



Report of the Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership

27-29 September 2022 | Aspen, Colorado, United States of America



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

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Summary

The Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership was convened in Aspen, Colorado, under the overarching theme “Mountains matter: Ideas to action – Building alliances for resilient mountains”. With the overall objective of promoting sustainable mountain development, the meeting discussed the agenda for the Mountain Partnership going forward, advocating for bringing mountain-related issues to the fore of relevant international processes, as well as for action on the ground.

The meeting was organized around plenary sessions that included panel discussions and special presentations, while numerous side events ran in the afternoon. The meeting elected a new Steering Committee for the Mountain Partnership, updated several of the Mountain Partnership’s strategy documents, and endorsed the Aspen Declaration.

The meeting took place on 27-29 September 2022, with over 200 participants attending. It was the main event of the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022). The meeting was co-hosted by the Mountain Partnership together with the State of Colorado, the City of Aspen, and the Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF).

Welcome addresses

On Tuesday morning, Rosalaura Romeo, Programme Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, welcomed delegates to the Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, stressing its role in shaping the agenda for the next four years.

Noting his city is the first to host this global meeting in North America, Torre, Mayor of Aspen, explained that protecting mountain environments is key to ensuring his city's identity.

The meeting then officially opened with a blessing ceremony by Buffalo Child, member of the Cree and Nakota Nations. Arjun Gupta, Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador, underscored the sacred mission delegates have to protect mountain environments.

Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado, stressed the importance of protecting mountain environments and highlighted Colorado's commitment to renewable energy, efforts in water conservation, and the protection of public lands. He identified the need for partnerships across public and private sectors to preserve mountain environments and the communities they support.

Rick Miranda, Interim President, Colorado State University, emphasized the role of children and youth as the future custodians of mountains, and the importance of empowering the next generation to address climate change and other issues faced by mountain communities. He reaffirmed Colorado State University's commitment to become a member of the Mountain Partnership.

High-level opening statements

Jake Norton, Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador, moderated this session and presented the official video of the Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership.

Sílvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Andorra, stressed the role of mountains as centres of biodiversity and welcomed the work of the Mountain Partnership in carrying this message about the importance of mountains to the international level.

Richard James Randriamandrato, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Madagascar, expressed his commitment to the Mountain Partnership and the United Nations' work on ecosystem restoration, noting issues with erosion and deforestation in mountain areas.

Sam Mangusho Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda, noted mountains are often transboundary and can contribute to food security and employment creation. He urged increased use of Indigenous knowledge to preserve mountains. He and others thanked the Kyrgyz Republic for presenting the resolution to have 2022 declared the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development (IYM2022).

Igli Hasani, Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), explained that mountain regions often suffer from the impacts of conflicts with many security implications connected to them. He urged effective management of the respective ecosystems and international solidarity.

Pem Narayan Kandel, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal, called for stepping up international action to protect mountains, which are increasingly affected by natural disasters causing huge losses to ecosystems.

Recognizing that 27 September is World Tourism Day, Zoritsa Urosevic, Executive Director, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), said tourism can be a driver of wealth creation in mountain areas and help build resilience.

Livio Spadavecchia, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy, highlighted the benefits that mountains can provide for sustainable development. He appreciated the role of this global meeting in fostering dialogue, building cooperation, and strengthening local communities to attract investors.

François Pythoud, Special Envoy for International Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland, emphasized his country's commitment to promoting sustainable mountain development at all levels to improve living conditions, the resilience of mountain populations, and the sustainability of ecosystem services. He emphasized the need for a multistakeholder platform to initiate action for the sustainable development of mountain regions that leaves no one behind.

Doreen Robinson, Head of Biodiversity and Land, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), noted mountains account for many of the world's biodiversity centres, and are key to solving the biodiversity crisis. She underscored overconsumption, pollution, and environmental degradation as key problems facing mountain communities.

Thomas Hofer, Senior Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), urged participants to build on existing work. He emphasized the need to promote gender equality, social justice, and the livelihoods of mountain communities.

In a presentation on the agenda and on the Aspen Declaration, Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, described the process for developing the Declaration, and underscored its importance for guiding action over the next four years.

Celebration of IYM2022

In a statement, Dinara Kutmanova, Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyz Republic, stressed mountain ecosystems are important sources of water, energy and mineral resources, and biological diversity in addition to places for recreation and tourism. The statement underscored the global meeting as an opportunity to discuss national and collective approaches to preserving mountain ecosystems.

Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Special Envoy of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on Mountain Issues, stated that a main goal during the IYM2022 is to declare 2023-2027 as the "Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions". He said that among the proposed initiatives during these years are: implementation of a development fund for mountain countries; development of special programmes in such areas as conservation of mountain forests and preventing disaster risks in mountain regions; and establishing a global mountain university.

Stepping up the mountain agenda: Priorities and challenges

Four panel discussions took place on this issue on Tuesday. The panels addressed climate action, ecosystem restoration and protection, building sustainable mountain food systems and resilient livelihoods, and financing opportunities.

1. Climate action:

This panel was moderated by Morgan Saeg, Global Mountains Director, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative, who noted the acute impacts of climate change on mountain areas, how it negatively affects many people, and the need to step up adaptation.

Minister Randriamandrato, Madagascar, pointed to the increasing frequency of disasters, saying how several countries carry a greater responsibility for climate change. He urged support for local action to address specific issues and sharing best practices.

Marc Rossell Soler, Secretary of State for Agriculture and Sustainability, Andorra, said as a “micro-state”, Andorra is only responsible for 0.01 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet is still very vulnerable to climate change, which has motivated them to take action at the national and international levels.

Ambassador Hasani, OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, explained how regional cooperation is at the heart of addressing climate change and adaptation; how they work together to gain a joint understanding of the connections between climate change and security; and how to identify regional cooperation activities.

Basanta Raj Shrestha, Director of Strategic Cooperation, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), talked about his organization’s work in the Hindu Kush, which brings together agencies through a river basin-based approach to transboundary cooperation. He said access to water is a fundamental challenge with many springs drying out and called for urgent action in this regard.

Ana Vukoje, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), identified entry points for raising the profile of mountains in the UNFCCC negotiations, such as through the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, which addresses knowledge gaps, and through expert groups, which can influence thematic foci.

2. Ecosystem restoration and protection:

This session was moderated by Thomas Hofer, FAO. Adriana Vidal, Senior Policy Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature, noted mountain ecosystems are home to some of the most marginalized peoples on Earth and that ecosystem restoration is highly related to the development of local communities and people.

Julia Vicioso, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to FAO, said her country’s efforts, including public-private partnerships, to incentivize the production and certification of organic products help protect local ecosystems, promote sustainable livelihoods for farmers, and support ecotourism in the region.

Minister Cheptoris, Uganda, outlined his country’s policy and legal frameworks related to ecosystem restoration and protection, explaining that natural resources are protected as citizen assets in Uganda’s constitution.

Doreen Robinson, UNEP, drew attention to the unique characteristics of mountain environments making ecosystem restoration and protection difficult, including altitude, upward movement of species, heavy use of resources, and their role in the hydrological cycle. She urged the continual exchange of ideas and best practices and the mobilization of more resources to scale up impact.

3. Building sustainable mountain food systems and resilient livelihoods:

This panel was moderated by Giorgio Grussu, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, who announced the launch of the policy brief on “Inclusive and resilient mountain food systems: Opportunities and best practices”.

Special Envoy for International Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland Francois Pythoud pointed to the potential for productivity improvement in mountain agriculture, supporting small-scale farmers and small- and medium-sized enterprises in mountains.

Michel Julian, Senior Officer, Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness, UNWTO, said communities will be at the centre of the transformation of tourism into a more resilient sector and that it can be an important economic source for mountain areas, especially for youth and women. He noted tourism is looking for authentic experiences and can help conserve biodiversity and preserve traditional heritage.

Patricia Breuer Moreno, Co-Founder, Mujeres a la Cumbre and the Mountain Women of the World Network, said her organization, based in Chile, is a social enterprise bringing women to mountains, where the learning experiences are co-designed with local women. She said their work has empowered women in mountain areas to become leaders and certified guides.

Federico Mattei, Project Development Manager, Slow Food, stressed the importance of taking into account the complexity of multistakeholder platforms and taking simple actions on the ground.

Participants then posed questions and commented on: the importance of maintaining traditional means of production and keeping the next generations in mountain areas through diversified activities; challenges from climate change and pollution; the need to consider the traditional views and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples living in protected areas; focusing on organic agriculture and not mass production; and sharing best practices.

4. Financing opportunities:

This session was moderated by Yoko Watanabe, Global Manager, Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Paola Agostini, Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank, said mountains are paying a very high price for climate change and the cost of inaction in certain regions is over 10 percent, almost double the cost in the lowlands. She noted the gap in financing for mountains and ecosystem restoration is related to policy issues and subsidies that go against sustainable mountain development. She also emphasized financing is a long-term process, often starting with initiative funds and, finally, payment for results.

Gloria Schoch, Senior Director of Global Impact, VF Corporation, and Executive Director, Executive Director, VF Foundation, said that VF Corporation is a global leader in the apparel market. She pointed to the power of collaboration with the private sector, including to promote standards for regenerative agriculture and support for local communities.

Giorgio Grussu, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, reported on the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative, a labelling scheme that provides organic certification through participatory guarantee systems and promotes fair trade. He also talked about new Mountain Partnership Secretariat initiatives such as the mountain facility, collaborations with fashion designers, the coffee coalition with private sector, and the creation of a network of mountain hubs for innovation to foster innovation in mountain areas.

Wende Valentine, Executive Director, dZi Foundation, reported on her organization's work around the world and in Nepal with local communities to overcome barriers, including accessing funding that is centrally administered by governments. She urged co-investment and financing where private funding can kick-start projects, attracting more funds as a result.

Mountain Partnership looks ahead: Pathways for accelerating action in the next four years

Four panels convened on Wednesday morning to discuss this topic, delving into the themes of: transboundary cooperation; alliances, advocacy, processes and United Nations conventions; science and knowledge for policy; and innovation, infrastructure, and digital connectivity.

1. Transboundary cooperation:

Moderated by Matthias Jurek, Programme Manager, UNEP, this panel addressed approaches and opportunities for managing transboundary mountain regions.

Wolfer Mayrhofer, Deputy Secretary-General, Permanent Secretariat, Alpine Convention, shared insights about international cooperation under the legally-binding Alpine Convention, stressing the cross-sectorial nature of the work. He noted that while having a legally-binding document is helpful, the presence of institutional frameworks is equally necessary to ensure collaborative and joint efforts.

Veronica Taran Baci, General Director, National Agency of the Mountain Area, Romania, provided information on the operation of the Carpathian Convention and its utility for Romania. She detailed projects promoting economic development, preserving cultural heritage, and educating future generations in the region.

Carlos Jaime Montoya Montero, Counselor, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peru, discussed the impacts of the voluntary Andean Mountain Initiative, spanning seven countries in the region. He pointed to advantages of using a voluntary approach, including: flexible adaptation of policies; the ability to establish working groups on specific areas, including on finance and knowledge; and the opportunity to engage with a broad network of stakeholders.

María Rosa Cárdenas Tomažič, Associate Programme Specialist, Man and the Biosphere Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, highlighted the role of transboundary networks to ensure biodiversity and cultural conservation. She discussed how networks organized around similar thematic environmental issues allow for governments and decision-makers, as well as public and private partners, researchers, and biosphere reserve managers, to collaborate and share best practices for preservation and restoration.

2. Alliances, advocacy, processes and United Nations conventions:

This panel was moderated by Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat.

Minister Sílvia Calvo Armengol, Andorra, reported on her country's work related to climate change, including engaging the scientific community and private sector. She proposed creating a flexible international coalition, which brings together countries that share concerns regarding mountains at international processes under United Nations conventions.

Malik Amin Aslam Khan, Climate Expert and Former Minister for Climate Change, Pakistan, described the Hindu Kush and Himalayas as the water tower of the world, with one third of humanity living under it, but noted how the area is under threat because of biodiversity loss and climate change. He reported on the coalition created in the region to work together on these issues and raise them at the international level and suggested putting the value of mountains in economic terms.

Secretary Pem Narayan Kandel, Nepal, reported on his country's efforts to promote the IYM2022 and the advocacy summit Nepal organized demonstrating how mountains are relevant for addressing climate change. He urged mainstreaming the international discourse about mountains into the United Nations system and institutionalizing it.

Special Envoy Pythoud, Switzerland, advocated for a new way of working that focuses on having mountains included in international decisions and strategic documents, like the post-2020 global biodiversity framework currently being negotiated under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). He pointed to the central role the Mountain Partnership can play in pushing the mountain agenda at the international level, for example, by preparing documents that members can sign on to, promote, and refer to in their statements.

3. Science and knowledge for policy:

This panel was moderated by Björn Alftan, Principle Expert, Polar and Climate Programme, GRID-Arendal.

Carolina Adler, Executive Director, Mountain Research Initiative, stressed the need to advocate for mountains globally, as mountain-relevant issues affect numerous ecosystems and policies across regions should be aligned.

Paola Fontanella Pisa, Researcher, Center for Global Mountain Safeguard Research, emphasized that while the data to act exists, a better understanding on how to integrate knowledge into decision-making is required. She also noted that further efforts are required to integrate other forms of information, such as observations, feelings, and perceptions of local communities, into scientific perspectives.

Alexandra Mackey, Project Manager, Zoï Environment Network, discussed the need to communicate complex research information to the proper audiences so it is understandable and usable for evidence-based decision-making. She outlined communities of practice as a means to bridge the gap between knowledge and action.

Lawrence Ignace, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Canadian Mountain Network, shared his networks' efforts to support the resiliency of Canadian mountains through Indigenous and Western ways of learning that inform decision-making and action. He underscored: the importance of reconciliation through research; the need to reposition research to be more equitable and balanced; and how Indigenous-led research can shift power relationships and promote self-determination.

4. Innovation, infrastructure and digital connectivity:

This panel was moderated by Goodwill Ambassador Arjun Gupta, who pointed to ways the private sector and research can contribute to sustainability.

Marc Pons, Executive Director, Andorra Research and Innovation, described their efforts on ecological transition through innovation and proposed building an international alliance of innovation hubs related to work being undertaken in mountains.

Natalia Bayona, Director of Innovation, UNWTO, said innovation is one of the UNWTO's strongest pillars and should be integrated across all subsectors. She said joining efforts between the public and private sectors can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Lizette Huezo, Department Head, Entrepreneurship Department of the Western Region, Tecnológico de Monterrey, explained how her university's teaching includes digitalization and innovation, urging that its social impacts, specifically regarding women and remote villages in mountains, be considered.

Onno Ruhl, General Manager, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), warned that climate change is happening faster than policy changes and must be addressed through a multistakeholder effort. He gave the example of AKAH's work on avalanche predictions, using technology developed in ski resorts, to reduce casualty rates in Himalayan villages. He urged using urban planning skills in the mountains.

Endorsement of Mountain Partnership strategy documents

Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, guided the session on the presentation and endorsement of the revised Mountain Partnership strategy documents, explaining that each member has one vote. She described past processes and said these documents were last updated and approved in 2017. She detailed the current process for their review, enabling members to make comments, which in turn had been integrated.

Members approved the revisions to the Advocacy Strategy as currently drafted. Compared to the 2017-2021 Advocacy Strategy, the main changes to the 2022-2025 document include: the creation of a table that indicates advocacy actions for Mountain Partnership members, the Secretariat, and the Steering Committee; inclusion of reference to additional relevant international processes; and support for members' relevant calls and petitions.

Members also approved the Communication Strategy as currently drafted. Compared to the 2017-2021 Communication Strategy, the main changes to the 2022-2025 document include: new key messages, in line with those formulated by the Open-ended Scientific Committee of the IYM2022; and a general reference encouraging members to keep up to date with new communication platforms and their features.

The Governance Paper was subject to an extensive review process with several substantive proposals considered during the several months-long revision process.

First, regarding the revised streamlined vision of the Mountain Partnership, members asked to add references to: climate and biodiversity crisis, some asked to include a specific reference to ecosystem restoration while other members, although some suggested this was included in conservation; and to well-being, not just social and economic livelihoods. The revised vision was endorsed with these amendments.

Second, the proposed creation of a scientific advisory body was welcomed by many delegates. One delegate asked to also refer to economic advice, urging economic valuation of the contribution of mountains. Others opposed the specific reference, suggesting it is captured under scientific advice but, if necessary, a sub-group on the issue could be set up once the larger body is established. Members agreed to instead refer to the creation of an independent advisory body (rather than scientific), with the understanding that sub-groups could be created under it. This body would be built inviting the current members of the Open-ended Scientific Committee established by the MPS for the observance of the IYM2022 to join, as well as other relevant people.

Members agreed to delegate to the Steering Committee, in consultation with those members of the Open-ended Scientific Committee that would agree to join the new long-term body, to define the name of this body and to draft its Terms of Reference, which shall define its role and function. Members agreed that this body should not entail costs for the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (neither monetary nor in-kind). Therefore, the Independent Advisory Body should rely exclusively on the resources made available by the members that will become part of it. Finally, members discussed that this Independent Advisory Body shall contribute to the advocacy goals of the Mountain Partnership.

Third, regarding the proposed redefinition of the role and functions of the Steering Committee Chair, the proponent explained the intention was to empower the Steering Committee Chair to take on more of a coordinating function, and to potentially become the Mountain Partnership Chair at a later time. Delegates discussed whether such an expanded position required funding, noting that current Steering Committee members serve as volunteers. Members decided to delegate this amendment to the Steering Committee, which will be responsible to look into this issue and, if considered necessary, to see how the Steering Committee Chair can be empowered. If the Steering Committee will decide to move forward with this proposal, it will be its responsibility to draft the new Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee Chair, in consultation with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat. Finally, a decision on this issue shall be discussed and agreed by all Mountain Partnership members during the next global meeting of the Mountain Partnership.

Fourth, regarding the hosting arrangement of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat by FAO, Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, recalled it started as a project under FAO and was set up accordingly. She further explained they had now received information from the FAO Legal Office on how a hosting arrangement can be formalized. A note from the FAO Legal Office was shared (see Annex 3) and delegates asked to consider the hosting arrangement at the next meeting, and a FAO representative expressed their commitment to concluding the process. One suggestion was to negotiate with the Steering Committee and the resulting hosting agreement could then be appended to the Governance Paper.

Delegates agreed that FAO is responsible to draft the hosting arrangements of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat. The hosting arrangements will need to be endorsed by the Steering Committee and they will be finally approved by all Mountain Partnership members during the next Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership.

Delegates endorsed the Governance Strategy 2022-2025 as currently drafted, with the only amendment to the Mountain Partnership Vision as discussed. All other decisions are delegated to the Steering Committee for future consideration and approval, as detailed above.

Day 3 – 29 September 2022

On Thursday, Giorgio Grussu, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, provided an update on the training workshop that took place on 26-28 September, on “Estimating land degradation in mountain regions”. During the three-day workshop, participants from eight countries were trained on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) methodology to assess degraded land to determine the proportion of degraded land over total land area (SDG 15.3.1).

Steering Committee Election

Counselor Spadavecchia, Italy, reflected on the week’s meetings and hoped they would shape activities going forward. He urged delegates to act on the ideas presented and to transform these ideas into projects. He stressed that projects attract investors, lead to publications, and draw new members to the Partnership.

The election of the Steering Committee members was overseen by Counselor Spadavecchia, Steering Committee Chair, and Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat. They explained the nomination period for the Steering Committee had opened 14 July 2022, when the Mountain Partnership Secretariat distributed the call for nominations. The deadline for nominations was 26 August, one month before the Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership convened.

Members proceeded to break into groups based on the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee regions to vote for representatives.

The results of the Steering Committee elections were as follows:

- For the Asia and Pacific region, the government representative is Nepal and the major group representative is Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center, with Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation as an alternate.
- For Central Asia, the government representative is Kyrgyzstan and the major group representative is the Tajik Social Ecological Union, with the Rural Development Fund as an alternate.
- For Europe, the government representative is Andorra, with Romania as an alternate, and the major group representative is EUROMONTANA represented by its member, the Centro de Investigação de Montanha, with the Albanian Alps Alliance as an alternate.
- For the Near East and North Africa, the government representative is Yemen and the major group representative is the Coalition Civile pour la Montagne, Morocco, with Mountain Environment Protection Society as an alternate.
- For the North and Central America and Caribbean region, the government representative is the Dominican Republic, with Guatemala as an alternate, and the major group representative is Aspen International Mountain Foundation, with the Grassroots Institute as an alternate.
- For South America, the government representative is Peru, with Argentina as an alternate. The major group representative is Centro de Estudio de Alta Montana, with Crescente Fértil as an alternate.
- For sub-Saharan Africa, the government representative is Malawi, with Uganda as an alternate, and the major group representative is the Foundation for Environment and Development, with the alternate to be selected by a later internal discussion.
- For the Donor representative, delegates elected Italy.
- For the Global Civil Society Organization representative, they elected GRID-Arendal, with Aga Khan Agency for Habitat as an alternate.

- For the Intergovernmental Organization representative, they elected United Nations Environment Programme, with United Nations University as an alternate for the first two years of this Steering Committee's term and then the United Nations Development Programme as an alternates for the following two years.

Aspen Institute forum on climate change

The Hurst Lecture, organized by the Aspen Institute, focused on "Building alliances for resilient mountains: Changing the way we think about climate change".

Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President, Aspen Institute, moderated the panel, stressing: the importance of protecting and sustaining cherished mountain communities; the need to focus on ideas and technologies with the greatest promise to fight climate change and its toll; opportunities for inspiring and incentivizing innovation; and ensuring vulnerable and marginalized communities do not bear the cost of addressing climate change.

Jon Creyts, Chief Program and Strategy Officer, RMI, referred to the potential of alternative energy, including increased battery capabilities and electrification for both vehicles and buildings. He gave an example of their work with the Chinese Energy Research Institute, the highest-level national think tank, to affect peaking of their emissions by 2030 or before, opening the way for taking on commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in international agreements. Despite the climate challenges facing the world, he emphasized that now is the time to unite globally around hope, not fear, as engagement with 100 percent of the population is required if we are to achieve climate targets.

Lynn Kiesling, Co-Director, Denver Institute for Regulatory Law and Economics, University of Colorado, talked about how transactive energy can help transform the electric grid by connecting it to data networks where the price is set according to supply and demand, taking into account consumer preferences and allowing for decentralized management. She pointed to the possibility of having price and demand reduce overall resource use and environmental impact. She further emphasized the need to digitize, decarbonize, democratize, and decentralize energy and technology to empower communities with agency, autonomy, and self-determination in energy choices.

Zenia Tata, former XPRIZE Chief Impact Officer, advocated for addressing massive problems in an exponential way through: convergence of exponential technologies; use of artificial intelligence; and data collection. She articulated how a prize-based model can incentivize innovation, but also noted that, in addition to new technologies, we should be looking to the Earth and biomimicry for solutions. She also emphasized the need for all solutions to be considered within an ethical framework and to acknowledge that, without addressing poverty, we cannot achieve climate justice.

Nikki Pitre, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Center for Native American Youth, urged bringing Indigenous voices to all spaces, to see the Earth relationally, and to be in a good relationship with her. She further underscored the need to decolonize approaches to climate change, stating her community does not consider themselves poor given their rich culture and history. She emphasized that approaches informed by Indigenous ways of knowing can dismantle the systems designed to oppress marginalized groups.

In the ensuing discussion, members of the audience posed questions to the panel on: acknowledging privilege and Global North perspectives when discussing technology; financial models for retrofit development; the tension between living smaller and demand for new technologies; managing the role of private capital to ensure equitable access to technology and energy; and greenwashing within the energy sector.

Appointment of Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassadors and adoption of the Aspen Declaration

Delegates observed a moment of silence for local Colorado mountaineer Hilaree Nelson who recently died skiing down from the summit of Mount Manaslu, Nepal, and local guides who had died in the region following the destabilization of slopes from monsoon rains.

Goodwill Ambassador Norton welcomed two new Goodwill Ambassadors: Nikki Pitre, member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe, recognized for her work with Indigenous youth and on inclusion of traditional knowledge; and Luis Benitez, established mountaineer and Vice President for Government Affairs and Global Impact, VF Corporation.

Goodwill Ambassador Pitre recalled how her auntie had told her that the government placed her people on reservations in the mountains thinking they could not survive there, when in fact they had a deep connection to the mountains and the mountains protected them. She promised to show up as her true self for this work as an Indigenous woman, mother, and vessel of her ancestors, to steward the mountains.

Recognizing the multi-billion dollar outdoor apparel industry often uses the mountains as a backdrop, Goodwill Ambassador Benitez stressed the importance of using their influence to give support, voice, and gravity to the momentum for action on mountains. He pledged his full heart to the effort of bringing more awareness to this work.

Mayor Torre expressed his appreciation for the work at the meeting and urged translating ideas into action. He said Aspen had declared this the Week of the Mountain Partnership and expressed appreciation that the Aspen Declaration has been named after his city. He explained that the draft declaration sets out the intention of members to support sustainable mountain development building on previous work. Delegates then officially endorsed the Aspen Declaration by a show of hands.

The Aspen Declaration sets out the essential role mountain ecosystems play in providing essential goods and services, such as water, food, and biodiversity to the planet, as well as being home to 1.1 billion people, while highlighting the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems and the need for ways to protect them. It also speaks to the work of the Mountain Partnership and how it relates to other relevant international processes, such as: the UNFCCC and the special vulnerability of mountains to climate change; the CBD, which is currently in the process of finalizing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and the UNCCD and work related to the SDGs. It urges further moving the mountain agenda to the core of these processes. It proposes to include making “2023-2027 the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions” an outcome of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the IYM2022. The Declaration also includes commitments of Mountain Partnership members to the above work and requests support from the Mountain Partnership Secretariat in this regard.

Closing

In closing, Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, thanked all the participants, sponsors, the Aspen Institute, the Aspen International Mountain Foundation, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat team, the local organizers, interpreters, and the Earth Negotiations Bulletin for their work on the meeting.

Minister Calvo welcomed Andorra's election to the Steering Committee, noting mountains can be a common driver for their work and, along with others, thanked the Secretariat for their efforts.

Counselor Spadavecchia, Italy, recognized the special significance of work on mountains and the related awareness of nature.

Special Envoy Pythoud recognized the quality of the presentations and work at the meeting.

FAO Senior Forestry Officer Hofer pointed to work on the mountain agenda since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and especially over the last 20 years, noting now is the moment to integrate the issue of mountains into such international processes as the CBD, the UNFCCC, and others related to the SDGs.

Eric Smith, Vice-President, AIMF, recommended building a bold mountain plan, noting the mountain agenda is immense, ranging from addressing climate change and disasters, to developing baseline data and positive change.

Karinjo DeVore, President, AIMF, thanked everyone for being here and the volunteers who made everyone welcome in Aspen. She introduced Klaus Obermeyer, Founder, Sport Obermeyer, aged 102, who came to Aspen in 1947 as a ski instructor and innovated the sport and apparel. He recalled his experiences enjoying the skiing and making it safer over the last 75 years. He said yodeling comes from Switzerland where the mountains are so beautiful there are no words for it and closed the meeting with a traditional yodel.

Annex I – Agenda

Meeting Day 1 Tuesday, 27 September	
7.00 – 10.00 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	On-site registration
8.30 – 9.00 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Welcome addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rosalaura Romeo, Programme Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) Torre, Mayor of Aspen Blessing Ceremony – Buffalo Child Welcome addresses (continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arjun Gupta, Chief Believer of TeleSoft Partners, Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado Rick Miranda, Interim President, Colorado State University
9.00 – 10.00 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Opening high-level statements – Moderator: Jake Norton, President of MountainWorld Productions, Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ève Bazaiba Masudi, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo Sílvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Andorra Richard James Randriamandrato, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Madagascar Sam Mangusho Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda Igli Hasani, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Pem Narayan Kandel, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal Zoritsa Urosevic, Executive Director, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) – video Mountain Partnership Founding members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livio Spadavecchia, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy François Pythoud, Special Envoy for International Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland Doreen Robinson, Head of Biodiversity and Land, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Hofer, Senior Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
10.00 – 10.10 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Presentation of agenda and overview of Aspen Declaration – Introduction: Rosalaura Romeo, MPS
10.10 -10.30 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	<p>International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 celebration – Moderator: Rosalaura Romeo, MPS</p> <p>Opportunities and achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading of statement by Dinara Kutmanova, Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyz Republic Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Special Envoy of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on Mountain Issues, Ambassador, Kyrgyz Republic <p>Discussion</p>
10.30 – 10.50	Coffee break
10.50 – 13.00 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	<p>Stepping up the mountain agenda: Priorities and challenges – Introduction: Sara Manuelli, MPS</p> <p>Panel 1: Climate action – Moderator: Morgan Seag, Global Mountains Director, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard James Randriamandrato, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Madagascar Marc Rossell Soler, Secretary of State for Agriculture and Sustainability, Andorra Igli Hasani, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Basanta Raj Shrestha, Director of Strategic Cooperation, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development Ana Vukoje, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change <p>Discussion, Q&A</p> <p>Panel 2: Ecosystem restoration and protection – Moderator: Thomas Hofer, FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adriana Vidal, Senior Policy Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature Julia Vicioso, Deputy, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to FAO Sam Mangusho Cheptoris, Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda Doreen Robinson, Head of Biodiversity and Land, UNEP <p>Discussion, Q&A</p>

	<p>Panel 3: Building sustainable mountain food systems and resilient livelihoods – Moderator: Giorgio Grussu, MPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • François Pythoud, Special Envoy For International Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland • Michel Julian, Senior Officer, Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness Department, UNWTO (virtual) • Patricia Breuer Moreno, Co-Founder, Mujeres a la Cumbre and Mountain Women of the World Network • Federico Mattei, Project Development Manager, Slow Food <p>Discussion, Q&A</p>
<p>13.00 – 14.00 <i>Davis Commons</i></p>	<p>Lunch - Video remarks from Joe Neguse, US Representative for Colorado's 2nd Congressional District</p>
<p>14.00 – 14.50 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i></p>	<p>Stepping up the mountain agenda: Priorities and challenges (continued)</p> <p>Panel 4: Financing opportunities – Moderator: Yoko Watanabe, Global Manager, GEF Small Grants Programme, United Nations Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paola Agostini, Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist, Europe and Central Asia Region Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice, World Bank (virtual) • Gloria Schoch, Senior Director of Global Impact, VF Corporation & Executive Director, VF Foundation • Giorgio Grussu, MPS • Wende Valentine, Executive Director, dZi Foundation <p>Discussion, Q&A</p>
<p>15.00 – 18.00</p>	<p>Side Events / Exhibits / Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.00 – 18.00: Training workshop, Day 2 (by invitation only): <i>Estimating land degradation in mountain regions</i> (Hudson Commons/Boettcher) • 15.00 – 16.00: Mountain outdoor and sports for nature – Challenges and opportunities; Video message from John Hickenlooper, US Senator for Colorado (McNulty/Doerr-Hosier) • 16.10 – 17.10: Tackling the climate crisis at altitude by fostering a community of practice (McNulty/Doerr-Hosier) • 17.20 – 18.20: Strengthening the Andean Mountain Initiative Governance for resilient societies in the region (Kauffman/Doerr-Hosier) • 17.20 – 18.20: How higher education fosters climate action and sustainability for mountains and is training the next generation (McNulty/Doerr-Hosier)
<p>19.00 – 21.30 <i>Davis Commons</i></p>	<p>Gala Welcome Dinner (<i>Dress code: cocktail attire – cultural dress welcomed</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks – Karinjo DeVore, President, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) • Video message from Michael Bennet, US Senator for Colorado

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical entertainment by “Valle Musico”
<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Day 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, 28 September</p>	
<p>8.30 – 10.40 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i></p>	<p>The Mountain Partnership looks ahead: Pathways for accelerating action in the next four years – Introduction: Sara Manuelli, MPS</p> <p>Panel 1: Transboundary cooperation – Moderator: Matthias Jurek, Programme Manager, UNEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolfer Mayrhofer, Deputy Secretary-General, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention • Veronica Țaran Baci, General Director, National Agency of the Mountain Area, Romania • Carlos Jaime Montoya Montero, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru • María Rosa Cárdenas Tomažič, Associate Programme Specialist, Man and the Biosphere Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization <p>Discussion, Q&A</p> <p>Panel 2: Alliances, advocacy, processes and United Nations conventions – Moderator: Rosalaura Romeo, MPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sílvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Andorra • Malik Amin Aslam Khan, Climate Expert and Former Minister for Climate Change, Pakistan • François Pythoud, Special Envoy For International Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland • Pem Narayan Kandel, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal <p>Discussion, Q&A</p> <p>Panel 3: Science and knowledge for policy – Moderator: Björn Alfthan, Principal Expert, Polar and Climate Programme, GRID-Arendal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolina Adler, Executive Director, Mountain Research Initiative (virtual) • Stefan Schneiderbauer, Head of GLOMOS Center, Eurac Research / United Nations University • Alexandra Mackey, Project Manager, Zoë Environment Network • Lawrence Ignace, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Canadian Mountain Network

	<p>Discussion, Q&A</p> <p>Panel 4: Innovation, infrastructure and digital connectivity – Moderator: Arjun Gupta, Chief Believer, TeleSoft Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Pons, Executive Director, Andorra Research and Innovation • Natalia Bayona, Director of Innovation, UNWTO (virtual) • Lizette Huezo, Department Head, Entrepreneurship Department of the Western Region, Tecnológico de Monterrey • Onno Ruhl, General Manager, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat <p>Discussion, Q&A</p>
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 13.00 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	<p>MP strategy documents presentation and endorsement – Moderator: Rosalaura Romeo and Fabio Parisi, MPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy Strategy • Communication Strategy • Governance Paper <p>Discussion</p>
13.00 – 13.50 <i>Davis Commons</i>	Lunch
13.50 – 17.00	<p>Side events / Exhibits / Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.50 – 17.00: Training workshop, Day 3 (by invitation only): <i>Estimating land degradation in mountain regions</i> (Hudson Commons/Boettcher) • 13.50 – 14.50: Sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation for ecosystem-based adaptation: Generating sustainable socio-economic opportunities for mountain communities (Kauffman/Doerr-Hosier) • 13.50 – 14.50: Braiding Indigenous knowledge and western science: Experiences and solutions for sustainable mountain development (McNulty/Doerr-Hosier) • 14.55 – 15.55: Knowledge generation and management and strategic partnerships for sustainable mountain development in South America (Kauffman/Doerr-Hosier) • 14.55 – 15.55: Keeping our mountains waste-free (McNulty/Doerr-Hosier) • 16.00 – 17.00: Community: Talk globally, act locally (McNulty/Doerr-Hosier)
17.45 – 20.00 <i>Aspen Gondola Plaza</i>	Parade of flags and outdoor concert by “Rapidgrass”

Meeting Day 3	
Thursday, 29 September	
8.30 – 10.00 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Election of the Steering Committee – Moderator: Livio Spadavecchia, Counselor, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy and Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee and Rosalaura Romeo, MPS Introduction and information about the Steering Committee’s role Breakouts by electoral groups Endorsement of Steering Committee candidates
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break
10.30 – 11.45 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Aspen Institute forum on climate change “Building alliances for resilient mountains”
11.45 – 12.15 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Nomination of new Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassadors – Moderators: Sara Manuelli, MPS and Jake Norton, President of MountainWorld Productions, Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luis Benitez, Vice President for Government Affairs and Global Impact, VF Corporation (virtual) • Nikki Pitre, Executive Director, Center for Native American Youth
12.15 – 12.30 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Presentation of the Aspen Declaration – Introduction: Torre, Mayor of Aspen Recap and conclusions
12.30 – 13.00 <i>McNulty/Doerr-Hosier</i>	Closing remarks – Moderator: Rosalaura Romeo, MPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sílvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Andorra • Livio Spadavecchia, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy • François Pythoud, Special Envoy for International Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland • Thomas Hofer, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO • Eric Smith, Vice-President, AIMF • Karinjo DeVore, President, AIMF • Klaus Obermeyer, Founder, Sport Obermeyer
13.00 – 14.00 <i>Davis Commons</i>	Lunch
14.00 – 16.00 <i>Kauffman/Doerr-Hosier</i>	1 st Steering Committee meeting (closed meeting)

Annex II – Note from FAO Legal Office

Note by the Legal Counsel

on the status of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat within FAO

Following consultations with senior management of FAO, the Legal Counsel requests that the need to address and regularize the situation as explained below be conveyed to the Mountain Partnership at its Sixth Global Meeting:

While FAO contributed to its creation, the Mountain Partnership is an entity separate from FAO. Indeed, it develops its own workplan and policies and approves its budget independently. As such, it does not operate under the strategic framework of FAO and does not report on programmatic matters to the FAO Governing Bodies.

Also, the Mountain Partnership does not have any independent legal personality; it is FAO who lends its legal personality to the Mountain Partnership, through the hosting of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat. Therefore, from a legal perspective, in order to function, the Mountain Partnership operates through its FAO-hosted Secretariat. In that capacity, FAO provides administrative support (e.g. financial, audit, procurement, travel, HR and legal services) as well as technical expertise. As a consequence, it is FAO that potentially bears ultimate legal liability for Mountain Partnership activities.

In addition, practice has evidenced confusion between the roles of FAO as host of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, as participant in the Mountain Partnership governance, and as the United Nations specialized agency leading in the areas of work of the Mountain Partnership.

In this context, FAO Management has requested that a consultation be undertaken promptly with FAO in order to clarify and regularize this situation for decision by the Mountain Partnership Members at the Seventh Global Meeting.

Annex III – Aspen Declaration

THE ASPEN DECLARATION A NEW MOMENTUM FOR MOUNTAINS

We, the members of the Mountain Partnership, during our Sixth Global Meeting taking place at the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado, USA on 27-29 September 2022, have agreed to this Declaration to jointly promote the sustainable development of mountain areas.

Preamble

Mountain ecosystems provide people and the planet with essential goods and services such as water, food and biodiversity. Home to about 1.1 billion people, mountains are also centres of cultural diversity and traditional knowledge. However, biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and pollution among other impacts are severely and increasingly affecting mountain livelihoods and ecosystems. Meanwhile, mountain people are among the world's poorest and most vulnerable: in 2017, half of the rural mountain dwellers living in developing countries faced food insecurity. Mountain communities are highly dependent on small-scale and family-based agriculture. Living at the frontline of the climate crisis, exposure to natural hazards, lack of key services, and impacts arising from crises and conflicts are factors contributing to the high vulnerability of mountain populations, particularly for women, persons with disabilities, children and people in vulnerable situations. The COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted life in mountains and compounded existing vulnerabilities. Recognizing successful, locally-driven experiences of transformative change; identifying new and sustainable livelihood opportunities; acknowledging Indigenous People and Local Communities' (IPLC) rights; adopting new and supporting existing practices that combat land degradation, drought and desertification and that assist mountain ecosystem restoration; and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, and resilient agrifood systems are urgent requirements for achieving the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recalling:

1. The Mountain Partnership – the UN alliance dedicated to mountains – is guided and inspired in its actions and commitments by: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Declaration of the UN Conference on the Human Environment (1972), the World Charter for Nature (1982), the Declaration of the UN Rio Conference and the Agenda 21 and its chapter 13 on managing fragile mountain ecosystems (1992), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015).
2. Founded in 2002, the Mountain Partnership advocates for addressing the challenges facing mountain regions by tapping the wealth of diversity of its members as well as promoting the sharing of knowledge, experiences, information and expertise of its members, to stimulate, concrete initiatives at all levels that will ensure improved quality of life and environments in the world's mountain regions.

3. The Framework for Action approved by the members of the Mountain Partnership in 2017 during the Fifth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, the Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries established in 2019 under initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the resolution A/76/L.28 for an International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development (IYM) 2022 are the most recent measures to align the efforts of the international community towards improving the livelihoods of mountain peoples and protecting and conserving mountain environments around the world.
4. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) with the UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN as the assigned leading agencies of the UN System, provides a unique opportunity to collectively engage with the aim to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of mountain ecosystems on every continent.
5. Regional organizations, conventions, platforms and initiatives such as the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, the Andean Mountain Initiative, the Working Community of the Pyrenees Mountains, the Africa Regional Mountains Forum, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development are key partners for the achievement of sustainable mountain development.

Noting that:

1. The principles and legal obligations of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including that of the future Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) as well as their respective programmes of work and agendas linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2015), strongly orient the work of the Mountain Partnership.
2. The Mountain Partnership is also guided by the conclusions and recommendations of the World Meteorological Organization High-Mountain Summit Call for Action (2019); the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which includes the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (2019) and the Cross-Chapter Paper on Mountains in the Working Group II Contribution to AR6 on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (2022); the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019); the resolution A/RES/74/227 on sustainable mountain development adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 19 December 2019; and the report A/77/217 on sustainable mountain development adopted by the UNGA on 22 July 2022.
3. The Kyrgyz Republic will propose to include the 2023-2027 “Five-Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions” in the triennial UN General Assembly resolution on sustainable mountain development as an outcome of the International Year for Sustainable Mountain Development 2022.

In light of the unfolding biodiversity, climate, pollution and health crises, while recognizing climate and intergenerational justice concerns, and building on the new momentum provided by the proclamation of the IYM 2022, we, the members of the Mountain Partnership, commit to:

- increase efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to secure the contribution of resilient mountain ecosystems and communities to a more sustainable world; and
- support the establishment of processes and mechanisms within the Mountain Partnership that engage diverse stakeholders and rights holders across society in strengthened science-policy dialogues and multistakeholder dialogues, thereby jointly identifying and addressing knowledge needs associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in mountain areas.

Furthermore, we, the members of the Mountain Partnership commit to:

- engage the international community to help address the challenges faced by mountain countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including addressing the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and pollution;
- mobilize countries with mountainous territories to jointly advocate for their interaction in the UN multilateral processes, including following up on the implementation of upcoming major outcomes such as the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- establish, support, and strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms between mountain countries to increase targeted investments and impact that align with efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to protect and improve the conservation of mountain ecosystems;
- promote cooperation among mountain countries on economy, social development, environment, culture, tourism, science and education, in line with the achievement of the SDGs;
- maintain the structure of the Mountain Partnership, avoiding the creation of additional bureaucracy, to continue to effectively advocate for mountain regions;
- contribute to implementing the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, engaging in particular with UNEP and FAO as custodian agencies;
- support the ongoing efforts toward the establishment of globally binding instruments to combat plastic pollution;
- encourage efforts to address the underlying drivers of vulnerability to climate change, including poverty, marginalization, exclusion from social safety nets, and gender inequalities;
- ensure mountain women and Indigenous peoples' access to resources, including land, social protection and capacity building, to enable their economic autonomy and decision making;
- encourage education efforts to empower and enable children and youth to become change agents for sustainable mountain development;

- consider the outcomes of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and of the 10 principles of agroecology developed by FAO (2018) for the development of sustainable food systems in mountains;
- increase finance and private sector inclusion and contributions for climate change adaptation, water management, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, pollution prevention and disaster risk management in mountains;
- expand public and private investment in innovation, including, connectivity, e-mobility, digital and soft infrastructure in mountain areas, to reduce the digital gap with cities and make mountain areas more attractive to young people by supporting technological entrepreneurship;
- enhance capacity building, knowledge transfer, research, monitoring, and data access on mountain and cryosphere issues at local, national, regional and international levels, including associated Indigenous knowledge and sustainable customary practices, while creating synergies with the efforts of other organizations and initiatives; and
- implement the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 to enhance the resilience of mountain communities and build their capacity to anticipate, cope with and recover from disaster.

To support these commitments, we request the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, *inter alia*, to:

- engage and support Mountain Partnership members in international advocacy processes for mountains where appropriate and necessary;
- enhance the visibility of the actions of the Mountain Partnership and its members through communication and awareness-raising campaigns, as stipulated in the Mountain Partnership Advocacy Strategy 2022-2025, to increase support in different areas and at different scales;
- engage and support Mountain Partnership members in the observance and follow-up of key outcomes of the IYM 2022;
- ensure that Mountain Partnership members' efforts, impacts and results on sustainable mountain development are considered by the global political agenda and shared in relevant fora and platforms and processes to impact; and
- up-scale initiatives and projects, as appropriate, in support of the sustainability and resilience of mountain communities and ecosystems, including support to sustainable and resilient mountain food systems.

Annex IV – Side event reports

Side event schedule

Side event details / Lead partners	Time slot	Location
1. Mountain Outdoor and Sports for Nature – Challenges and Opportunities (<i>OEDIT, UNEP, UIAA</i>)	Tuesday, 27 Sept – 15.00 – 16.00	McNulty Room / Doerr-Hosier Building
2. Tackling the climate crisis at altitude by fostering a community of practice (<i>UNEP, MRI, CONDESAN, ICIMOD, Zoï Environment Network, ARCOS</i>)	Tuesday, 27 Sept – 16.10 – 17.10	McNulty Room / Doerr-Hosier Building
3. Strengthening the Andean Mountain Initiative Governance for resilient societies in the region (<i>The Andean Mountain Initiative (Iniciativa Andina de Montañas)</i>)	Tuesday, 27 Sept – 17.20 – 18.20	Kauffman Room/ Doerr-Hosier Building
4. The role of higher education in fostering climate action and sustainability for mountain peoples and environments (<i>Julia Klein, CSU</i>)	Tuesday, 27 Sept – 17.20 – 18.20	McNulty Room / Doerr-Hosier Building
5. Sustainable Land Management and biodiversity conservation for community-based adaptation: generating sustainable socio-economic opportunities for mountain communities (<i>UNESCO, IUCN</i>)	Wednesday, 28 Sept – 13.50 – 14.50	Kauffman Room/ Doerr- Hosier Building
6. Braiding Indigenous knowledge and western science: experiences and solutions for sustainable mountain development (<i>Canadian Mountain Network</i>)	Wednesday, 28 Sept – 13.50 – 14.50	McNulty Room / Doerr-Hosier Building
7. Knowledge generation and management and strategic partnerships for sustainable mountain development in South America (<i>CONDESAN</i>)	Wednesday, 28 Sept – 14.55 – 15.55	Kauffman Room/ Doerr-Hosier Building
8. Keeping our mountains waste-free (<i>UNEP, GRID-Arendal, BRS Secretariat, UIAA</i>)	Wednesday, 28 Sept – 14.55 – 15.55	McNulty Room / Doerr-Hosier Building
9. Community: Talk Globally, Act Locally (<i>City of Aspen</i>)	Wednesday, 28 Sept – 16.00 – 17.00	McNulty Room / Doerr-Hosier Building

Side Event 1: Mountain outdoor and sports for nature – Challenges and opportunities

[Awaiting report]

Side Event 2: Tackling the climate crisis at altitude by fostering a community of practice

Name, affiliation and email address of rapporteur:

Ansgar Fellendorf, UN Environment Programme

Ansgar.fellendorf@un.org

Abstract of side event, speakers and title of presentations (This can be an extract from concept note / agenda):

Theme: Climate Crisis and Adaptation

Moderator: Alex Mackey, Project Manager, Zoï Environment Network

Panellists:

- Carolina Adler, Executive Director, Mountain Research Initiative (virtual)
- Matthias Jurek, Programme Management Office, UNEP
- Karen Price Rios, Technical Secretariat of the Andean Mountain Initiative, CONDESAN
- Basanta Shrestha, Director of Strategic Cooperation, ICIMOD
- Sam Kanyamibwa, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ARCOS

Location: McNulty/Doerr-Hosier

The side event hosted a discussion on how we can increase adaptive capacity to climate change in the Andes, East Africa, South Caucasus, Hindu Kush Himalaya and beyond! The Adaptation at Altitude (A@A) programme invites participants to exchange on how an improved data and information landscape, tested adaptation solutions, regional collaboration, and interregional exchange are all contributing to more climate-resilient sustainable mountain development. The goal is to foster an international community of practice for mountain adaptation.

Mountains exhibit some of the clearest indications of climate change: rising temperatures, melting glaciers and changing precipitation patterns are disrupting water flows, affecting ecosystems, worsening natural hazards, and threatening livelihoods and communities within mountains and downstream. The recent IPCC cross-chapter paper on mountains (Adler et al. 2022) reports that adverse impacts of climate change in mountain areas have accelerated in recent decades. The efforts of mountain range actors and the global mountain community to effectively step up to the new climate challenges in and around mountains need to be strengthened across different levels. The Adaptation at Altitude (A@A) programme seeks to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of mountain communities and ecosystems to climate change by:

- Improving the knowledge of appropriate climate change adaptation strategies in mountains, including by gathering and promoting mountain adaptation solutions
- Transferring that knowledge through science-policy platforms to inform decision-making in national, regional, and global policy processes

The programme further fosters interregional exchange and peer-to-peer learning within and between mountain areas (especially in the target regions Andes, East Africa, South Caucasus and Hindu Kush Himalaya) and respective regional governance structures.

Main issues discussed:

- Effective policies for adaptation in mountain areas need to be based on sound science and evidence, making long-term monitoring programmes and data gather in mountain ecosystems crucial
- Findings should be communicated through effective science-policy formats on a regional level to foster exchange and collaboration

- Regional processes for dialogue and cooperation take time and it is important to ensure sustainability beyond project cycles
- Leadership by countries and regional mountain centres, supported by international organisations and civil society, are key for successful cooperation
- Mountain Partnership members are invited to join a growing Community of Practice for adaptation in mountain areas, e.g. on the WeAdapt Mountains Theme and make use and contribute to the A@A solutions portal
- Approaches for adaptation action in mountains need to be inclusive, particularly including youth and marginalized groups

Key takeaway messages from this session:

- The IPCC and especially its recent Cross-Chapter Paper5 on mountains (Adler et al. 2022) constitute a success story for science-policy forum for climate-resilient development in mountain areas
- Important to aggregate data at global, but also local level – learning with communities through collaborative action
- GEO Mountains has managed to walk the talk to exercise open science and fair principles of open data and analyze existing data consolidating data sets on different topics such as biodiversity
- In the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the 2019 Assessment report brought together over 300 scientists from the region and beyond providing a “mini-IPCC”
- This led to the HKH Call to Action, a manifesto for the region, which was endorsed by a Ministerial Meeting in 2020
- Important to focus on regional science-policy forums to base policies in sound science and evidence
- In Andes, A@A supports long time monitoring networks e.g. on mountain forests but also to develop regional socio-ecological indicators combining natural science and social science approaches
- Foster exchange between regional mountain platforms and mechanisms to increase learnings and strengthen science-policy exchange and intraregional collaboration and dialogue, e.g. with the Andean Mountain Initiative
- Rio +20 outcome document gave a mandate to strengthen mountain centres of excellences
- Important to work with regional frameworks and partners to ensure sustainability of actions and regional cooperation
- Align regional activities in mountain ranges with other relevant international timelines and ensure that processes and dialogues continue after project lifecycle
- Many initiatives and solutions for climate change adaptation in mountains exist, they need to be shared and further implemented through collaborative processes and approaches
- Important to have multistakeholder approaches that include also youth
- Narrative of “melting mountains” is missing, similar to “sinking islands”

Relevant quotes from discussion:

“It is key for the research community to learn together with communities on a local level” – Carolina Adler

“We believe data and science are a public good for the Hindu Kush Himalaya region” – Basantha Shrestha

“Long-term monitoring, e.g. for Andean forests, is so important for evidence-based policies” – Karen Price Rios

“20 years after the 2002 International Year of Mountains it is time to appreciate the advances made and accelerate regional processes looking ahead” – Matthias Jurek

“When you achieve collaboration, you already achieved a lot!” – Sam Kanyamibwa

Key questions and comments by audience:

- Important to educate youth on climate change and develop educational tools
- Accelerate use of science to really implement adaptation action in mountain areas and show that adaptation is possible
- Prioritize mountain areas further in public policy

Additional information, if available

Interesting materials/photography/links/ funding/networking opportunities, key contacts:

www.adaptationaltitude.org

www.mountains-connect.org

www.geomountains.org

Side Event 3: Strengthening the Andean Mountain Initiative Governance for resilient societies in the region**Name, affiliation and email address of rapporteur:**

Karen Price Rios, CONDESAN

Montanasandes@condesan.org

Abstract of side event, speakers and title of presentations (This can be an extract from concept note / agenda):

The Andean Mountain Initiative is a platform made up of the seven countries that share a common territory, the Andes mountain range. Facing common challenges requires the strengthening of governance aimed at improving planning processes and facilitating decision-making.

Speakers:

- Andean Mountain Initiative - Carlos Montoya, Environment Direction, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru
- Climate Change in the Andes - Adrián Díaz, General Direction of Environment and Ocean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
- Andean Biodiversity - Beatriz Fuentealba, National Research Institute on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems, Peru
- Climate change and mountain governance - Ansgar Fellendorf, Climate change and mountain governance expert, UNEP
- Conclusions - Mariano Goicoechea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina

Main issues discussed:

- The Andean Mountain Initiative
- Climate change impacts in the Andes
- Biodiversity in the Andean mountains
- Interregional exchange

Key takeaway messages from this session:

- The relevance of the Andean mountains at the global and regional level
- The importance of a continuous process of strengthening governance at the regional level through the AMI
- The crucial contribution of regional exchange to strengthening these governance processes

Relevant quotes from discussion:

"I have witnessed this process since the beginning, 15 years ago. I want to congratulate you for how far you have come, especially in this last period" – Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Key questions asked by audience:

Have the AMI been able to implement actions at the local level?

How can the regional knowledge generated be managed to reach the different levels of management and decision making?

Additional information, if available

Interesting materials/photography/links/ funding/networking opportunities, key contacts:

<https://iam-andes.org/>

Follow up and spill over effects from event discussion: post-event actions and any relevant outcomes

- We are looking for an opportunity with UNESCO to collaborate regarding the biosphere reserves in the Andes and to implement an adaptation fund
- There is a possibility of peer-to-peer exchange with the Alpine Convention
- Collaboration ties with UNEP were strengthened

Side Event 4: The role of higher education in fostering climate action and sustainability for mountain peoples and environments**Name, affiliation and email address of rapporteur:**

Julia Klein, Colorado State University and Director of Mountain Sentinels Network

julia.klein@colostate.edu

Abstract of side event, speakers and title of presentations (This can be an extract from concept note / agenda):**Participants:**

- Julia Klein, Colorado State University and Director of Mountain Sentinels Network
- Rachel Forbes, Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Denver (DU)
- Kim Langmaid, Mayor of Vail, and Associate Professor, Sustainability Studies, Colorado Mountain College
- John Hausdoerffer, Dean, Clark Family School of Environment & Sustainability, Western Colorado University
- Cody Sanford, recent Colorado State University (CSU) graduate that co-founded a podcast, called Liveable Future Podcast, with another CSU student and was a delegate to the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, UK

Main issues discussed:

- How is your institution advancing climate action & sustainability for mountains and training the next generation?
- How are your students working to advance sustainable mountain development?
- How can we work together to accelerate education and youth climate action for and with the mountains?

<p>Key takeaway messages from this session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutes of higher education need to work with and for society – NGOs, governments, businesses, local communities in just and ethical way. 3 days in basalt with local and Indigenous mountain peoples focusing on centering their worldviews and knowledge in this work. 2. Students need to learn not just content – they need to learn and experience deep collaboration, respect for knowledge systems, how to foster ethical spaces in which to work.
<p>Relevant quotes from discussion:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Key questions asked by audience:</p> <p>Have these institutions on the stage worked together before? Why or why not?</p>

Additional information, if available

Interesting materials/photography/links/ funding/networking opportunities, key contacts:

- <https://mountainsentinel.org/education/>
- <https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/ess/>
- <https://western.edu/program/master-environmental-management-mem/>

Follow up and spill over effects from event discussion: post-event actions and any relevant outcomes

- The institutions of higher education agreed to implement student projects that implement the actions outlined in the Aspen Declaration.

Side Event 5: Sustainable Land Management and biodiversity conservation for community-based adaptation: generating sustainable socio-economic opportunities for mountain communities

[Awaiting content]

Side Event 6: Braiding Indigenous knowledge and western science: experiences and solutions for sustainable mountain development

[Awaiting content]

Side Event 7: Knowledge generation and management and strategic partnerships for sustainable mountain development in South America

Name, affiliation and email address of rapporteur:

Ana Carolina Benítez, CONDESAN

ana.benitez@condesan.org

Abstract of side event, speakers and title of presentations (This can be an extract from concept note / agenda):

The major group of South America is conformed of diverse organizations that work on mountain sustainable development across the region. Regarding the diversity of socio-ecosystems and mountain landscapes in the region, it is key to promote diverse, local and comprehensive approaches, informed by relevant knowledge generation and management and supported by strategic partnership. We propose a space of convergence for cross-dialogue between institutions and actors interested in the good living (*buen vivir, bom viver*) of the people and the

environments of the mountain systems of South America. This meeting seeks to promote and strengthen the bonds of synergy in scenarios of collaborative and inclusive co-construction, incorporating new voices and visions into the ancestral discussion about mountain environments in the region.

- Hugo Mantilla-Meluk, High Mountain Research Center (CEAM) / University of Quindío - Environmental surveillance a crucial issue in times of crisis
- Francisco Roman, CONDESAN, Knowledge generation to prioritize investment on nature-based solutions in mountains.
- Sebastian Malizia, ProYungas, The role of the private sector in conservation and sustainable development, Public Private Partnership a scalable model
- Luis Felipe César, Fundación Crescente Fértil, Involving municipalities in forest restoration projects and payment for environmental services
- Sonia Salas, REDAR/Rural Agrobusiness network of Perú, Local biodiversity, strategic resource for resilience and development
- Hugo Ariel Derudi, Fundación Agreste, Strategic partnership for the technical and financial support of LDN projects

Main issues discussed:

- Knowledge generation and management for SMD
- Sustainable Land Management
- Strategic Partnership for SMD
- Governance platforms

Key takeaway messages from this session:

South American organizations are working with different focuses and on diverse proposals for SMD in the region, from the generation and management of relevant, timely and cost-effective knowledge to the implementation of Sustainable Land Management Strategies at the landscape level, while working with local people to rescue local knowledge and find more sustainable ways of life.

Organizations in the region have put a lot of effort and have made progress in building knowledge, strengthening capacities, exchange between peers, South-South cooperation and making our mountains visible, to influence policies and achieve more favorable conditions for our sustainable development.

To link up with other mountainous regions of the world, to form a global coalition that aims to work more and more in a contextualized and relevant way, for the well-being of our ecosystems and our people, is a priority in the region.

Relevant quotes from discussion:

N/A

Key questions asked by audience:

N/A

Additional information, if available

Interesting materials/photography/links/ funding/networking opportunities, key contacts:

- N/A

Follow up and spill over effects from event discussion: post-event actions and any relevant outcomes

- Three organizations have manifested their interest to be more active in the discussions of the group: Mujeres a la Cumbre, HimalAndes y el Instituto de Montaña de Perú.

Side Event 8: Keeping our mountains waste-free

Name, affiliation and email address of rapporteur:

Laurent FOUINAT, GRID-Arendal

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Abstract of side event, speakers and title of presentations (This can be an extract from concept note / agenda):

- The waste and pollution crisis has reached mountain areas and Mountain Partnership members are invited to consider clean waste-free mountains a priority area in future strategies and work plans
- Mountain specific solutions exist in the areas of policy, financing, infrastructure and outreach
- Action by all stakeholders – from local to global level and from individuals to policy-makers – is needed to keep our mountains waste-free
- There is a need to further strengthen and build partnerships with key actors in mountains such as from the tourism sector, the scientific research community, and local decision-makers

Main issues discussed:

- IYM2022 Policy brief “[Keep our mountains waste-free](#)” official launch
- Global picture of waste in mountains
- UIAA Mountain protection award
- Waste issues in mountains of Pakistan
- Waste management in Pitkin County, Colorado
- Point of view of waste in mountain from a mountain guide

Key takeaway messages from this session:

In terms of waste, we should look into cities where the more waste is produced
Plastic waste is the most seen in mountains.

Tourism is a major factor driving waste to the mountains.

Since 2013, the UIAA Mountain Protection Award has promoted and created prize incentives to showcase over 140 projects

Waste in high mountains of Pakistan is related to mountaineering groups that come climbing peaks against only small fee, to which none of the waste cleaning is included.

There are strong linkages between waste in mountain areas and low lands mostly through river systems.

The recent global agreement on plastics pollution is a low hanging fruit for governments to support the reduction of waste in mountains.

Relevant quotes from discussion:

- Waste management in mountains contributes to waste issues in the lowlands.
- Infrastructure of waste is a key element for taking care of the waste
- We need action at the local, regional, national and international levels
- The UIAA gathers over 3 million people in the world who can be included in actions around waste in the mountains
- In Pakistan we lack sustainable urbanization mechanisms for waste
- Travelling around the world for mountaineering, Angela Hawse “I am definitely part of the issue, but I believe I can be part of the solution as well”.

- Individual responsibility is very important, but community should support as much as possible.
- “Reduce, Reuse, Refuse waste are very important things to keep in mind to avoid accumulating waste”
Cathy Hall.

Key questions asked by audience:

No questions asked by the audience

Side Event 9: Community: Talk Globally, Act Locally

Name, affiliation and email address of rapporteur:

Clare McLaughlin and Tim Karfs, City of Aspen Environmental Health & Sustainability Department.

clare.mclaughlin@aspen.gov

Abstract of side event, speakers and title of presentations (This can be an extract from concept note / agenda):

Community: Talk Globally, Act Locally will highlight the steps local communities are taking to address climate change and sustainability and the role of collaboration to reach climate goals. This Q&A panel will feature elected officials from our local area, including Mayors and County Commissioners, sharing their thoughts and insights on the pressing and complex realities of reaching carbon reduction goals and mountain sustainability. This session will also provide a forum to connect with each other and international mountain communities.

Main issues discussed:

- Local values and sense of urgency to act on climate and sustainability
- Regional collaboration across county and municipal jurisdictions to scale efforts and results.
- Climate communication to galvanize action.

Key takeaway messages from this session:

- Local governments play a key role in climate action and mountain sustainability solutions by piloting projects and working through on-the-ground implementation realities.
- Regionalism and collective action from local communities are necessary to meet the scale and urgency of climate change. Collaboration will scale solutions and improve outcomes.
- Local communities are demonstrating climate action and sustainability strategies on a local scale through projects such as improving building codes, installing solar farms, electrifying some buildings. To achieve ambitious climate goals, jurisdictions should communicate and share best practices and partner where applicable.
- Continued investment and collaboration among institutions, such as regional transit authorities and advocacy groups, are important to leverage and strengthen to use collective voice to advocate for funding and greater efforts at the state and federal levels.

Relevant quotes from discussion:

“Competition between jurisdictions and 3 different counties in the area can spark healthy competition. Competition can distract... the climate doesn’t care where emissions come from. We need to consider how we can also make space for collaboration” – Mayor Ben Bohmfalk

“Individual climate plans will not be enough. We need to use the power of advocacy at the state and federal level”
– Commissioner Matt Scherr

Key questions asked by audience:

- Panel discussion only had time for one audience question.
- The two part questions asked if panelists were 1) willing to travel to Washington to bring much needed federal dollars to the region and 2) believed the United States has an extraordinary responsibility to address climate change and its impacts due to the country's outsized responsibility for the crisis.

Annex V – List of event sponsors

Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership sponsors (in alphabetical order):

- Arjun Gupta Family Foundation
- Aspen Institute
- Aspen Press (The)
- Aspen Skiing Company
- Atlantic Aviation
- City of Aspen
- Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office
- Colorado State University
- Colorado Tourism Office
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Melany and Adam Lewis
- Mountain Sentinels
- Pine Creek Cookhouse/Ski Ashcroft
- Pitkin County
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United States Economic Development Administration
- World Bank Group