



Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting

Thursday, 26 October 2023

15.00–17.00 (CEST)

Agenda

- Opening and adoption of the agenda
- Update on Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027 – *For information*
- Discussion on the lead up to the UNFCCC COP 28 – *For discussion*
 - Update on MP events at UNFCCC COP 28
 - Update on plenary discussion from Government of Andorra
 - Discussion
- Discussion on the lead up to FAO Council/mountain agenda item – *For discussion*
 - Update from the Dominican Republic
- Update on the "Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee of the Mountain Partnership" – *For information*
 - Introduction of the Chair
- Update on the launch of the Mountain Youth Hub – *For information*
- Reports from constituencies by Steering Committee members
- Other matters, discussion and conclusions

Opening and adoption of the agenda

Livio Spadavecchia, Mountain Partnership (MP) Steering Committee (SC) Chair, Government of Italy, opened the meeting. He welcomed the participants and thanked Julia Vicioso, Vice-Chair, Dominican Republic, for chairing the last meeting.

The agenda was adopted without modification.

Update on Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027

Fabio Parisi, Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), and Rosalaura Romeo, MPS, presented an update on the [Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions](#). The [Global Framework](#) for the Five Years of Action was developed by the Task Force, launched in July 2023, and shared by the Kyrgyz Republic with all United Nations Member States in September 2023. The work of the Task Force was coordinated by the MPS. While discussing the way forward, Rosalaura shared an update about the creation of a working group open to Task Force members. This working groups will develop concrete ideas on implementing the Global Framework at the global, regional, and national level.

Discussion on the lead up to the UNFCCC COP 28

The Chair opened the discussion on participation in the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 28), taking place from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He expressed appreciation to Andorra's work on bringing the agenda item on mountains and climate change to UNFCCC COP 28. He announced the change of the name of the UNFCCC Negotiating Group from the "Group of Mountain Land Locked Countries" to the "Group of Mountain Partnership".

Sara Manuelli, MPS, provided an update on the MPS' planned events at UNFCCC COP 28. She shared information on the two main events the MPS is participating in, including a side event in the Cryosphere Pavilion on 10 December 2023 and the high-level event for International Mountain Day (IMD) in the Food and Agriculture Pavilion on 11 December 2023. The 2023 IMD theme is "Restoring mountain ecosystems". Sara shared that a joint publication by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be co-published on 11 December.

Adrià Vergés Aleix, who has been seconded to the MPS by the Government of Andorra, presented on the UNFCCC COP 28 plenary discussion on mountains. He provided a background on how the idea of an agenda item on mountains developed and explained the process that led to the presence of an agenda item on mountains and climate change in the provisional agenda of UNFCCC COP 28. The goal of the agenda item is to create a dialogue on mountains, which would follow the example of the ocean dialogue. Adrià then presented the next steps that parties need to follow to support the adoption of the agenda item and the establishment of a dialogue on mountains at the next UNFCCC COP. These actions should be done through diplomatic channels and UNFCCC Negotiating Groups.

Silvia Ferrer, Government of Andorra, asked members to support the inclusion of this agenda item in the final COP agenda by contacting their national delegations to the UNFCCC COP 28.

Melissa De Kock, UNEP, asked if any member states have supported the agenda item yet. Adrià, MPS, shared that the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Peru have officially expressed their support for the agenda item by sending a message to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Gobinda Shahi, Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre (KIRDARC), shared information on the two side events KIRDARC will be taking part in at UNFCCC COP 28. The Government of Nepal will also host a pavilion.

Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Government of Kyrgyz Republic, shared that his government promoted the Five Years of Action Plan twice – first at the High-level Political Forum in July and then at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

Hugo Mantilla, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM), expressed support to Andorra and underlined the importance of civil society and small organizations to promote sustainable mountain development.

Decisions

- Members organizing events at the upcoming UNFCCC COP 28 should let Samantha Abear, MPS, know at samanth.abear@fao.org.
- Governments are encouraged to support the inclusion of Item 18 into the final plenary agenda of the upcoming UNFCCC COP 28.

Discussion on the lead up to FAO Council/mountain agenda item

The Chair opened discussions on the next FAO Council session, which will take place on 4-8 December 2023. He shared that on 10 July 2023, Italy requested that the next Council session include an item to discuss the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027. Italy's statement was endorsed, and China, Costa Rica, Lesotho and Peru expressed support through statements.

Julia, Vice-Chair, Dominican Republic, provided an update on the FAO Council meeting. The Council took note of the discussion, but an item on mountains was not included in the December Council provisional agenda. Julia stressed the importance of regional groups speaking in favour of including this discussion as part of the agenda.

Update on the "Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee of the Mountain Partnership"

The SC Chair congratulated Hugo for being elected as Chair of the Science and Knowledge Advisory (SKA) Committee of the Mountain Partnership.

Hugo, CEAM, provided an update on the SKA Committee. He provided a background on the formation and the purpose of the Committee. He informed participants that there was a meeting on 4 October and provided an overview of what happened. He also informed participants about the publication of an eighth policy brief, "[Towards systemic disaster risk reduction in mountains](#)".

Gobinda, KIRDARC, thanked Hugo and asked for clarification on who the members of the SKA Committee are. Rosalaura, MPS, clarified that members of the SKA Committee may join in their personal capacity and expressed gratitude to the Steering Committee for their support of the Committee. She invited interested Steering Committee members to join by emailing her.

Update on the launch of the Mountain Youth Hub

Allison Bozzi, MPS, shared the launch of the Mountain Youth Hub with the Steering Committee. The Mountain Youth Hub was launched by the 2023 participants of the MP's IPROMO training through the launch of a [youth call to action](#). The Mountain Youth Hub held their [first event](#) during the [United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Forum](#) on 18 October 2023. Terms of Reference of the Hub are currently being drafted.

Reports from constituencies by Steering Committee members

Thomas Hofer, FAO, briefed members on the recent World Forum on Urban Forests. He shared that there was a discussion on cities in mountain areas that highlighted how city planning which considers green space and making cities more liveable is relevant to mountain cities.

Karinjo Devore, Aspen International Mountain Forum, followed up on the possibility of hosting a follow-up meeting to the sixth Mountain Partnership Global meeting in Aspen to discuss the Five Years of Action. Rosalaura, MPS, reminded the Steering Committee that at the end of the Global Meeting, it was proposed to hold a follow-up meeting in two year's time. One option could be to organize a donor round table to mobilise resources for the Five Years of Actions for Mountains. Hugo, CEAM, expressed support for Rosalaura's idea and suggested presenting examples of successful small projects to donors.

Decisions

- The MPS will prepare a concept note to define the details of a donors round table in Aspen.

Other matters, discussion and conclusions

The Chair expressed his gratitude to the participants for joining. He proposed that the next meeting of the Steering Committee take place in spring 2024. The MPS will create a doodle to identify the date of the next SC meeting in early 2024.

Annex 1: Participant List

Donor Organizations

Livio Spadavecchia, Italy **(Chair)**

Governments

Asia and the Pacific: Maheshwar Dhakal, Nepal

Central Asia: Nurlan Aitmurzaev, Kyrgyz Republic

Europe: Silvia Ferrer, Andorra

Near East and North Africa: Farooq Taleb Ali Nassar, Yemen

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

South America: Cristiana Leucci, Peru

Host Institution of the MPS

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

Intergovernmental Organizations

Melissa de Kock, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Major Group Organizations

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

Europe: Simão Pedro Pinho, Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)

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

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

South America: Hugo Mantilla-Meluk, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña (CEAM), University of Quindío

Absent Steering Committee Members

Governments

Sub-Saharan Africa

Major Group Organizations

Central Asia

Sub-Saharan Africa

Observers

María Carolina Carranza Núñez, Peru

Matthias Jurek, UNEP

Margi Levitt, Aspen International Mountain Foundation

Eric Smith, Aspen International Mountain Foundation

MPS Staff

Samantha Abear
Arianna Bartolozzi
Allison Bozzi
Julie Cheek
Stefania Corrado
Giorgio Grussu

Sara Manuelli
Fabio Parisi
Rosaura Romeo
Antonella Sorrentino
Adrià Vergés Aleix