



Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting  
Summary report  
29 September 2022 – Aspen Meadows Resort, USA

## Agenda

**Chair: Livio Spadavecchia (Italian Government)**

- 1. 14.30-15.00** *Tour de table* and adoption of agenda
- 2. 15.00-15.30** Introduction by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on the role of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee
- 3. 15.30-16.00** Election of a new Chair and Vice Chairs
- 4. 16.00-16.30** Other matters, discussion and conclusions
  - Identifying date of next Steering Committee meeting

### Section 1: *Tour de table* and adoption of agenda

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

The newly elected SC members briefly introduced themselves (see list of participants in Annex I). The newly elected SC members are as follows:

- Asia and the Pacific Governments: Nepal
- Asia and the Pacific Major Groups: Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC), Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation (Alternate)
- Central Asia Governments: Kyrgyzstan
- Central Asia Major Groups: Tajik Social and Ecological Union, Rural Development Fund (Alternate)
- Europe Governments: Andorra, Romania (Alternate)
- Europe Major Groups: Euromontana/Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO), Albanian Alps Alliance (Alternate)
- Near East and North Africa Governments: Yemen
- Near East and North Africa Major Groups: Coalition Civile pour la Montagne, Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS) (Alternate)
- North and Central America and the Caribbean Governments: Dominican Republic, Guatemala (Alternate)
- North and Central America and the Caribbean Major Groups: Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF), The Grassroots Institute (Alternate)
- South America Governments: Peru, Argentina (Alternate)
- South America Major Groups: Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM), Crescente Fértil (Alternate)



- Sub-Saharan Africa Governments: Malawi, Uganda (Alternate)
- Sub-Saharan Africa Major Groups: Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)
  - Alternate to be determined: Cross River State or Tengeneza Generation
- Global Major Groups: GRID-Arendal, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (Alternate)
- Intergovernmental Organizations: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations University (Alternate)<sup>1</sup>
- Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS): Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Donors: Italy

## Section 2: Introduction by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on the role of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

Rosalaura Romeo, Interim Coordinator of the MPS, briefly introduced the role of the SC. The SC meets approximately 2-3 times annually, unless circumstances (e.g. International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022, Global Meeting planning, etc.) require more frequent meetings. Being elected to be part of the Steering Committee is at government or organization level, and not at the level of the individual MP focal points. Hence, as participation in the SC meetings is important, if nobody from the elected representative is available, it is the responsibility of the elected members to inform their alternate and request their participation, copying the MPS in the related correspondence.

The SC members represent their respective constituencies, therefore it is important to maintain close relations with the members of their electoral group. The role of the Chair requires additional engagement, as he or she is in close contact with the MPS and acts as a spokesperson for many outreach opportunities and events.

The following points were raised:

- The working language of the SC and all SC meetings is English.
- Relevant documents, presentations and agendas need to be shared with SC members well in advance of SC meetings to ensure proper coordination and preparation among constituency groups.
- The contact information of MP members on the MP website gets easily outdated due to staff turnover, therefore the MPS and the SC members should collaborate and share information with the aim to maintain up-to-date contact information.
  - The focal point of the Government of Cameroon has retired. The MPS requested that the SC member share the contact details of the new government member so that they can get in contact.
- A WhatsApp group could be created for more efficient communication among SC members.

There was a request for clarification regarding the discussion during the Global Meeting on making the Chair of the SC in charge of the entire MP. The MPS clarified that there was a proposal from the Government of Switzerland to modify and expand the Chair's mandate, making the Chair responsible for the MP instead of

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations University will serve as the Steering Committee alternate representing intergovernmental organizations for the first two years of this Steering Committee's term and will then be substituted by the United Nations Development Programme.



just the SC. The SC noted the complexity of enacting this proposal and requested to receive the original proposal of the Government of Switzerland on this matter. This has been requested by the MPS and will be shared with the SC once received.

Decision:

- SC members that wish to join the WhatsApp group should send their contact information to [Fabio.Parisi@fao.org](mailto:Fabio.Parisi@fao.org).
- The MPS will share with the SC Switzerland's proposal regarding changing the role of the SC Chair.
- The MPS will research different options of governance and chair structures and will share their results with the SC.

### Section 3: Election of a new Chair and Vice Chair

The SC briefly discussed among themselves before announcing their decision for the Chair and Vice Chairs of the SC as follows:

- Chair: Government of Italy
- Vice Chairs: Government of the Dominican Republic and KIRDARC

The election was taken by consensus.

### Section 4: Other matters, discussion and conclusions

The next SC meeting will be held online. The SC suggested that it take place sometime between the UNFCCC and CBD COPs. The MPS will facilitate the organization of an in-person SC meeting in 2023, before summer.

UNEP requested that observers be allowed to follow SC meetings. The SC did not object.

UNEP also shared that it is proposing a side event during the CBD COP and will share further details via the MPS. The MPS also shared information about the two side events it is organizing during the UNFCCC COP.

The Government of Andorra encouraged the SC members to advise their ministers to pay attention to the invitation soon to be sent by *Sílvia Calvó i Armengol*, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability of Andorra, for an informal meeting of governments during the UNFCCC.

The Government of Malawi reminded the other SC members that the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 is ongoing and to keep up the momentum.

Decision:

- The MPS will create a list with the contact details of the new SC members.
- The SC will continue to discuss the issues raised during the plenary of the Global Meeting.



## Annex 1: Participants list

### Steering Committee members

#### Donor Organizations

Livio Spadavecchia, Italy (Chair)

#### Governments

**Asia and the Pacific** – Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, Nepal

**Central Asia** – Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Kyrgyzstan

**Europe** – Josep Casals Alis, Andorra

**North & Central America and the Caribbean** – Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic (Vice Chair)

**South America** – Carlos Jaime Montoya Montero, Peru

**Sub-Saharan Africa** – Macpherson Nthara, Malawi

#### Host Institution of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Thomas Hofer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

#### Intergovernmental Organizations

Matthias Jurek, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

#### Global Civil Society Organizations

Onno Ruhl, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (Alternate)

#### Major Group Organizations

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

**Central Asia** – Anvar Buzurukov, Tajik Social and Ecological Union

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

**Near East and North Africa** – Mohamed Ddich, Coalition Civile pour la Montagne

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

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

### Absent Steering Committee Members

#### Governments

**Near East and North Africa** – Yemen

#### Major Groups

**South America** – Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM)

### Observers

#### Argentina

Mariano Goicoechea y Garayar



**Aspen International Mountain Foundation**

Eric Smith  
John Starr

**Mountain Partnership Secretariat**

Samantha Abear  
Allison Bozzi  
Eric Chavez  
Giorgio Grussu  
Sara Manuelli  
Fabio Parisi  
Rosaura Romeo  
Antonella Sorrentino