



Mountain Partnership Steering Committee meeting

Thursday, 27 June 2024

15.00–16.30hrs (CEST)

Agenda

15.00–15.05 Opening and adoption of agenda

- Introduction of new MP Steering Committee Chair, Mr Francesco Serpi

15.05–15.30 Update on the Mountain Partnership's advocacy work in 2024 (*for information*)

- Update on the SBSTA Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change and mountain side event "Mobilizing the Mountain Partnership Countries for addressing climate change"
- Updates on the other advocacy events
- Update on the Mountain Youth Hub activities
- Discussion

15.30–16.00 Planned activities

- IPROMO
- COP 16 CBD planning (*UNEP*)
- International Mountain Day 2024
- IYGP 2025
- Discussion

16.00–16.15 Reports from constituencies by Steering Committee members

16.15–16.30 Other matters, discussion and conclusions

Opening and adoption of agenda

Rosalaura Romeo, Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), opened the meeting and passed the floor to Francesco Serpi, the new Mountain Partnership (MP) focal point of the Government of Italy and new Chair on the MP Steering Committee (SC). The Chair briefly introduced himself and welcomed the participants to the SC meeting (see the participants list in Annex 1).

The agenda was adopted without change.

Update on the Mountain Partnership's advocacy work in 2024

Update on the SBSTA Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change and mountain side event "Mobilizing the Mountain Partnership Countries for addressing climate change"

Adria Verges Aleix, MPS, shared information about the two main mountain events held at the 60th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA): a [side event](#) and the [expert dialogue](#) on mountains and climate change.

In the ensuing discussion, the following was noted:

- Dinara Kemelova, Government of Kyrgyzstan, reported that the Governments of Uzbekistan and Armenia have joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Group of Mountain Partnership – a new negotiating group – and that additional countries, including the Dominican Republic, Nepal and Peru, are expected to join soon.
- Maheshwar Dhakal, Government of Nepal, noted that Nepal organized a dialogue on climate change ahead of SBSTA 60 that was largely attended. He highlighted that the Government of Nepal put forward a proposal during the expert dialogue for a ministerial level meeting on mountains to take place during COP 29. It also proposed to have a theme day dedicated to mountains at COP 29.
- Cesar Arestegui, Government of Peru, praised the organization of the side event, noting the strategicness of its timing one day ahead of the expert dialogue, and shared that Peru supports Nepal's initiative to have a ministerial meeting at COP 29 as well as the call to action prepared by the Government of Kyrgyzstan that was shared during SBSTA 60. He also highlighted that the South American countries of the Andean Mountain Initiative will hold their annual meeting during the first week of July in Bogotá. During this meeting, countries will discuss the call to action.
- Hugo Mantilla, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña, noted that it is important that the knowledge and experiences of small-scale organizations be considered and included in these processes. The Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee of the MP could create a task force or working group to collect these experiences of MP members to help ensure its inclusion/recognition in the subsidiary events.

Updates on the other advocacy events

Sara Manuelli, MPS, shared an update on the MPS' latest advocacy activities since the last SC meeting in February 2024.

Update on the Mountain Youth Hub activities

Prerana Lama of the Mountain Youth Hub (MYH) shared an update on its recent and upcoming speaking engagements in 2024. A board has been created composed of co-leads and regional focal points. There are over 250 interested members from over 60 countries. The first meeting with all members is scheduled for late summer 2024.

The MYH requested to be an observer to the SC.

SC decision

- The MYH will be an observer to the SC.

Planned activities

IPROMO

Rosalaura Romeo, MPS, presented an update on the 2024 IPROMO course, to be held on 24 June through 9 July 2024 in Ormea, Italy. The topic's theme this year is "Promoting agrifood systems and mountain products". There are 28 participants from 20 countries. The closing ceremony will be co-organized with the local Chamber of Commerce and will take place in Biella on 8 July.

CBD COP 16 planning

Juan Vasquez, who will soon assume his new role as MP focal point and Head of the Biodiversity, People and Landscapes Unit of the Ecosystems Division at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), provided a brief update on the upcoming 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16). Seven thematic forums are being planned on women, youth, finance and culture, among other topics. There will be opportunities for the MP to promote its work.

Maheshwar Dhakal, Government of Nepal, noted that the negative impact of climate change on mountain biodiversity should be more documented and discussed as well as that specific nature-based solutions should be identified and considered.

Dinara Kemelova, Government of Kyrgyzstan, suggested to request the IPCC 7th assessment report to include a chapter on mountains.

In the ensuing discussion, the growing importance of the One Health topic was noted.

International Mountain Day 2024

Sara Manuelli, MPS, presented the MPS' plans for the 2024 celebration of International Mountain Day. Under the theme "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth", the MPS is planning a wide communication campaign, including a website, social media cards, press outreach, and an innovation contest.

The SC reiterated the idea of hosting a mountain day during the UNFCCC COP in Azerbaijan. The MPS clarified that the COPs are managed by the Parties and suggested that the request come from governments to make it more effective.

IYGP 2025

Sara Manuelli, MPS, is leading the task force to develop the global campaign for the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (IYGP) 2025. She provided an overview of the four task forces that are helping UNESCO and WMO – the UN agencies tasked with coordinating the year – to develop and implement an effective plan for the Year's celebration. Task Force 1 led by the MPS is specifically charged with developing the outreach strategy and key messages, among other things, and is working to build synergies with the other task forces.

[Reports from constituencies by Steering Committee members](#)

Karinjo DeVore, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF), shared that her fellow constituent the Colorado Mountain College recently sent students to Bhutan as part of an exchange programme to discuss environmental issues. They hope to host Bhutanese students in Colorado in the future. The Telluride Institute will also soon be celebrating its 40th anniversary. The AIMF was also present at the recent Third High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Eric Smith, AIMF, shared an update on the regional group of mayors and county commissioners from western Colorado that are collaborating to develop a regional climate action plan. The group has been successful in accessing funding and implementing a number of sustainable initiatives to date.

[Other matters, discussion and conclusions](#)

In conclusion, Francesco Serpi thanked the MPS and the SC. The MPS was tasked with preparing the summary notes of the SC meeting and then sharing a poll to identify the date of the next SC meeting.

Annex 1: Participants' list

Steering Committee members

Donor Organizations to the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS)

Francesco Serpi, Italy (**Chair**)

Governments

Asia and the Pacific – Maheshwar Dhakal, Nepal

Central Asia – Dinara Kemelova, Ermek Isakov, Kyrgyzstan

Europe – Silvia Ferrer, Andorra

Near East & North Africa – Farooq Taleb Ali Nasser, Yemen

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

South America – Cesar Arestegui, Cristiana Leucci, Peru

Host Institution of the MPS

Ewald Rametsteiner, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Intergovernmental Organizations

Juan Vasquez, 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 – Guillaume Corradino, Euromontana

Global Civil Society Organizations – Laurent Fouinat, GRID-Arendal

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

South America – Hugo Mantilla, Centro de Estudios de Alta Montaña

Absent Steering Committee Members

Governments

Sub-Saharan Africa – Malawi

Major Group Organizations

Central Asia – Tajik Social and Ecological Union

Near East and North Africa – Coalition Civile pour la Montagne

Sub-Saharan Africa – Foundation for Environment and Development (FEDEV)

Observers

Aspen International Mountain Foundation

Eric Smith

Mountain Partnership Secretariat

Samantha Abear
Arianna Bartolozzi
Stefania Corrado
Giorgio Grussu
Sara Manuelli
Fabio Parisi
Rosalaura Romeo
Antonella Sorrentino
Adria Verges Aleix

Mountain Youth Hub

Prerana Lama