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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-fourth Session

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### Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions

#### Executive summary

The Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027 (herein referred to as the Five Years of Action) was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through Resolution A/RES/77/172<sup>1</sup> on 14 December 2022 to “enhance the awareness of the international community of the problems of mountain countries and to give new impetus to the international community’s efforts to address the challenges and problems of mountain countries”.

In April 2023, a process for developing a global framework to support the implementation of the Five Years of Action was started at the initiative of the UN Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic and facilitated by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Global Framework<sup>2</sup> was launched by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic during the High-level Political Forum on 19 July 2023, in New York. The Kyrgyz Republic shared the Global Framework with UN Member States in September 2023, and the President of the Kyrgyz Republic presented it at the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly on 10 September 2023.

The Global Framework provides a basis for all stakeholders to enhance existing efforts and to initiate new actions aimed at improving the resilience and sustainable development of mountain regions across the world as well as to engage in impactful advocacy for mountains at global level.

This document provides information on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to take note of the information contained in this document on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027 and related Global Framework.

<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/172>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6910en/cc6910en.pdf>

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

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## I. Introduction

1. This document provides information on the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027 (herein referred to as the Five Years of Action) and on recent progress related to its implementation.
2. Since 2003, FAO has been hosting the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS). FAO also leads the work on compiling the triennial report of the UN Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development;<sup>3</sup> is the coordinating UN agency for the annual observance of the International Mountain Day,<sup>4</sup> and is the custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.4.2, which monitors progress towards the conservation of mountain ecosystems by measuring mountain vegetation cover and the proportion of degraded mountain land.<sup>5</sup>
3. The UNGA declared a second International Year dedicated to mountains, the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022,<sup>6</sup> with the adoption of Resolution A/RES/76/129.<sup>7</sup> The main outcome of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022 was the declaration of the Five Years of Action by Resolution A/RES/77/172,<sup>8</sup> adopted by the UNGA on 14 December 2022.
4. The Resolution *inter alia* proclaims the period 2023-2027 as the Five Years of Action in order to enhance the awareness of the international community of the problems of mountain countries, and to give new impetus to the international community's efforts to address the challenges and problems of mountain countries (paragraph 30); it invites Member States and relevant United Nations agencies, within their mandates, to further enhance support to sustainable mountain development, including through participation in the Five Years of Action (paragraph 36), and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its 80th Session on the implementation of the Resolution, including on the Five Years of Action, under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development" (paragraph 39).
5. At its 172nd Session held from 24 to 28 April 2023, the FAO Council took note of the information provided on the Five Years of Action.<sup>9</sup> At its 173rd Session held on 10 July 2023, the Council took note of the discussion relating to the Five Years of Action.<sup>10</sup>

## II. The Five Years of Action

6. To facilitate the implementation of the Five Years of Action, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat facilitated the creation of a Task Force in April 2023 composed of representatives from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the World Bank, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 17 UN organizations and five relevant regional organizations; most organizations are members of the Mountain Partnership.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See the 2022 report of the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable mountain development:

<https://undocs.org/A/77/217>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/international-mountain-day/en/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/1542-mountain-green-cover-and-proportion-of-degraded-mountain-area/en>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/internationalyear2022/en/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/129>

<sup>8</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/172>

<sup>9</sup> See the Report of the 172nd Session of the Council of FAO:

<https://www.fao.org/3/nm116en/nm116en.pdf#page=17>

<sup>10</sup> See the Report of the 173rd Session of the Council of FAO:

<https://www.fao.org/3/nm791en/nm791en.pdf#page=8>

<sup>11</sup> Members of the Task Force for the Five Years of Action include representatives of the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS); Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Centre for Integrated Mountain

7. The Task force developed the Global Framework<sup>12</sup> for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023-2027 (herein referred as the Global Framework) that was launched during the High-level Political Forum on 19 July 2023, in New York. The Kyrgyz Republic shared the Global Framework with UN Member States in September 2023, and the President of the Kyrgyz Republic presented it at the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly on 10 September 2023.
8. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat will continue to support interagency cooperation through the Task Force and to facilitate its work.
9. FAO will lead the compilation of the triennial report of the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable mountain development to be presented at the 80th Session of the UNGA on the implementation of Resolution A/RES/77/172, including on the Five Years of Action.
10. As outlined in the Global Framework, FAO will co-lead, with the support of other relevant organizations, the work towards the implementation of the Five Years of Action, particularly in the areas of: i) promoting innovative solutions and entrepreneurship within local mountain communities; ii) leveraging regional and international processes in support of mountain development; iii) promoting ecosystem-based adaptation; and iv) strengthening pro-mountain policies, governance and institutions.
11. The Global Framework is grounded in the recommendations to Member States contained in the 2022 report of the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable mountain development<sup>13</sup> and in the 2022 UNGA Resolution on Sustainable mountain development.<sup>14</sup>
12. It proposes four interlinked pathways for actions by all stakeholders: 1) scale-up nature-based solutions<sup>15</sup> to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains; 2) improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructure; 3) enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions; and 4) empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
13. Pathway 1 "Scale up nature-based solutions to reduce climate risks and promote adaptation and mitigation in mountains" aims to stimulate urgent action that will result in adaptation and mitigation measures for restoring ecosystems, reducing climate risks and vulnerabilities, and building on diverse knowledge systems, including indigenous and local traditional knowledge. Expected results under this pathway include also priority given to mountain-related issues in development and revisions of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as well as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Currently there are 30 initiatives included under this Pathway.
14. Pathway 2 "Improve mountain communities' access to services and sustainable infrastructure" aims to inspire interventions towards inclusive digital access; risk-sensitive and climate-adapted infrastructure development; early warning systems for disaster risk reduction; environmentally-sound waste management; and support for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy solutions. Currently there are six initiatives included under this Pathway.
15. Pathway 3 "Enhance international cooperation, security and multi-level governance in mountain regions" focuses on generating evidence on human mobility in the context of climate

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Development (ICIMOD); International Organization for Migration; International Labour Organization; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; UN Development Programme; UN Environment Programme; UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UN Population Fund; UN World Tourism Organization; World Food Programme; World Health Organization; World Meteorological Organization; and World Bank.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6910en/cc6910en.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/77/217>

<sup>14</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/172>

<sup>15</sup> The [UNEA Resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022](#) adopted the definition of nature-based solutions as "actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits."

change in the mountain areas for increased dialogue, collaboration and trust among mountain communities and countries that share common mountain ranges. Currently there are five initiatives included under this Pathway.

16. Pathway 4 “Empower mountain communities and reduce inequalities, with a priority focus on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities” aims to promote action for protecting traditional and indigenous food systems, securing land and tenure rights, and safeguarding and enhancing youth and women’s employment opportunities. Currently there are 19 initiatives included under this Pathway.

17. Out of 60 total initiatives under the four Pathways, FAO is contributing to 15 initiatives.

18. The Global Framework outlines five action areas for increased collective efforts during the Five Years of Action: 1) leverage regional and international processes in support of mountain development; 2) strengthen policies, governance mechanisms and institutions; 3) promote inclusive research, innovation and data collection; 4) increase awareness and communication on mountain issues, challenges and solutions; and 5) increase sustainable public and private investment.

19. A special reference is included in the Global Framework to UNGA Resolution A/RES/77/172, which calls on mountain countries, the UN system and other relevant stakeholders such as academia, the private sector and investors, to improve international cooperation, including by furthering financial mechanisms between mountain countries and attracting investments.

20. The Global Framework is intended to be regularly updated and to be utilized by all stakeholders to enhance existing efforts and initiate new ones, aimed at improving the resilience and sustainable development of mountain regions across the world and engaging in impactful advocacy for mountains at the global level.

21. The Global Framework is a voluntary mechanism meant to be adapted by governments to align with their national priority areas, and it encourages governments to intensify action with the aim of promoting sustainable mountain development at national and local levels in accordance with their respective national frameworks.

22. Mountain communities, and especially women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, are the key stakeholders to be involved in the implementation of the Global Framework.