

THE ANDORRA DECLARATION ELEVATING MOUNTAIN ACTION BEYOND 2030

We, the members of the Mountain Partnership, during our Seventh Global Meeting held in Andorra la Vella, Principality of Andorra, from 26 to 28 March 2026, around the theme “Mountains for the Future: Responsible Tourism, Thriving Communities” have agreed to the following Declaration to collectively advance sustainable mountain development worldwide.

Preamble

Covering around one quarter of the Earth’s land surface and providing essential ecosystem services to local and downstream communities, mountain areas are crucial for sustaining life on the planet and home to a wealth of biodiversity and fundamental ecosystem services. As the “water towers” of the world, mountain snow, glaciers and ice play a vital role in the global water cycle. Mountains are home to about 1.2 billion people and are centres of cultural diversity and traditional knowledge. They also encompass 25 of the world’s 36 biodiversity hotspots, highlighting their critical importance for global biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.

However, these ecosystems face increasing and interconnected biophysical and socio-economic pressures related to climate change, biodiversity loss, food systems, pollution, desertification and other forms of disaster and environmental risks. Living at the frontline of the climate crisis with higher sensitivities to climate change, mountain regions on average are warming around 0.2 °C per century faster than surrounding lowlands, and exposure to natural hazards. Mountain populations are also confronted with limited access to essential services and high vulnerability, particularly among women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, youth, children, migrants, displaced persons and other people in vulnerable situations. Considering these challenges, the global community must urgently intensify coordinated, inclusive and accelerated actions to effectively address the challenges of mountain areas and fully promote their sustainable development potential through to 2030 and beyond.

Recalling:

- The role of the [Mountain Partnership](#) as a global alliance that, since its establishment in 2002, has advanced sustainable mountain development by mobilizing its diverse membership and promoting collective action at all levels, as reaffirmed in the [Aspen Declaration](#) adopted at the [Sixth Global Meeting](#) held from 26 to 29 September 2022.
- The establishment and annual observance of [International Mountain Day](#), celebrated on 11 December each year, coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.
- The proclamation of the International Year of Mountains 2002 through United Nations General Assembly resolutions [53/24](#) and [55/189](#), and the establishment of the Mountain Partnership as a key outcome of the International Year of Mountains, as recognized by General Assembly resolution [57/245](#).

- The United Nations General Assembly resolutions and reports guiding global action on sustainable mountain development, including Resolution [77/158](#) proclaiming the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025, the Resolution [76/253](#) proclaiming the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, the Resolution [77/172](#) declaring 2023–2027 the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions, the Resolution [78/260](#) proclaiming the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027, the Resolution [78/L.99](#) proclaiming the UN Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences 2025-2034 and the latest triennial report of the Secretary-General [A/80/255](#) on sustainable mountain development.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP29) Declaration on Enhanced Climate Action in Tourism endorsed by governments after the first inclusion of tourism in the COP Action Agenda, acknowledging the vulnerability of the sector to climate change, recognizing the need for further addressing and considering the tourism sector in the design of national climate policies, the application of effective mitigation measures, enhanced adaptation measures, as well as the importance of finance, technology and capacity building.
- The outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment held in 2023 and the Food Systems Summit+4 Stocktaking Moment held in 2025.
- The Resolution [UNEP/EA.7/Res.10](#) of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the Preservation of glaciers and the broader cryosphere, in particular in mountain regions.
- The role of FAO as main agency for sustainable mountain development within the United Nations (UN) system in hosting the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and supporting its coordination and facilitation functions.
- The important role of regional organizations, conventions and initiatives such as the Africa Regional Mountains Forum, the Alpine Convention, the Andean Mountain Initiative, the Carpathian Convention, the East African Community Mountains Stakeholder Platform, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Mountain Research Initiative, the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region and the Working Community of the Pyrenees Mountains, the Southern African Mountain Community *inter alia*, as key partners for the achievement of sustainable mountain development and supporting the implementation of the Rio Conventions.
- The crucial roles of intergovernmental science-policy processes including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) and the High-Level Panel of Experts of the Committee on World Food Security (HLPE-CFS) assessing evidence and in strengthening the scientific and knowledge base on observed changes, impacts and on the interlinkages in mountain environments for informed decision-making.

Noting that:

- The principles and legal obligations of the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), as well as their respective programmes of work and agendas linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) , guide and inform the workstreams of the Mountain Partnership.

- Mountains continue to be a key focus area within the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including through increased attention to mountain-related issues within thematic mandates, in particular adaptation; the organization of high-level events on mountains, the convening of the first-ever expert dialogue on mountains and climate change during the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in 2024, and the request by COP30 to convene a second dialogue on mountains and climate change at SBSTA 64 in June 2026. Further progress includes the inclusion of mountains as one of the Thematic Areas under the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), following the success and awareness raised at the 16th NWP Focal Point Forum on mountains, high-latitude areas and the cryosphere, held at COP28, and the inclusion of mountain-related indicators in the Belém Adaptation Indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation framework, which together provide an important platform to strengthen the visibility of mountain-related issues and to inform climate policy processes.
- The ongoing observances of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 and the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027 provide opportunities to highlight the role of mountain rangelands, wetlands, pastoralist and farming communities and sustainable tourism value chains in advancing sustainable development in mountain areas.
- The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), led by FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), provides an opportunity to strengthen sustainable family farming, improve livelihoods and enhance the resilience of mountain agrifood systems and rural communities.
- The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO provides an opportunity to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of mountain ecosystems across all continents, including its mountain flagship initiatives.
- The Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034), proclaimed by the UN through Resolution [78/321](#) led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provides an opportunity to advance scientific cooperation, improve the collection and harmonization of cryosphere data and reinforce global efforts to monitor, understand, and address the impacts of melting glaciers, snow, ice and permafrost on mountain ecosystems and downstream communities.
- The UNEP Environment Assembly Resolution, [UNEP/EA.7/Res.10](#), adopted at the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly provides a mandate and basis for member states and other stakeholders to cooperate for preserving glaciers and the broader cryosphere, adapting to environmental changes, capacity building and knowledge exchange on emerging themes and topics, including around post-glacial ecosystems.

- The International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” (2018–2028), proclaimed by the UN through Resolution [71/222](#), together with the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to accelerate progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6, and the 2028 United Nations Conference for the Final Comprehensive Review of the Decade, provides an important framework to advance the protection, sustainable management and governance of mountain water resources.
- The review of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is essential to inform adaptive and effective action in mountain regions, including in the context of the 2027 Sustainable Development Goals Summit under the High-Level Political Forum, mandated by the Pact for the Future as a milestone for advancing discussions on the post-2030 agenda and representing the final SDG Summit before 2030.
- The Second Global Mountain Summit “Bishkek+25” to be held in Kyrgyzstan from 21 to 23 October 2027 provides a high-level platform to consolidate global efforts and review progress within the framework of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2027).
- The commitments made in the Global Digital Compact, which specifically target “last-mile” connectivity to bridge the digital divide, present an opportunity to address connectivity gaps in remote mountain areas.

Considering the interconnected global challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification, food security and nutrition and health, while recognizing intergenerational justice concerns and building on the momentum provided by the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2027), as well as the theme of the Seventh Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, “Mountains for the Future: Responsible Tourism, Thriving Communities”, **we, the members of the Mountain Partnership, commit to:**

1. accelerating efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of strengthening the contribution of resilient mountain ecosystems and communities, in particular vulnerable groups such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as other vulnerable groups as identified in the Preamble, to a more sustainable world and ensuring that mountain-related priorities remain fully integrated in the development of global frameworks beyond 2030;
2. strengthening international efforts to advance holistic approaches to sustainable development; particularly the One Health approach, acknowledging the efforts already undertaken by members of the Mountain Partnership under the relevant global and regional frameworks; and promoting the recognition of the crucial role that mountain areas play in reinforcing these interlinkages and building synergies across the three Rio Conventions;
3. supporting countries with mountainous terrain to jointly advocate for their engagement in the UN multilateral processes, including follow up on the Paris Agreement, the dialogue on mountains and climate change mandated for SBSTA 64 under this Convention and the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through relevant national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);

4. advocating for the systematic inclusion of mountains in national policy processes and reporting commitments under the Rio Conventions and the Paris Agreement—including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), NBSAPs, Land Degradation Neutrality targets (LDNs), Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDs) and key outcome documents, as appropriate, such as the Second Global Stocktake and the Global Review of Collective Progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework—and support efforts to raise awareness of sustainable mountain development at relevant Convention events;
5. promoting engagement and participation within the Mountain Partnership's Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee (SKAC), and the strengthening of science-policy and multistakeholder dialogues within the Mountain Partnership, while acknowledging and incorporating diverse knowledge systems—including community-based, territorial, social, Indigenous, traditional and cultural knowledge, as well as the practical, implementation-focused expertise of civil society organizations and local actors, thereby jointly identifying and addressing knowledge gaps related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in mountain areas and opportunities to strengthen attention to mountains in the post-2030 framework; including exploring the promotion of cooperation in high-mountain science and research;
6. endeavoring to provide, to the extent possible, voluntary support to the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, whether through financial contributions, in-kind support or secondments, to help it effectively deliver its coordination, facilitation, advocacy and technical functions and to strengthen the Mountain Partnership's collective ability to advance sustainable mountain development;
7. strengthening collaboration with key partners, initiatives and countries facing similar challenges in fragile and vulnerable ecosystems, including Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, in order to advance shared priorities, enhance resilience in fragile ecosystems and promote coordinated action for sustainable mountain development;
8. further strengthening activities and projects that support mountain communities' livelihoods and protect fragile ecosystems, including in areas such as sustainable tourism, ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, agroecology and other innovative approaches, pastoralism and grassland-based mountain livestock and dairy systems, sustainable agrifood systems, health and nutrition, access to essential services, mobility and digital connectivity, sustainable and circular bioeconomy, recognizing their role in linking ecosystem stewardship, resilient food systems and the maintenance of cultural landscapes in mountain regions, as well as strategies to address disaster risk, prioritizing the prevention of risks and hazards through community-led early warning systems and infrastructure;
9. promoting sustainable, climate-resilient and low-impact tourism including eco-tourism and sustainable agrotourism options as a core component of many mountain economies, supporting livelihoods and the protection of fragile ecosystems, and leveraging the International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism 2027 to advance coordinated action in this sector;
10. consider supporting the increase of public and private financing and private sector engagement and contributions for climate change adaptation, sustainable and integrated water management, biodiversity protection, conservation and sustainable use, ecosystem restoration, pollution

prevention and disaster risk management in mountains, and sustainable tourism investments, while ensuring that financing reaches the most vulnerable;

11. exploring the creation of dedicated support for mountain regions within global financing architecture — including the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and the Adaptation Fund (AF), to ensure that mountain communities benefit from large-scale funding programmes, ensuring direct access and fair representation for Major Groups;
12. enhancing capabilities and capacity-building for observing and monitoring social-ecological changes and challenges in mountains, including knowledge sharing and transfer, science and research, monitoring infrastructure and networks, disaggregated observational data at relevant scales, and data sharing and access, while creating synergies with relevant global, regional and local initiatives and in science-policy processes and fora at all levels;
13. empowering Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, women, youth, pastoralists, persons with disabilities, migrants and internally displaced persons in mountain communities, through inclusive decision-making, fair representation and the recognition of traditional knowledge and relevant voluntary frameworks such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Girls Empowerment; and
14. utilizing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) frameworks, such as ESD for 2030, to strengthen societal understanding at all levels of the importance and vulnerabilities of mountains, as well as to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders at all levels to actively contribute to addressing the challenges of mountain areas and to promote their sustainable development potential through 2030 and beyond.

To support these commitments, we request the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, *inter alia*, and subject to available resources, to:

1. engage and support Mountain Partnership members in international and regional advocacy processes for mountains where appropriate and necessary;
2. enhance the visibility of the actions, efforts, impacts and results achieved by the Mountain Partnership and its members through communication and awareness-raising campaigns and by sharing them through relevant fora, platforms and processes, with the aim of being reflected in global political agendas, in line with the Mountain Partnership Advocacy Strategy 2026–2030 and including in the UN Secretary-General's triennial reports to the UN General-Assembly on progress made and achievements reached on Sustainable Mountain Development;
3. scale up initiatives and projects in support of the sustainability and resilience of mountain communities and ecosystems, including, among others, sustainable, equitable and resilient mountain agrifood systems, including grassland-based livestock and dairy production adapted to mountain environments, biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use, sustainable tourism, agroecological and ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, sustainable and circular bioeconomy;
4. provide technical support to the Second Global Mountain Summit “Bishkek+25” in 2027, with a view to advance the mountain agenda within the framework of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions and beyond including the SDG post-2030 consultation process

to start in 2027; and including the SDG post-2030 consultation process to start in 2027; and

5. support Mountain Partnership members, in mobilizing resources and technical assistance to implement actions aligned with the commitments contained in this declaration, ensuring that such actions directly address the specific needs and priorities of the territories and the locally tailored approaches in which they operate.