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UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 8 – 18:30-20:00

Host: Permanent Mission of the Principality of Andorra to the United Nations

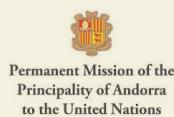
Partners: The Mountain Partnership, FAO, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, and the Governments of Argentina, Chile, Italy and Switzerland.

Why Mountains Matter

Mountains are essential to the survival of the planet as vital sources of water, energy, biodiversity, and agricultural products. About 22% of the earth's land surface is covered with mountains and half of the world biodiversity hotspots are in mountain areas. Yet, mountain ecosystems are under threat by climate change, land degradation and natural disasters. This threatens the livelihoods of people living in mountains and increases the vulnerability of communities living both upstream and downstream. These threats have potentially devastating and far reaching consequences.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly recognizes the crucial role of sustainable mountain development with the inclusion of three mountain related targets under two of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the importance of specifically addressing challenges in mountain regions for accomplishing many other goals such as SDG 2 on sustainable agriculture, which is of particular relevance to mountain communities.

The global commitment to include mountain peoples and environments is reflected in **SDG 6** on Clean water and sanitation and **SDG 15** on Life on land. The most clearly expressed target is **target 15.4**, to "ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity and to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development". **Target 6.6** and **target 15.1** to "protect and restore water-related systems, including mountains" and "ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystem and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands", also play a decisive role for the livelihood of communities living in mountains.



Permanent Mission of the
Principality of Andorra
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of the
Argentine Republic
United Nations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship



Permanent Mission of Italy
to the United Nations

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme





The Mountain Partnership

The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations voluntary alliance of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, established in 2002. Currently it has 335 members, of which 59 are governments. In December 2017, the Mountain Partnership endorsed a framework for action to increase and coordinate the efforts of its members towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under the Framework for Action, members commit to review their policies and strategies to reflect the relevance of mountains in their national development. In implementing the Framework for Action, a special attention is given to ensuring that the Mountain Partnership members highlight mountain issues in their Voluntary National Reviews and include key messages on sustainable mountain development in their communications to the HLPF.

So far, thirty-nine Mountain Partnership member governments have presented Voluntary National Reviews at the High-Level Political Forum, 15 of them at the HLPF 2018.

Objectives

The main objectives of the side event are:

To advocate for pro-mountain policies and actions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level;

To encourage the submission of Voluntary National Reviews from all Mountain Partnership member governments and from all mountain countries at large;

To build a coalition of key mountain governments within the Mountain Partnership to increase the visibility of mountain issues in the national processes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



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Leading Sustainable Mountain Development

Moderator: Grammenos Mastrojeni, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

Silvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Andorra: A small mountain country contributing to a global effort, highlighting the Voluntary National Review

René Castro, Assistant Director General, FAO: Setting the stage - the Framework for Action for Mountains and the Agenda 2030

Implementing the Framework for Action: considerations from

- **Argentina** – Mr. Alejandro Verdier, Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations
- **Chile** – Mr. Jorge Iglesias, Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations
- **Switzerland** – Mr Christoph I. Lang, Adviser, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Giorgio Grussu, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO: Why mountains matter in SDG 15 and tracking progress on SDG 15.4: The Mountain Green Cover Index

Yoko Watanabe, Global Manager, UNDP GEF SGP: The achievements and milestones in implementing 6 key SDGs: Outcomes of Governments - Civil Societies dialogues in select mountain countries

Grammenos Mastrojeni, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee: The way ahead: Building a political alliance within the MP

Q&A and Conclusions (30 min)

THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP | 335 MEMBERS

NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

6 GOVERNMENTS: COSTA RICA / CUBA / DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / GUATEMALA / JAMAICA / MEXICO + 30 NGOs.

MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA

6 GOVERNMENTS: ALGERIA / IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) / JORDAN / MOROCCO / TUNISIA / YEMEN + 7 NGOs.

EUROPE

17 GOVERNMENTS: ANDORRA / ARMENIA / AUSTRIA / FRANCIA / GEORGIA / ITALY / LIECHTENSTEIN / MONACO / ROMANIA / SERBIA / SLOVAKIA / SLOVENIA / SPAIN / SWITZERLAND / THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TURKEY / UKRAINE + 81 NGOs.

ASIA and the PACIFIC

10 GOVERNMENTS: AFGHANISTAN / BANGLADESH / BHUTAN / INDIA / INDONESIA / KYRGYZSTAN / NEPAL / PAKISTAN / PHILIPPINES / SRI LANKA + 86 NGOs.

GLOBAL

16 INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

SOUTH AMERICA

7 GOVERNMENTS: ARGENTINA / BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) / CHILE / COLOMBIA / ECUADOR / PERU / VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) + 30 NGOs.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

13 GOVERNMENTS: BURUNDI / CAMEROON / DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO / ETHIOPIA / GHANA / GUINEA / KENYA / LESOTHO / MADAGASCAR / MALAWI / SWAZILAND / TOGO / UGANDA + 26 NGOs.