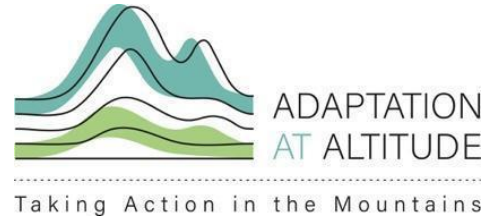




Inter-Parliamentary Union
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ROUND TABLE

Adapting to climate change in mountain areas: What solutions work?

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

20 February 2025, 14:00-15:00 CET

Background

Mountains cover one quarter of the Earth's land surface and are home to more than 1.2 billion people, along with 25% of terrestrial biodiversity and 60% of the world's biosphere reserves. Mountains also provide freshwater to more than half of the global population, as well as essential ecosystem services. Unfortunately, mountains also feature some of the clearest indications of climate change: rising temperatures, melting glaciers and changing precipitation patterns are disrupting water flows, creating more intense and frequent natural hazards, and threatening livelihoods in areas that are often already confronting poverty and food insecurity.

Mountains have been gaining traction in negotiations on climate change, having been included as themes in the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Global Stocktake, the Nairobi Work Programme, and the recent Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change at the 60th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in Bonn in June 2024. While decision makers are subsequently becoming better informed on the risks of climate change in mountain areas, gaps in planning, implementing and financing concrete actions for, and in, mountain regions persist.

2025 is a crucial year for climate action. It marks the year that revised national climate commitments under the Paris Agreement, referred to as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), are due. It also represents the mid-point of the [Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions](#). There is therefore a critical window of opportunity to take action to ensure mountains are included in climate action plans. Parliaments worldwide must help shape these commitments, creating strong laws and ensuring accountability for inclusive climate action.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Adaptation at Altitude (A@A) programme are supporting parliaments in addressing the impacts of climate change in mountains and building the resilience of mountain ecosystems and mountain populations. Following the success of the International Mountain Day webinar series (2020-2023) and the joint issue brief [Responding to climate change in the mountains: Opportunities for parliamentarians to act](#), the IPU and A@A are organizing a round-table discussion with parliamentarians, focusing on policies and good practices for addressing climate change in mountain areas.

Round-table objectives

This round-table discussion will convene a group of parliamentarians from different regions to explore how they can drive climate action, including the implementation of NDCs. It will provide a platform for knowledge-sharing among parliamentarians, highlighting challenges, opportunities and national examples of how climate change in mountain areas is being addressed.

The round table is designed to be informal and dynamic to maximize interactivity. It seeks to discuss the following questions:

- What are parliamentarians' needs and priorities for advancing climate action in mountain areas? Are specific types of support or guidance required?

- What are some examples of parliamentary action, including legislative action, to ensure mountains are included in national efforts to address climate change? If mountains are not included in national climate action, what are the barriers to this?
- How can parliamentarians use their oversight functions to hold their governments accountable on NDC implementation, including in mountain areas?
- How can parliamentarians engage with mountain communities to ensure their climate adaptation needs are being addressed?

The insights gathered in this round-table discussion will inform the development of a collection of best practices for addressing climate change in mountain areas. Examples of climate action identified in the discussion may also be featured on the A@A [Solutions Portal](#). These contributions will be available to a wider audience and will be instrumental in shaping future policy responses to climate change in mountain areas.

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

Event platform: Zoom. Registration for the event can be completed via the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/roundtable-adapting-to-climate-change-in-mountains-what-solutions-work-tickets-1202913389329?aff=oddtcreator>

Language: The roundtable will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in French.

