



Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting
Summary report
30 March 2022 – Zoom meeting

Agenda

Chair: Roberto Natali (Italian Government)

- 1. 15:30-15:35** Opening and adoption of agenda by Chair
- 2. 15:35-16:15** Update on International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022
 - Presentation from representative of the Government of Kyrgyzstan
 - Preparation for the official launch of the Year
 - Other events planned
 - Update on Open-ended Scientific Committee
 - Discussion
- 3. 16:15-16:30** Update on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's work (for information)
- 4. 16:30-16:45** Update on Global Meeting (for information)
- 5. 16:45-17:00** Other matters, discussion and conclusions

Section 1: Opening and adoption of agenda by Chair

Roberto Natali, representative of the Government of Italy and Chair of the Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee (SC), opened the meeting. The agenda was adopted without change.

The Chair shared that he received a reply to his letter from the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), stating that the Organization is fully committed to supporting sustainable mountain development, as the lead UN agency on mountains. However, given the very late proclamation of this Year and the overlap with another International Year led by FAO, the Organization is not in a position to provide the level of support that it usually confers to International Years. Its contribution will be confined, *inter alia*, to expert participation in a limited number of events (in representation of the lead UN agency on mountains, not as a host or keynote speaker) and the organization of relevant events by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, but will preclude the creation of a dedicated Trust Fund to run and lead the implementation of the Year, as well as the issuance of FAO communications, such as press releases and other announcements through formal channels.



Tiina Vähänen, Deputy Director of the FAO Forestry Division, who is now representing the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) Host Institution in the SC, introduced herself and expressed FAO's continued support to the work of the MP.

Section 2: Update on International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022

1. Presentation from representative of the Government of Kyrgyzstan

Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, provided a brief presentation on the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 (IYM2022). Kyrgyzstan will initiate a draft resolution for a five year action plan on the sustainable development of mountain regions for the period of 2023-2027, to conclude with a summit in Bishkek to mark 25 years since the first Bishkek Summit in 2002.¹ The Ambassador announced that Kyrgyzstan is also planning an event in New York at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

The SC requested clarification on whether the proposed resolution on the action plan would be connected to the United Nations General Assembly's triennial resolution on sustainable mountain development, which will be renewed in 2022, and expressed the importance of linking the two resolutions.

2. Preparation for the official launch of the Year

A representative of the MPS presented the draft agenda and proposed a tentative date for the opening ceremony of IYM2022.

The SC supported the proposed date of 28 April 2022 for the event, suggested to limit the length of the online event to 60 minutes, and encouraged the MPS to invite additional government representatives to make statements. It also requested for the theme of the launch event to be kept generally aligned with the theme of the international year (i.e. on sustainable mountain development), and invited inputs at the event to make reference to the MP's framework for action on sustainable mountain development.

The SC also acknowledged the need to have press releases issued by countries to share the info about this ceremony. The SC governments were encouraged to take an active role given that MPS will not be in a position to issue a press release through the FAO channels.

A request was made to have the ceremony interpreted in the six United Nations languages. The MPS recognized the importance of this request but recalled the lack of a dedicated budget for the observance of IYM2022, reiterating that any contribution would be appreciated.

Decisions:

- The opening ceremony for the IYM2022 will take place on 28 April 2022.
- The agenda proposed by the MPS is approved.
- The United Nations Secretary-General should be invited to the event.
- Speakers should include ministers and other dignitaries from all regions.
- A small IYM2022 coordination unit will be created among SC members. Interested members should

¹ The year 2002 marked the first-ever United Nations International Year of Mountains.



send an email to confirm their interest to the MPS by 15 April.

- The MPS can provide support to the coordination unit to draft a press release that governments will share with their national media.

3. Other events planned

The MPS shared a list of events that the MPS and/or members of the MP are organizing or will be participating in as contributions to the celebration of IYM2022.

The SC endorsed the events proposed.

4. Update on the Open-ended Scientific Committee

A representative of the MPS reported on the outcomes of the two meetings held thus far by the Open-ended Scientific Committee (OESC). The OESC had been proposed to the SC by the MPS during the [extraordinary SC meeting](#) held on 13 January 2022.

The SC acknowledged the key role of the OESC in mobilizing the scientific community for IYM2022 and reiterated the need to acknowledge and formalize a collaboration between the OESC and the MP SC in supporting the coordination and facilitation of the observance of the IYM2022 by the MP, represented by its SC. It also supported consolidating the themes of the proposed policy briefs as much as possible so to reduce their number by consolidating similar ones.

Decisions:

- All SC members will be invited to the OESC meetings, in addition to those SC members who are already participating in it.
- The SC formally adopted the [Terms of Reference](#) of the OESC as it finds them to be in line with the overall scope and objectives for the group as discussed by the SC, and in line with the importance of a close collaboration between the OESC and the MP in the observance of the IYM2022.
- The MPS will continue to support the members of the OESC to collaborate among themselves to consolidate the themes for the policy briefs.

Section 3: Update on the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's work

A representative of the MPS presented the Secretariat's accomplishments since the previous regularly scheduled SC meeting in November 2021. She highlighted the main events and activities from the MPS' 2022 work plan.

Decision:

- The SC endorsed the MPS' 2022 calendar of events and work plan.
- The SC requested for information inputs and presentations to be provided ahead of the SC meetings, thereby reserving time at the SC meeting for deliberations and planning discussions.

Section 4: Update on Global Meeting



Eric Smith, representative of the Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF), shared the status of the preparations for the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting, to be held on 26-29 September 2022 in Aspen, Colorado, United States of America.

The SC suggested that the organizers send reminders to invitees every month to register through the online registration form, where it is also possible to submit requests for side events and exhibitions.

A suggestion was made to provide translation in Swahili, which the African Union recently adopted as its official working language.

Decision:

- The SC members committed to ensure a high level and broad participation from their own organizations and institutions as well as from their electoral constituencies.

Section 5: Other matters, discussion and conclusions

The MPS reminded the SC that the deadline to provide inputs for the revision of the governance and advocacy and communication strategies is 15 April 2022.

The SC acknowledged that the MPS circulated the call for inputs to the 2022 United Nations Secretary-General report on sustainable mountain development on 29 March 2022.



Annex 1: Participants' list

Steering Committee members

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, Nepal

Europe – Roberto Natali, Italy (**Chair**)

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic

South America – Mariano Goicoechea, Maia Hoffman, Bibiana Vilá, Argentina

Sub-Saharan Africa – Maureen Anino, Uganda

Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Tiina Vähänen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Harald Egerer, Jessica Bitsch, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major Group Organizations

Asia and the Pacific – Gobinda Shahi, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC) (**Vice Chair**)

Central Asia – Anara Alymkulova, Institute for Sustainable Development Strategy Public Fund (ISDS)

Europe – Simao Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO) and Euromontana

Near East and North Africa – Abdollah Ashtari Nakhaei, Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

North & Central America and the Caribbean – Karinjo DeVore, Margi Levitt, Eric Smith, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) (**Vice Chair**)

South America – Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste

Absent Steering Committee Members

Governments

Near East and North Africa – Tunisia

Major Group Organizations

Sub-Saharan Africa – Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)

Observers

Government of Kyrgyzstan

Nurlan Aitmurzaev



Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Samantha Abear
Valeria Barchiesi
Eric Chavez
Giorgio Grussu
Sara Manuelli
Fabio Parisi
Rosaura Romeo
Antonella Sorrentino