

WEBINAR

Climate change adaptation in mountain areas: What role is there for parliamentarians?

Webinar co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the *Adaptation at Altitude* programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

International Mountain Day, 11 December 2020, 14.00 – 15.15 CET

Mountains are home to more than 1 billion people and provide many essential natural resources, such as freshwater for irrigation and domestic use for half of the global population. Unfortunately, mountain regions are also experiencing serious consequences of climate change: rising temperatures, melting glaciers and changing precipitation patterns that affect water flows and result in worsening natural hazards. When mountain regions are affected, impacts will be seen not only for mountain populations, but other communities that rely on vital resources they provide. Mountain people often face the challenges of poverty and their rugged environments, which are becoming increasingly more difficult to adapt to with the unprecedented pressures of climate change.

Adaptation in mountains is a pressing global issue, but individual countries often do not adequately address mountain resilience in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for climate change, national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies, or country plans for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More coherent and harmonized strategies must be developed in order to achieve resilience in mountains to protect livelihoods, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Parliaments should play a key role in ensuring the effective implementation of international commitments, and make sure that mountain resilience is a priority in their countries. Parliaments can:

- Ensure the legislative response to climate change and development challenges is nationally appropriate and aligns with the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework on DRR, and Agenda 2030
- Allocate adequate funding for implementing the SDGs and addressing mountain-specific adaptation challenges
- Facilitate stronger links with civil society working on this issue to better understand the situation on the ground, ensure that vulnerable populations receive the necessary support, and oversee the implementation of SDGs and Paris Agreement
- Ensure that climate adaptation in mountains is prioritized at the local, national, and international levels
- Provide political backing for alignment of the interlinked targets of climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development goals.

Objectives of the webinar

1. **Increase awareness** of and knowledge on the importance of promoting the sustainable development of mountain regions and the conservation of mountain ecosystems.
2. **Discuss the interlinkages** between climate change adaptation strategies, DRR targets and SDGs, focusing on the relevance and needs of mountain areas.
3. **Identify challenges and opportunities** that could help parliaments play a more active role in the alignment and institutionalization of climate, DRR and SDG targets.
4. **Share 'good practices'** from parliaments, highlighting their ability to engage in climate, DRR and SDG implementation and applicability of these practices to other political and social contexts.

Participants: The main target audience for this webinar is parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. However, the webinar is also open to other participants including experts supporting the work of parliaments, international organizations, NGOs, and development practitioners and researchers.

Language: The webinar will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in 2-3 other languages.

Participants will be invited to submit questions and comments via chat on the Interprefy platform. A selected number of questions and comments will be addressed by the speakers.

Organizers

This webinar is organized within [Adaptation at Altitude](#), a programme which strives to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of mountain communities and ecosystems to climate change. *Adaptation at Altitude* is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the University of Geneva, the Stockholm Environment Institute and Zoï Environment Network, in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



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