



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

Agenda

Chair: Roberto Natali (Italian Government)

- 1. 15.00-15.05** Opening and adoption of agenda by Chair
- 2. 15.05-16.00** Update on the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting – item for discussion
 - a. Update on participation
 - b. Agenda and side events
 - c. Aspen Declaration
 - d. Update from the Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)
- 3. 16.00-16.40** Update on work planning 2022 – item for discussion
 - a. International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022, five-year action plan and United Nations General Assembly presentation (presentation by Kyrgyzstan)
 - b. Highlighting mountains at the next key events – UNFCCC & CBD COPs, etc. (updates from SC members and MPS)
 - c. Next steps and discussion
- 4. 16.40-17.00** 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 announced that he has been appointed Ambassador of Italy to Kenya and will be leaving his post with the Mountain Partnership. Livio Spadavecchia, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been assigned to represent the Government of Italy in the Mountain Partnership.

Section 2: Update on the Mountain Partnership Global Meeting

a. Update on participation

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) briefly reported on the number of participants that have registered for the MP Global Meeting on 26-29 September in Aspen, USA. There are 190 total registrants from 56 countries, including 26 governments, 9 United Nations (UN) and international organizations, and 80 civil society organizations, including several high-level participants. The MPS highlighted the great effort by the AIMF to ensure that these people are fully supported and can receive their visas on time.



Additional points discussed included:

- Voting modalities – It will be possible to vote in person, via proxy, or online for matters up for decision at the Global Meeting as stated in the MP governance.
- Steering Committee candidates – If MP members vote in favour of the creation of a new electoral group for UN organizations, which has been proposed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), there will be no candidates for the intergovernmental organizations electoral group, as no other nominations were received during the MPS' call for candidacies.

b. Agenda and side events

The MPS presented the draft Global Meeting plenary agenda. The MPS will work closely with speakers and moderators to ensure the sessions are impactful and respectful of time. The meeting will be live with minimal virtual interventions. The plenary sessions will be livestreamed for those MP members that cannot attend. The link will be shared with all members a few days before the start of the Global Meeting.

The list of side events was then presented. There will be nine total side events during the afternoons of Tuesday, 27 September and Wednesday, 28 September. Given the number of side events, some events will run simultaneously. The side events will complement the topics being addressed in plenary and aim to give space to a variety of voices, including local and international actors.

c. Aspen Declaration

The MPS provided an overview of the Aspen Declaration, which will be the outcome document of the Global Meeting. It includes an introduction of reference documents, followed by a series of commitments for Mountain Partnership members and the MPS. Depending on the final text of the Kyrgyz Republic's five-year action plan in the United Nations General Assembly resolution, the declaration can be revised.

The MPS presented a timeline for the endorsement of the Aspen Declaration:

- **1 September** – MPS shares draft with the SC for comments by 8 September
- **9 September** – MPS shares draft with the entire membership for comments by 21 September (the SC is welcome to make additional comments during this phase)
- **27 September** – draft Declaration is presented at the Global Meeting
- **29 September** – Members endorse the Declaration at the Global Meeting

The main points discussed included:

- creating synergies between the text of the Aspen Declaration and the revised MP strategies; and
- setting up an ad-hoc working group in Aspen to fine-tune the MP strategies.

d. Update from the Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF)

The AIMF provided an update on the status of fundraising for the Global Meeting. To date, they have successfully raised USD 409 000. They thanked the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), UNEP and the World Bank for their generous support. The AIMF Planning Team is still working hard to raise additional funds and would require an additional USD 50 00 to subsidize all MP members' lodging and travel and to provide the necessary audio-visual support.

The SC applauded the AIMF for its great efforts.



Decision:

- The MPS will send a message to all members regarding the voting modalities for the Global Meeting.
- The MPS will send a message to all members to follow the Global Meeting online.

Section 3: Update on work planning 2022

a. International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022, five-year action plan and United Nations General Assembly presentation

Ambassador Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Special Envoy of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, underlined the Kyrgyz Republic's leading role in the proclamation of an International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 by the UN General Assembly. The Kyrgyz Republic has adopted a national decree on protecting mountain ecosystems and building climate resilience. The country's roadmap to implement this decree includes seven national scientific conferences and round tables. They will also host a side event within the MP framework at the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). One of their main upcoming events is a high-level meeting on sustainable mountain development on 19 September during the UN General Assembly.

The Kyrgyz Republic is working on a five-year action plan 2023-2027 for the development of mountain regions. They aim to have this adopted as part of the triennial United Nations General Assembly resolution on sustainable mountain development and invited the Members States of the MP to co-sponsor this.

b. Highlighting mountains at the next key events – UNFCCC & CBD COPs, etc.

The MPS' requests for two official side events at the upcoming UNFCCC COP in Sharm el-Sheikh have been approved. It will also apply for a side event in the COP's Cryosphere Pavilion. Andorra and the Kyrgyz Republic are leading the process to have a ministerial meeting at the UNFCCC COP on climate change. The MPS will also submit applications for two side events at the COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada.

Switzerland highlighted that it will host a side event on mountain agrobiodiversity on 19 September during the Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in New Delhi.

The main points discussed included to:

- highlight the 2022 International Mountain Day theme "Women move mountains" in the MP's activities at the CBD COP;
- build synergies with other activities on mountains the UNFCCC COP and avoid overlap.

Decision:

- The MPS will share the five-year action plan with the Steering Committee once they receive the final version from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.



Section 4: Other matters, discussion and conclusions

The SC members congratulated the Chair on his new appointment and wished him the best in his future endeavors.



Annex 1: Participants' list

Steering Committee members

Donor Organizations

François Pythoud, Switzerland

Governments

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

Near East and North Africa – Mohamed Boufaroua, Tunisia

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

South America – Mariano Goicoechea, Carolina Hernandez, 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

Melissa de Kock, Harald Egerer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Global Civil Society Organizations

Carolina Adler, Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)

Major Group Organizations

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

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

Europe – Simão Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)

Near East and North Africa – Leila Sotoudeh, Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS)

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

South America – María Argüello, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)

Sub-Saharan Africa – Nchunu Justice Sama, Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)

Absent Steering Committee Members

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Nepal

Observers

Fundación Agreste

Marisa Young



Italy

Livio Spadavecchia

Kyrgyz Republic

Nurlan Aitmurzaev

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Samantha Abear

Valeria Barchiesi

Allison Bozzi

Eric Chavez

Zoe Cuthbert

Giorgio Grussu

Yuna Lee

Sara Manuelli

Rosalaura Romeo

United Nations Environment Programme

Matthias Jurek