

Mountain Partnership Global Meeting
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Info and Contacts:

<https://www.mountainsmatteraspen.com>.

Margi Levitt, AIMF: 970-948-4234

Allyn Harvey: 970-618-2342

Sara Manuelli, FAO: Sara.Manuelli@fao.org

Colorado to host delegates from mountain nations for UN event in Aspen

Mountain Partnership meeting to be held at the Aspen Meadows Resort on Sept. 26-29

ASPEN —Delegates from mountain countries around the world will convene in Aspen on September 26-29 to attend the Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, the main event of the “International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022.”

The Mountain Partnership is the only United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to mountain peoples and environments, with over 450 members from 96 countries, including national and local governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, private sector businesses, and nonprofits.

The UN declared 2022 as the “International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development.” The Global Meeting in Aspen will be the culmination of the year’s efforts to place sustainability and the resilience of mountain ecosystems and communities at the center of international processes, policies, and investments within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The theme of the meeting is “Mountains Matter: Ideas to Action, Building Alliances for Resilient Mountains.” Mountain Partnership delegates will share action plans to protect mountains and will set the organization’s agenda and high-level advocacy goals for the next four years. The meeting will be conducted in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

“This is an opportunity for Mountain Partnership delegates and dignitaries from all over the world to network and forge meaningful relationships with representatives from our communities, businesses, educational institutions and governments in Colorado and throughout North America,” says Eric Smith, Aspen International Mountain Foundation (AIMF) vice-president.

Colorado Governor Jared Polis will be in Aspen on Tuesday morning, September 27, to welcome members to the event. Senator Michael Bennet, Senator John Hickenlooper and Representative Joe Neguse plan to participate virtually.

Other high-level attendees at this event will include Colorado State University Interim President Dr. Rick Miranda and key representatives of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) and the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA).

The Global Meeting in Aspen is being co-hosted by the state of Colorado, the Aspen Institute, the City of Aspen, and the nonprofit organizing the event, the Aspen International Mountain Foundation. The state of Colorado recently became the first state in the nation to join the Mountain Partnership. The city of Aspen joined in 2010, making it the first US government member.

In addition to member plenary sessions, there will be a welcome reception, an evening concert and daily side events for both delegates and the public on topics relating to sustainability, tourism and economic development, climate change, disaster mitigation, alternative energy, energy efficiency, and water conservation.

“With less than eight years to the expiration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is necessary to accelerate solutions to the biggest challenges in mountains. We need investments and policies to combat the effects of climate change and to improve mountain livelihoods,” adds Roberto Natali, Plenipotentiary Minister and Directorate General for Development Cooperation for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee.

The plenary meetings are limited to Mountain Partnership members. The daily side events are open to both delegates and the public. All side events and exhibits will be held at the Aspen Meadows Resort campus.

Passes to the side events and exhibits, the plenary meetings and the banquet are being offered to members of the media, students and the general public. Passes to the plenary meetings are limited based on available space and for observation only. To learn more, go to the passes page on the [MountainsMattersAspen.com website](http://MountainsMattersAspen.com).

On Sept. 29, the meeting will culminate with a public forum hosted by the Aspen Institute featuring a keynote address and panel discussions with high-level experts and dignitaries from throughout North America and globally.

The full schedule of public side events is available on the event website — <https://www.mountainsmatteraspen.com>.

End press release

Additional information:

High-Level Mountain Partnership Participants (This list may be subject to change):

- Roberto Natali, Plenipotentiary Minister and Directorate General for Development Cooperation for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee
- Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability Sílvia Calvó Armengol, Principality of Andorra
- Vice-Primature Malick Muamba Tshibangu, Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable, République démocratique du Congo

- Director de Industria y Comercio Forestal José Gilberto Cifuentes Barrientos, Instituto Nacional de Bosques, Guatemala
- Minister of Foreign Affairs Ruslan Kazakbaev, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kyrgyz Republic
- Secretary of State Ionut-Sorin Banciu, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Nepal
- General-Director National Agency of the Mountain Area Veronica Taran Baciu, National Agency of the Mountain Area, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Romania
- Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili, World Tourism Organization
- Joint Secretary Sindhu Prasad, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Dhungana, Nepal
- Secretary Pem Narayan Kandel, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal
- Director/Department of Produce Donatus Edum, Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture, Nigeria
- Director (Scientific) / Department of Environmental Multilateral Support and Cooperation Sonigitu Ekpe, Cross River State Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
- Ex Inspector General Forests Bashir Ahmed Wani, Ministry of Climate Change/Chairman MACDS, Mountain Areas Conservation & Development Services, Pakistan
- Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassadors: Arjun Gupta, Jake Norton and Stella Jean

About the Mountain Partnership

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

The Mountain Partnership is the only United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. Founded in 2002, the Mountain Partnership addresses the challenges facing mountain regions by tapping the wealth and diversity of resources, knowledge, information, and expertise, from and between its members, in order to stimulate concrete initiatives at all levels that will ensure improved quality of life and environments in the world's mountain regions. Currently, more than 450 governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups (e.g., civil society, NGOs and the private sector) and subnational authorities are members.

About the Aspen International Mountain Foundation

<https://www.aimf.org/>

Founded in 2001, Aspen-based nonprofit AIMF promotes sustainable development in mountain environments and communities in Colorado and around the world. On July 21, 2021, AIMF was granted special consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), a highly discretionary designation that enables an organization to engage in a number of ways with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council and, under specific conditions, some meetings of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat. AIMF was instrumental in developing the mountain-related actions within the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and participated in the Paris Agreement. AIMF is co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership and represents North and Central America and the Caribbean region. It will have a major role in developing the action items for the year.