



2023  
2027



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

## Mountain Youth Hub Terms of reference

### Background

In response to the urgent need for targeted action in mountainous regions, the United Nations, through its Mountain Partnership, has launched the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2027) initiative. This comprehensive plan addresses the unique challenges faced by mountain communities, from environmental sustainability to socio-economic opportunities. To help implement the UN Five Year Action Plan for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023-2027), the Mountain Youth Hub was established.

The Mountain Youth Hub, an initiative backed by the Mountain Partnership of the United Nations, is a dynamic platform dedicated to empowering and mobilizing youth across mountainous regions worldwide. Considering youth to be the target actors based on their importance for the future of mountains, the platform plays a pivotal role in advancing the UN's Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2027), serving as a catalyst for positive change in mountain areas.

The newly established Mountain Youth Hub is a cornerstone of this initiative, channeling the energy and creativity of young people to drive sustainable development, environmental conservation, and socio-economic progress in mountain regions. By providing a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation, the Hub is poised to make a meaningful impact, ensuring that the next five years usher in a brighter and more sustainable future for mountain communities around the world.

### Official name

Mountain Youth Hub (MYH)

### Membership criteria

- **Age:** Membership to the Mountain Youth Hub is open to individuals residing or working in mountainous regions and falling within the age bracket of 15 to 35 years. Once you are over 35, you will become an alumni member of the Mountain Youth Hub.
- **Interest in mountain regions:** members (Youth and organizations) with demonstration of interest or involvement in mountainous regions, including a commitment to the sustainable mountain development, conservation, and safeguarding the well-being of mountain ecosystems and communities.
- **Relevance to Hub objectives:** Youth and organizations that align with the objectives and mission of the Mountain Youth Hub
- **Support for inclusivity and diversity:** members should embrace inclusivity and

diversity, ensuring that the Hub represents a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.

- **Commitment to accountability:** Members should agree to regular reporting and accountability mechanisms to track progress, share results, and assess the impact of their contributions to the Hub's initiatives.

### **Mission**

Provide a platform for youth to engage in dialogue, share best practices, and participate in knowledge-sharing opportunities that promote sustainable development, resilience, and peace in mountain communities.

### **Objectives**

- Advance the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023-2027) (Five Year Plan)
- Raising the voice/ identifying the needs of youth from mountain areas around the world
- By fostering collaboration and networking among youth, amplify their voices and ensure that their perspectives and needs are integrated into policies and decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels.

### **Main activities**

The Mountain Youth Hub's scope of activities will include but not be limited to the following:

- Youth engagement through workshops and trainings
- Development of sustainable agriculture and food security projects
- Advocacy and policy initiatives
- Research and data collection
- Promotion of collaboration and partnerships
- Organization of youth-led entrepreneurship and innovation competitions
- Communication and information
- Promotion of mountain tourism

### **Work plan outline**

To help set direction of the new Hub, an annual work plan will be developed in collaboration with Regional Leads and Committee members. The work plan will:

- Identify specific areas of focus, goals, and measurable outcomes for the Hub.
- Identify priority projects and programs based on the thematic areas of work to engage youth in sustainable development, environmental conservation, and socio-economic progress in mountain regions.
- Develop mechanisms for project proposal submission and resource mobilization. Encourage the application and development integration of innovative technologies and solutions to address the unique challenges of mountain areas.

### **Thematic areas of work**

- Mountain ecosystems and climate change
- Mountain water sources and glaciers
- Mountain agriculture and forestry
- Advocacy and communications
- Capacity development & knowledge sharing
- Sustainable entrepreneurship
- Ecosystem restoration

- Sustainable mountain soil management
- Local traditional and ecological knowledge
- Nature-based solutions
- Gender equity
- Youth opportunities
- Capacity building
- Resource Mobilization
- Awareness building on gender and intersectionality

### **Working modality**

- In its initial phases, the Hub will meet online at least once a month. The Hub will meet at least six times a year. And as required, the hub will meet on an ad-hoc basis.
- Collaboration will be done online using Google Drive and Zoom meetings online and utilization of the Hub's webpage on the Mountain Partnership website for communications. Online draft elaboration and documents.
- Regional Leads will be elected by the Mountain Youth Hub committee members who will serve as co-chairs/leads of the Hub.
  - Regional Leads will collaborate to set up sub-committees as required to carry out work activities. Committee members will be expected to support Regional Leads in running the sub-committees.
- All decisions will be taken by consensus. If this is not possible, a vote will be conducted where decisions will be based on the majority.

### **Key references**

- The [UN Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027](#)
- [Global framework for the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027](#)
- [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#)
- [International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025](#)
- The triennial [UN Secretary-General's Report on Mountains](#), with a specific focus on the latest 2022-2025 report

### **Duration of the TOR**

The Terms of Reference are in effect from 21 February 2024 and shall continue for the duration of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2027), subject to review and potential renewal.