

WEBINAR

Mountains, Parliaments, and the Global Goal for Adaptation: Preparing for COP28

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

20 November 2023, 14:00-15:30 CET

Background

Following the success of International Mountain Day webinars in 2020, 2021 and 2022, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Adaptation at Altitude programme are pleased to present another joint event ahead of COP28 with the theme of reaching adaptation goals in the mountains. Climate change is bringing considerable challenges to mountain ecosystems and their downstream communities, and this will require substantial actions to prepare for adaptation needs in the future.

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), established under the 2015 Paris Agreement, seeks to address climate change impacts and enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems. The GGA is gaining momentum as international efforts intensify. At COP26, a two-year work programme was launched to translate the GGA into actions. During COP27, a framework for achieving GGA objectives was agreed upon, with detailed discussions on the framework planned for workshops leading up to COP28, where it is intended to be ratified.

There is no doubt that the GGA is a critical part of global climate action, aiming to strengthen the ability of societies and ecosystems to withstand the challenges posed by a changing climate. However, there is a concerning disparity between the growing risks associated with climate change and global efforts to support adaptation, with international adaptation finance to developing countries falling 5-10 times below estimated needs, and the gap continuing to widen¹.

Mountains have been defined as a thematic area of importance under the GGA due to their sensitivity to climate change impacts, which will affect natural hazards, food security and water resources, along with other sectors. Mountains are often home to highly vulnerable communities that face infrastructural challenges due to rugged conditions, which will be further exacerbated by climate change.

Parliamentarians, through their core functions, play a crucial role in addressing the vulnerabilities of mountain ecosystems and communities in the face of climate change. As they engage in national adaptation planning and prepare for the forthcoming COP28, it is imperative that they proactively investigate and advocate for potential solutions tailored to the unique needs of mountain ecosystems and communities. These solutions address disparities, enhance resilience, and emphasize the significance of mountains in the context of climate change adaptation and broader environmental objectives.

Objectives

This webinar will provide parliamentarians and other stakeholders with an overview of the importance of mountain areas for adaptation and how this can be integrated into the negotiations at COP28. The event aims to:

- **Inform** parliamentarians and other stakeholders of the adaptation needs and challenges in mountain areas, according to the latest science.
- **Highlight adaptation solutions** across key sectors that are relevant to mountain adaptation.
- **Launch the new issue brief** *Responding to climate change in the mountains: opportunities for Parliamentarians to act*.

¹ <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2022>

- **Promote dialogue** between parliamentarians, experts and other stakeholders on the GGA and how to bring relevant key themes to COP28.

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.

Event platform: Zoom.

Language: The webinar will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in French and Spanish.

Participants will be invited to submit questions and comments via chat on the Zoom 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 the Zoï Environment Network, in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



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