



Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz  
Republic to the United Nations



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## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2021

### SIDE EVENT

#### ***“TOWARDS A ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY IN MOUNTAINS”***

Live on Zoom

**Date:** 8 July 2021, 13.00–14.30 EST (New York time) / 19.00–20.30 CEST (Rome time)

**Main organizer:** Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

**Side event organized in the framework of the:** Mountain Partnership

**Zoom registration link:** <https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpcOmvqDsoGdD94-ofscZTebKvaKwELWTp>

#### **Background:**

The High-level Political Forum 2021 theme will be "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

This side event aims to contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action and 17 on partnerships.

Scaling up action in the critical Decade of Action 2020–2030 is imperative in mountains. A [recent study](#) by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification estimates that one in two rural mountain people living in developing countries was vulnerable to food insecurity<sup>1</sup> in 2017. In 2000, 44 percent of the rural mountain population (243 million people)

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<sup>1</sup> Vulnerability to food insecurity is the probability of a person or household falling or staying below a minimum food security threshold, expressed in calories and grammes of protein per person per day, within a certain timeframe.

was vulnerable to food insecurity. By 2017, this number had increased to 53 percent – the equivalent of 346 million people.

While the number of vulnerable rural mountain people has increased in all regions, some have suffered more than others. In Africa, almost 7 out of 10 were vulnerable to food insecurity, and Africa accounted for half of the increase in the number of vulnerable rural mountain people observed from 2000 to 2017.

Mountain people are often vulnerable and marginalized, with limited access to infrastructures, markets, education and capacity building opportunities, or digitalization. This contributes to inequality, as does mountain people's distance from decision-making processes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted life in mountain areas and compounded the vulnerabilities of mountain communities, small-scale farmers and pastoralists already affected by natural hazards, climate change, conflicts and land degradation.

In mountain regions that are highly dependent on remittances from emigrant workers, the reduced mobility and fewer economic opportunities have taken a heavy toll on local livelihoods. Mountain tourism, a sector that accounted for 15 to 20 percent of global tourism, has also suffered severely due to travel restrictions.

However, the pandemic is an opportunity to rethink economic growth, responsible production and consumption, and their impact on natural resources and livelihoods in mountains.

By discussing concrete actions to challenge the food insecurity crisis, and by supporting coherent policies through which to harness resilience to pandemics, biodiversity loss and the climate emergency, we can build forward better towards a more resilient, green and inclusive future in mountains.

**The main objectives for the event are to:**

- advocate for policies that support food security, poverty reduction and sustainable food systems in mountains, including those associated with family farming and traditional crops and diets, by recognizing their global importance for biodiversity conservation;
- launch and spotlight examples of the FAO publication *Mountain farming systems – seeds for the future* on agroecology in mountains for more resilient agricultural and food systems;
- share and build upon initiatives related to innovation and the diversification of mountain livelihoods to safeguard decent work opportunities, particularly for women and youth in rural areas; and
- explore how to promote innovative partnerships and collaboration with the private sector to increase funds for achieving the SDGs and addressing the COVID-19 crisis and aftermath in mountains.



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