



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM**  
**SIDE EVENT**  
**MOUNTAINS AND THE DECADE OF ACTION AND DELIVERY**

**Date and time:** 9 July 2020, online 8am New York time (2pm Rome time)

**Zoom Address**

<https://fao.zoom.us/j/96765936257>

Meeting ID: 967 6593 6257

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Join by SIP

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**Main Organizer:** Government of Malawi

**Partners:**

The Mountain Partnership, FAO, the Governments of Argentina, Kyrgyzstan, Italy and Switzerland, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) and Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre (KIRDARC)

**Background**

The UN Decade of Action 2020 - 2030 calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to the world's challenges, such as reducing poverty and inequalities.

Mountains provide biodiversity, food, water, clean energy to all of us and mountain communities are stewards of these precious resources.

Yet half of rural mountain people, about 346 million, were estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity in 2017. This means that half of rural mountain people in developing countries lived in areas where the daily availability of calories and protein was estimated to be below the minimum threshold needed for a healthy life.

The vulnerability to food insecurity of the mountain people in the developing world is compounded by natural hazards, climate change, unsustainable land management, armed conflicts and health pandemics that disrupt the livelihoods or put strain on the natural resources on which mountain people depend.

Global crises such as COVID-19 further impact mountain communities' capacity to provide goods and services to the planet. In particular, with remittances drying up and disruptions in supply chains as a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns, mountain communities are facing an increasing risk of hunger and poverty.

In order to build back better together to advance the 2030 Agenda in mountains, it is time to call on decision makers and other stakeholders to strengthen cooperative action.

It is imperative to reduce the vulnerability of mountain people, in particular local communities and indigenous people, and of the most vulnerable among them, often women and children.

There is a need to give urgent attention to the threats affecting mountain livelihoods and ecosystems, develop policies to reduce the negative effects of climate change in mountains, control land degradation in critical areas, preserve mountain ecosystem services, and improve infrastructure and services for mountain people in the spirit of the UN Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.

**The main aims for the event are to:**

- Discuss and identify strategies and policies for sustainable mountain agriculture to achieve Zero Hunger, recognizing the economic and environmental role of family farming in mountains, in line with the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028.
- Promote advocacy action for the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and sustainable food systems.
- Ensure international commitment to securing land tenure and providing access to productive resources in mountain communities.
- Share and build upon initiatives for diversifying livelihoods to safeguard decent work opportunities, particularly for youth in rural areas.
- Explore how partnerships can help assist countries to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and promote synergies between key sectors.

**The Mountain Partnership**

The Mountain Partnership, established in 2002, is a United Nations voluntary alliance of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. Its main mission is to improve the lives of mountain peoples and protect mountain environments around the world. Currently, it has 400 members, of which 60 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.

**Agenda**

Moderator Andrea Macchioni, Counsellor, Italian Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee

**Opening remarks**

Mr Macpherson Nthara, Chief Land Resources Conservation Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Government of Malawi

Ms Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office to the UN, New York, USA

**Panelists**

Ms Silvia Vázquez, Director of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Government of Argentina

Mr Gobinda Bahadur Shahi, Director, Karnali Integrated Rural Development And Research Centre (KIRDARC)

Ms. Mirgul Moldoisaeva, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN

Ms Laura Sommer, Deputy Head International Affairs and Food Security, Federal Office for Agriculture, Government of Switzerland

Ms María Argüello, Executive Director, Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)

Ms Yuka Makino, Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO, Rome, Italy

**Questions and answers****Closing remarks from the Chair**