



**United Nations
Climate Change**

BREAKOUT GROUP: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

Co-Moderators:

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11:50-13:00

15:00-15:45

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Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change

Part I: Sharing "existing" knowledge and know-how

- Thematic topics: (Venezuela, Perú, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Regional)
 - Research, long-term monitoring and early warning systems (e.g. glaciers, GLOFs, draught, hurricanes).
 - Ecosystem based adaptation: water management, traditional technologies (e.g. irrigation, cochas), grazing systems and pasture management, participatory approaches for monitoring (e.g. mountain fires in Colombia).
 - Risk management and infrastructure: for reduction of impacts, for services (e.g. power transmission).
 - Mountain Governance: regional platforms (e.g. AMI), national action plans for mountain ecosystems, dialog spaces (e.g. Minga de la Montaña en Ecuador), youth networks, mountain protected areas (e.g. 70% of mountain ecosystems included in Ecuador), NDCs linked with mountains and water (e.g. Perú).
 - Participation of key actors (youth, gender, local communities, indigenous groups)
 - Social dynamics: migration (from mountain areas), between countries, armed conflicts in the regiona and in transboundary areas.

Part II: Forward-looking elements (barriers/needs, required actions, key considerations to strengthening enabling environments)

- Specificities of the Latin American and Andean Context
 - Latitudinal diversity of social, environmental and climate contexts from the tropics to the poles, also many mountainous insular states (e.g. Puerto Rico, Cuba, etc).
 - Common languages (Spanish), but large presence and diversity of Indigenous communities
 - Large population density and many major cities located in mountains
 - Presence of major biodiversity hotspots in mountain areas (e.g. tropical Andes)
 - Political instability and social conflict, rural-urban and transnational migrations.
 - Advance of glacier retreat and loss from North to South (one country can learn from the experience of its neighbors).
 - Centralization of power and academic research in major cities (e.g. Lima, Bogotá).

Part II: Forward-looking elements (barriers/needs, required actions, key considerations to strengthening enabling environments)

- Barriers/needs:
 - More effective mechanisms of social participation in decision making (isolation of mountain communities).
 - Need to strengthen risk disaster management and early warning systems and quantification of loss and damages associated to CC
 - Need to downscale CC projections and scenarios to more local levels and consider the heterogeneity and specificity of local contexts; develop realistic What If? scenarios (prospective scenarios).
 - Need to consolidate and promote institutional financial sustainability of regional and national decision making platforms (e.g AMI, e.g. National Mountain Committees).
 - Promote a more multi-sectoral approach to CC mitigation/adaptation

Part II: Key recommendations to accelerate climate action to build resilience of mountain ecosystems

- Call for making these mountain dialogs more permanent spaces (Ecuador, e.g. Oceans), and promoting interregional exchange.
- Call to IPCC to include mountains explicitly and to consider the diversity of regional and local contexts (climatic, ecosystems, social). The same applies to the design of the NDCs
- Mainstreaming mountain adaptation into other conventions and negotiation spaces (e.g. Desertification, Biodiversity, etc.) and in their financial mechanisms.
- Importance of the cultural impacts and dimensions of climate change (e.g. glacier loss impacts for cultural identity).
- Promote dialog spaces between civil society, science (e.g. IPCC, academia), decision makers, and experience exchange / capacity building at local, national, regional and interregional scales.
- Financial incentives and programs with a regional perspective so that solutions are implemented in strategic/priority areas and socio-ecosystems and so that lessons can be shared and scaled up effectively between sites/regions.