activities within the Secretariat, including developing and maintaining linkages with potential resource partner organizations of Mountain Partnership activities;

- Promote, provide and when relevant lead advocacy for and support the representation of the Mountain Partnership at key events by MP members; and

- Liaise within the host organization to ensure collaboration and integration with related technical services.

Appendix 4

Key milestones in the history of the Mountain Partnership

1992: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED or Rio Earth Summit) includes Chapter 13, "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development", in Agenda 21, which is signed by heads of state or government of most of the world's nations.

1993: FAO designated as the Task Manager of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and, accordingly, as the UN Lead Agency for mountains.

1994-96: Intergovernmental consultations held in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America involving representatives of 62 countries and the European Union.

1995: International non-governmental consultation in Lima, Peru, leads to the establishment of the Mountain Forum in 1996.

1998: Resolution for an International Year of Mountains is supported by 130 countries in the UN General Assembly (the largest number for its time to ever support such a resolution).

2002: International Year of the Mountains includes national committees in 78 countries and numerous events and other activities worldwide. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) includes Paragraph 42, which is focused on sustainable mountain development. The Mountain Partnership[2] is established as a Type II Partnership with an Interim Secretariat housed at FAO.

2002: Bishkek Global Mountain Summit is held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

2003: First Global Meeting of the MP is held in Merano, Italy; Interim MPS established at FAO.

2004: Second Global Meeting of the MP is held in Cusco, Peru with establishment of various thematic and regional Partnership initiatives. The meeting also endorsed the basic elements of the governance of the MP defined in the document entitled "Mountain Partnership – Organization, Membership and Governance". An informal governance mechanism – the MP Advisory Committee (later renamed the MP Consortium) – was established to operate the MP, in which key mountain stakeholders were represented.

2005: The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) is established at FAO.

2011: Lucerne World Mountain Conference is held in Lucerne, Switzerland.

2012: Third Global Meeting of the MP is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on the margins of Rio+20. Paragraphs 210-212 of "The Future We Want", the outcome document of Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, focus on sustainable mountain development.

2013: Fourth Global Meeting of the MP in Erzurum, Turkey approved the Governance and Strategy document for the period 2014-2017. The meeting recognized that the growing membership and visibility of the Mountain Partnership required a more formal and representative governance mechanism. The Governance and Strategy document (2014-2017), which was developed through a step-wise and participatory process, established the Steering Committee of the MP. At the 4th Global Meeting, the members of the first Steering Committee of the MP were elected.

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[2] The Partnership was initially called the "International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions"; the shorter name "Mountain Partnership" has been used since 2004.

531 **2015**: UN adopts three mountain-related targets under two of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals:
532 - Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains,
533   forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
534 - Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial
535   and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands,
536   mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
537 - Target 15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their
538   biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for
539   sustainable development.

540 **2017**: Over 220 participants attended the [Fifth Global Meeting of the MP](#) on 11-13 December 2017
541 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, under the theme 'Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger,
542 migration'. Among other activities, the Governance and Strategy document covering the period
543 2018-2021 and based on the experiences and lessons learned since 2017 was presented (?).
544 MP members adopted the [Framework for Action for the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for
545 mountains](#), in which they express their commitment to enhance actions in support of sustainable
546 mountain development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

547 **2020**: The Governance and Strategy document 2018-2021 was extended to 2022 because of the
548 postponement of the Sixth Global Meeting of the MP due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

549 **2021**: As a contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat
550 hosted an independent dialogue on "Mountains and sustainable food systems: Drivers of sustainable
551 development".

552 **2021**: The Mountain Partnership Products (MPP) Initiative is selected as one of 25 Best Practices out
553 of 1 175 from around the world to be spotlighted at Expo 2021 Dubai's Global Best Practice
554 Programme. The MPP Initiative will be on display at Expo from 2 December 2021 through 2 January
555 2022.
556

557	**Appendix 5**
558	**Electoral Groups**
559	The Mountain Partnership is currently divided in the following electoral groups. Each electoral
560	groups is represented in the Steering Committee by one representative.

- 561 • Asia and the Pacific Governments
- 562 • Asia and the Pacific Major Groups
- 563 • Central Asia Governments
- 564 • Central Asia Major Groups
- 565 • Europe Governments
- 566 • Europe Major Groups
- 567 • Middle East and North Africa Governments
- 568 • Middle East and North Africa Major Groups
- 569 • North & Central America and the Caribbean Governments
- 570 • North & Central America and the Caribbean Major Groups
- 571 • South America Governments
- 572 • South America Major Groups
- 573 • Sub-Saharan Africa Governments
- 574 • Sub-Saharan Africa Major Groups
- 575 • Global Civil Society Organizations
- 576 • Intergovernmental Organizations
- 577 • Resource Partner Organizations
- 578 • Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat