

# **The Task Force Meeting of the Mountain Partnership**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, 29-31 October 2012**

## **Executive Summary**

The Task Force meeting took place in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs during 29-31 October 2012. The aim of this event was to take stock of the achievements and challenges experienced by the Mountain Partnership (MP) during the last ten years, during which the attention to mountains and mountain people has considerably increased, and to elaborate the main building blocks for the future strategy and governance of the Mountain Partnership. This process was launched in the context of the preparations for Rio+20 and during the Conference itself, at which it was determined that further reflection, discussion and refinement were required. The participants in the Task Force meeting were selected through an open invitation to all MP members and a transparent selection process based on clear criteria such as balanced representation of geographic areas and of the three main constituencies of the MP (i.e. Governments, Intergovernmental Organizations and Civil Society groups), and history of involvement in MP activities. Eight governments, four intergovernmental organizations and thirteen major group organizations participated (see attached list).

### **Main discussion topics of the meeting**

The Task Force discussed a number of strategic issues related to the Mountain Partnership: added value, vision, mission and functions, governance, and strategy.

The meeting started with a lively discussion about the current key issues and challenges in Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) and the MP's mission to support the Mountain Agenda. The need to revise the MP according to current and future challenges and in line with the emerging Sustainable Development Goals was recognised. There was a general agreement that the MP should contribute to empowering mountain people; managing natural and cultural resources and sacred/unique landscapes in mountain regions for improved livelihoods; supporting mountain communities and ecosystems to better adapt to global changes (including climate change, demographic change, socio-economic transformations); and recognise the interdependencies between mountains and people worldwide.

The need for and the relevance of the MP as a Type 2 UN initiative was confirmed by the participants. It was underlined that, while the MP fulfils a global role within international negotiations and fora, it also serves as a venue that supports and encourages regional and national activities that feed into global processes and perspectives. The increasing political leadership role of MP and its relevance in

global and regional contexts was highlighted particularly by the government members of the MP, especially in relation to climate change. Global advocacy, knowledge and information sharing, capacity development, technology transfer, resource mobilization and communication were recognized as the main functions and roles of the MP in support of the SMD.

It was underlined that the MP should be accountable to members and provide added value for them. Members should actively commit to cooperating with other members and substantially contribute to the fulfillment of the overall mandate and goals of the MP. Membership criteria and responsibilities were discussed, with the aim of ensuring a stronger commitment and a more representative participation of MP members in the future.

The discussion about the future governance of the MP concluded with the need to develop a light structure which allows for global coordination as well as sufficient regional autonomy. The full membership, a representative Steering Committee and a global Secretariat were considered the three essential building blocks of future governance.

### **Next steps**

Over the coming weeks and months, the draft strategy and governance documents will be revised based on the results of the deliberations during the Task Force Meeting, and further refined through consultation with Task Force and, eventually, all MP members. A financial strategy for the MP as well as a work plan and ToR of the MP Secretariat will also be elaborated. The final endorsement of these documents will take place in the context of the 4<sup>th</sup> Global MP meeting to be held during the first half of 2013.