

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2023

Promoting the 5 Years Action Plan: Mountains as key to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

19 July 2023, 1.15-2.30pm (GMT-4)

Conference Room 8

Main organizer: Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

Co-lead: Governments of the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Malawi, Nepal, and the Republic of Peru; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Background:

The 2023 High-level Political Forum theme of “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels” provides an opportunity to discuss ways to accelerate the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in mountain regions. While significant efforts have been made globally towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mountains, their implementation continues to lag behind.

This side event on mountains is organized by the Kyrgyz Government within the framework of the Mountain Partnership and it will be an occasion to share the Action Plan for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023-2027). This quinquennium devoted to mountains was proclaimed by the UNGA [resolution A/RES/77/172](#) (14 December 2022) on Sustainable mountain development sponsored by 110 governments and negotiated by Italy and Kyrgyzstan.

The aim of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions is to promote sustainable mountain development and improve the livelihoods of mountain people through international processes, governance, research and innovation and increased awareness and investments.

This side event will also focus on three SDGs currently under revision: SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Speakers will explore ways to safeguard water availability and sustainable water and sanitation management (SDG 6), addressing the challenges facing mountains’ ability to provide essential water resources due to climate change, population growth and the pollution of water resources.

Infrastructure is critical for economic growth and development, yet mountain regions often lack basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges and communication networks. Speakers will

showcase the importance of investing in infrastructure and promoting innovation and digital inclusion to help bridge this gap and support development (SDG 9).

Strong partnerships and transboundary cooperation and collaboration between different stakeholders at all levels can help mobilize adequate funding and investments, build resilience and adaptability in mountain ecosystems and communities, and inform evidence-based policy and practice (SDG 9, 17).

The main objectives for the side event are to:

- Promote the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023-2027) as an important mechanism for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in mountains (SDG 17)
- Build on the Mountain Partnership's recent commitment in the Water Action Agenda, spotlight mountain's critical role as the world's water towers, and advocate for the careful management of mountain water resources (SDG 6)
- Support innovation to help bridge the mountain infrastructure gap and support inclusive development (SDG 9)
- Promote the Mountain Partnership as an example of an alliance for mountains coordinating successful UN initiatives such as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 and Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023-2027) (SDG 17)

Speakers:

- **H.E. Aida Kasymalieva**, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations
- **Asein Isaev**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Hon. Ibrahim Matola**, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Malawi
- **Hon. Min Bahadur Shrestha**, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission of Nepal
- **H.E. Maurizio Massari**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
- **H.E. Luis Ugarelli**, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations
- **H.E. Dai Bing**, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ivana Živković**, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States of the United Nations Development Programme
- Representative of the World Meteorological Organization
- **Igli Hasani**, Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (video message)
- **Onno Ruhl**, General Manager of Aga Khan Agency for Habitat

- **Grammenos Mastrojeni**, Senior Deputy Secretary General at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
- **Paola Agostini**, Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist of the World Bank

Chair: **Rosalaura Romeo**, Coordinator a.i. of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

DRAFT