



## **First meeting of the Task Force of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions Working Group**

Summary report  
13 April 2023, 15.00-16.00 – Teams meeting

### **Agenda**

- Opening and background
- Tour de table
- Discussion on the Global Action Plan Outline
- Next steps
- Closing

### **Opening and background**

Rosalaura Romeo, Interim Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), opened the meeting, welcoming the participants and expressing appreciation for their voluntary commitment to the Working Group of the Task Force for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027.

### **Tour de table**

See the full list of meeting participants in Annex 1.

### **Discussion on the Global Action Plan Outline**

Rosalaura, MPS, delivered a brief presentation on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027 plan and resolution. She remarked that the language of the resolution is not specific and proceeded to clarify the role and functions of the working group, underscoring that its primary objective is to draft the Global Plan of Action.

To develop the Global Plan of Action draft, the working group must establish an outline, timeline and organize the work while sharing responsibilities. Rosalaura presented a tentative outline for the working group members to consider. She emphasized that the Global Plan of Action should concentrate on the global level by defining key guidelines that regional organizations and relevant mountain countries would be responsible for transforming and adopting to meet their mountain and mountain community needs.

Rosalaura further discussed that the working group should identify broad areas of work and provide general guidelines to further promote the mountain agenda. She underlined how this is an important opportunity to engage relevant UN agencies, foster cooperation and strengthen our organizations' ownership of the mountain agenda by working together to build on our respective mandates and prepare a document that reflects a joint exercise and our diverse expertise.

Laura Russo and Fabio Parisi are the MPS members designated to lead this joint exercise.

Working group members provided the following comments:

Matthias Jurek of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) underlined the need to establish a deadline and a clear vision of the objectives and the anticipated state of mountains in five years (2027). He also underscored the importance of exploring the resolution's action items that the working group could use as a reference point to structure the outline of the Global Action Plan. Finally, he highlighted the importance of identifying the key gaps in achieving the objectives identified by the resolution.

Laura Russo of the MPS concurred and highlighted the need to conduct a brief exercise to determine the vision and the necessary actions to achieve the goals. Laura suggested that the working group identify the actionable items in the resolution that can be achieved within the five years and then build the overarching themes.

Dario Vespertino of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) emphasized the need to connect the plan with other UN initiatives such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and explore ways to contribute to other UN process such as the UNFCCC Coalition of Mountain Countries.

Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Special Envoy of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic for mountains, mentioned the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and their action plan for sustainable development in Hindu Kush Himalaya region which could serve as a useful reference for the working group. He also inquired whether the Global Action Plan would require a formal approval and in case from whom.

Deepshikha Sharma of ICIMOD discussed the Himalayan development plan and their ongoing restructuring process, which is expected to culminate in a 2030 strategy. The activities and results framework is almost finalized and a presentation of the strategy can be found [here](#). She also stressed the importance of involving governments and the science streams.

In response to Nurlan's question, members highlighted that the resolution did not explicitly request a formal approval process and, as this is not a legally binding document, there is no

need of having an approval process. Moreover, the aim is to offer a global exercise that regional organizations and governments can adapt and use as they see fit.

Working members agreed that the collective goal is to advance the mountain agenda. The Global Action Plan should be brief, identify the key points, challenges and actionable items facing sustainable mountain development, while remaining general enough to allow for unexpected changes during the five year period. It should also emphasize the cross-sectorial nature of mountain issues and the opportunities to integrate environmental issues and partnerships, as well as to bring in more youth, Indigenous Peoples, and locals.

### **Next steps and closing**

The Task Force agreed that the MPS will share its presentation with the participants and working group members will work on the following tasks with the support of the MPS:

1. Indicate the chapter on the Global Action Plan outline that the member intends to lead/work on.
2. Consider the potential budget requirements. Roza Choibaeva will explore whether any contributions can be made available with Antje Grawe, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan.
3. The MPS will draft the outline and share with the Working Group for feedback.
4. The MPS will create a logo (TBC – pending availability of funding) and website dedicated to this initiative, linking to other relevant websites and serving as a repository.

Given that the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions has already begun, it is essential to move quickly and efficiently. Each person's contribution should be limited, and the task force will need to review, provide feedback and, if needed, provide contents to substantiate the draft. Once the outline is finalized, the group can begin dividing the work and establishing deadlines, reassessing as necessary.

The meeting summary notes will be shared with the wider Task Force to ensure ongoing communication on the working group's progress and collaboration.

## Annex 1: Meeting participants

| First name | Last name     | Affiliation                     | Country                  |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nurlan     | Aitmurzaev    | Gov. of Kyrgyzstan              | Kyrgyzstan               |
| Salavat    | Baktybek Kyzy | IOM                             | Kyrgyzstan               |
| Roza       | Choibaeva     | UN                              | Kyrgyzstan               |
| Matthias   | Jurek         | UNEP                            | Austria                  |
| Wolfger    | Mayrhofer     | Alpine Convention               | Austria                  |
| Tim        | Scott         | UNDP                            | United States of America |
| Deepshikha | Sharma        | ICIMOD                          | Nepal                    |
| Dario      | Vespertino    | UNDP                            | Thailand                 |
| Yoko       | Watanabe      | UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme | United States of America |

### **Mountain Partnership Secretariat staff:**

Samantha Abear  
Stefania Corrado  
Fabio Parisi  
Rosaura Romeo  
Laura Russo