

Mountains and sustainable development: a pathway for accelerating action

7 July 2022 at 7.30 am EST New York time /

1.30 pm CEST Rome time

Live on Zoom

Link: fao.zoom.us/j/97018434542

Meeting ID: 970 1843 4542 | Passcode: 39238304



Background

This side event on mountains is organized within the framework of the **Mountain Partnership** and of the **2022 United Nations International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development**, proclaimed to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development and the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems.

Covering around one quarter of the world's land surface, **mountains are key ecosystems**, providing goods and services to the entire planet and supporting the livelihoods of a vast number of people. Mountains are of paramount importance as water towers for people in the mountains and for around 2 billion people living in connected lowland areas. They are also home to 1.1 billion people (15 percent of the global population) and host 25 percent of terrestrial biodiversity.

Despite global efforts, mountains are lagging behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With eight years to go to the deadline of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Mountain Development, there is an urgency to accelerate sustainable solutions by joining forces with all stakeholders, fostering partnerships and spurring sustainable growth.

The high mountains of the world are currently experiencing a historically unparalleled, large-scale environmental transformation, with profound and impacts for landscapes, ecosystems, and people reaching far beyond mountain areas. Despite their global relevance, mountains still do not receive appropriate attention in United Nations processes such as the three Rio Conventions, nor investments and specific policies to promote adaptations and resilience. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the current pace, depth and scope of adaptation is insufficient to address future climate risks in mountain regions.

Mountain communities continue to be particularly at risk. As of 2017, one in two rural mountain dwellers in developing countries was estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity. Mountain women, often the heads of households and stewards of adaptation and resilience, often lack access to services and need to be empowered to continue fulfilling their key roles as the primary managers of mountain resources, guardians of biodiversity, keepers of traditional knowledge and custodians of local culture. All of these existing challenges have been further compounded by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, risking to leave mountains further behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



The event will focus on accelerating progress towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable mountain development, within the context of the following SDGs: SDG 4 (Quality Education) SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The main objectives for the side event are to:

- Promote action of governments for resilient, inclusive and sustainable mountain development in the main UN processes, including the main Rio Conventions;
- Advocate for policies to tackle biodiversity loss the degradation of ecosystems and the effects of climate change
- in mountains in a world recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Take stock of progress made towards the achievement of SDG target 15.4,;
- Highlight the role of partnerships multi-stakeholder alliances and their role in the achieving SMD at all scales;
- Highlight the crucial role of education at all levels to promote SMD.

Organizers:



Permanent Mission of the
Principality of Andorra
to the United Nations



Co-sponsors:



Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz
Republic to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York



Permanent Mission of Peru to the
United Nations



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Agenda	Intervention
7.30 am EST	Chair Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO
7.35 am EST	Andorra Maria Ubach, Minister of Foreign Affairs
7.40 am EST	Kyrgyz Republic Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Special Envoy of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic
7.45 am EST	Nepal Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations
7.50 am EST	Italy Roberto Natali, Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee
7.55 am EST	Peru Diego Beleván, Acting Deputy Permanent Representative
8.00 am EST	Bhutan Jigme Norbu, Permanent Mission of Bhutan
8.05 am EST	Spain TBC
8.10 am EST	Uganda TBC
8.15 am EST	Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) Karinjo Devore, Founding Board Member and President of AIMF
8.20 am EST	Discussion
8.40 am EST	Andorra Sílvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability