



United Nations

UNFCCC/CP/2026/INF.1



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
20 October 2026

English only

Conference of the Parties

Thirty-first session

Antalya, 9–20 November 2026

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the subsidiary bodies

Dialogue on mountains and climate change

Summary report by the secretariat

Summary

The dialogue on mountains and climate change was convened by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies at their sixty-fourth sessions with the support of the secretariat. Parties and stakeholders came together to share practical experience and identify support needs in relation to advancing climate action in mountain regions, including as reflected in national climate reporting and planning instruments. Participants identified and discussed entry points under relevant UNFCCC workstreams to address mountain-related climate risks, as well as associated solutions and support needs, including opportunities to strengthen coherence and implementation across relevant work under existing mandates. Participants also explored other options for continued engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC, such as an annual dialogue, which resulted in differing views on the appropriate form, frequency and level of such engagement, with a key consideration being whether such continued engagement can help to maintain political visibility and continuity of action and lead to strengthening climate resilience in mountain regions without duplicating efforts under existing workstreams.



Abbreviations and acronyms

BTR	biennial transparency report
COP	Conference of the Parties
GST	global stocktake
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. COP 30 requested the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to convene a dialogue on mountains and climate change on, inter alia, the need to hold an annual dialogue on mountains and climate change, in conjunction with SB 64, facilitated by two co-facilitators, appointed by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, and supported by the secretariat.¹
2. COP 30 also requested the co-facilitators, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, to prepare a summary report on the dialogue to be held at SB 64, including on the outcomes of the discussions on the need to hold an annual dialogue on mountains and climate change, requested the Chairs to make an oral presentation on the summary report in their reports to COP 31.²

B. Scope

3. This report presents information on the proceedings of and key messages emerging from the dialogue on mountains and climate change at SB 64 (see chaps. II and III below respectively). It summarizes the statements and interventions made during the dialogue, including discussions on the need to hold an annual dialogue (see chap. IV below). It seeks to capture the range of views expressed without attributing them to individual participants or Parties and without assigning any priority or preference to the views presented.

II. Proceedings and objectives

4. The dialogue on mountains and climate change was convened on 12 June 2026 during SB 64. It was co-facilitated by one representative of developing country Parties (Sonam Tashi (Bhutan)) and one of developed country Parties (Saskia Sanders (Switzerland)).³ The dialogue brought together 121 participants, including 57 Party representatives and 64 representatives of United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, and academic and research institutions. Of the Party representatives, 34 were from countries in mountain regions, such as the Alps, the Andes, the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the Pyrenees, the South Caucasus and mountain regions in Central Asia and East Africa. Further information on the dialogue is available on the UNFCCC website.⁴
5. The objectives of the dialogue were to:
 - (a) Share key lessons learned from practical experience and identify country-specific support needs in relation to advancing climate action in mountain regions, including as reflected in NAPs, NDCs and BTRs, across different regional and national contexts;
 - (b) Identify and discuss entry points under relevant UNFCCC workstreams to addressing mountain-related climate risks, as well as associated solutions and support needs, including possibilities for mountain-related climate action and opportunities to strengthen coherence and implementation across relevant work under existing mandates;
 - (c) Explore options for continued engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC, including discussing potential goals, opportunities and limitations associated with holding an annual dialogue on the topic.

¹ [FCCC/CP/2025/12](#), paras. 40–41.

² As per document [FCCC/CP/2025/12](#), para. 42.

³ As per document [FCCC/CP/2025/12](#), para. 41.

⁴ <https://www.unfccc.int/event/mountains-cc-dialogue>.

III. Key messages

6. Mountains are critical to climate resilience and sustainable development both within and outside their geographical boundaries. They contribute to and sustain freshwater generation, biodiversity, livelihoods, and food and energy systems that billions of people rely upon. However, they are also subject to rapid and compounding climate change impacts that can cascade downstream. Protecting and restoring mountain ecosystems and strengthening water security, early warning systems and climate and disaster risk informed planning can help reduce climate-related risks and vulnerabilities across regions and sectors, while also supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and contributing to the achievement of broader sustainable development and biodiversity objectives.

7. Experience shared during the dialogue demonstrated how mountain-related climate risks are being addressed through locally grounded approaches that encompass ecosystems, livelihoods, infrastructure, disaster risk reduction and water, food and energy systems, with examples shared of concrete and integrated action. Mountain-related priorities for action have been reflected in NAPs, NDCs, BTRs and other national climate reporting or planning instruments to varying degrees depending on national circumstances and capacities to assess, address and report on mountain-related climate risks and priorities. The experience shared also demonstrated that action to strengthen climate resilience in mountain regions can generate wider climate benefits, including in relation to downstream water security, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, livelihood protection and sustainable development.

8. Effective science-policy interfaces, meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the design and implementation of adaptation action, and mechanisms that connect mountain communities and countries with available finance, technical assistance and capacity-building support for addressing their identified adaptation needs are critical to scaling up effective adaptation and resilience solutions in mountain regions.

9. Strengthening climate resilience in mountain regions has particular financing and implementation challenges that arise from the cross-cutting nature of mountain-related climate risks, the higher costs of delivering infrastructure and services, and logistical constraints associated with implementing activities in remote and difficult-to-access areas. Technical capacity needs to be built to develop investment-ready adaptation projects, assess financing needs and identify appropriate sources of support. Access to finance instruments suited to mountain-specific adaptation priorities and to mechanisms that enable available finance and other resources for adaptation to reach national, subnational and local actors, including mountain communities and Indigenous Peoples, is also needed. Strengthened international cooperation is also essential for addressing these challenges, including through transboundary cooperation where relevant.

10. Participants also discussed strengthening the consideration of mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC and found that there is significant scope to use existing mandates and workstreams more effectively. Opportunities were identified for building on and connecting ongoing relevant work, such as on adaptation and loss and damage; finance, technology and capacity-building; research and systematic observation; the GST; mitigation; just transition; and agriculture and food security (see chap. IV.C below).

11. Participants recognized the value of continued engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC for maintaining political visibility, strengthening knowledge exchange and supporting implementation of action. There are differing views on the appropriate form, frequency and level of such engagement, with the central consideration being whether ongoing engagement would help strengthen implementation and continuity of work under the UNFCCC process while avoiding duplication of existing efforts under the UNFCCC and placing disproportionate demand on Parties.

12. An annual or otherwise recurring dialogue is one option for ensuring continuity of engagement on mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC. Other options identified for sustaining and strengthening engagement on the topic include periodic or time-bound activities, stronger integration of the topic across existing UNFCCC workstreams, or a dedicated agenda item on the topic. Such options could bring together Parties and diverse

knowledge holders, facilitate knowledge exchange, maintain a focus of attention on mountain-related climate risks, adaptation action and support needs, and strengthen links between evidence, policy and implementation.

IV. Summary and outcomes of discussions

A. Climate risks affecting mountains and contribution of mountains to climate resilience

13. Participants noted the importance of mountain ecosystems for freshwater generation, biodiversity conservation, livelihood protection and the provision of ecosystem services within and beyond mountain regions. For example, mountains cover around one quarter of the Earth's land surface and generate freshwater flows that support agriculture, cities, hydropower and ecosystems – including two billion people – downstream.⁵

14. It was emphasized that climate-related changes that affect mountain regions also have wider consequences for the environment. These include rising temperatures, glacier loss, permafrost thaw and changes in precipitation and river flows, with the associated risks of floods, landslides, droughts and land degradation. Scientific evidence was highlighted indicating that warming in some mountain regions is occurring faster than the global average: in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, for example, at approximately twice the global average rate;⁶ and in parts of the Scandinavian Mountains in northern Europe at some of the fastest rates recorded anywhere.⁷ A representative of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change highlighted non-economic losses associated with changes to glaciers and ecosystems, including impacts on Indigenous cultures and identities and on spiritual and sacred relationships with mountain landscapes, glaciers and ecosystems.

15. Several participants shared examples of measures that can contribute to resilience-building and sustainable development both within and beyond the mountain regions in which they are undertaken. These included protecting and restoring mountain ecosystems, safeguarding water resources, implementing early warning systems, establishing climate-resilient infrastructure and undertaking climate and disaster risk informed planning. Some participants referred to measures pertaining to peatlands, agropastoral systems, sustainable management of forests and hydropower, noting their possible contributions to biodiversity conservation, livelihood protection, food and energy security, and mitigation.

16. It was noted that practical experience in strengthening resilience and implementing climate action in mountain regions could contribute to implementation of the Paris Agreement and to achievement of wider sustainable development and biodiversity objectives, including by informing relevant workstreams under the UNFCCC process, such as the second GST.

B. Lessons learned and identification of support needs in relation to advancing climate action in mountain regions

1. National climate reporting and planning instruments

17. Participants noted that mountain-related climate risks and associated needs and priorities are reflected in national climate reporting or planning instruments, including NAPs, NDCs and BTRs. These instruments are considered part of an assessment of climate risks

⁵ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. 2025. *The United Nations World Water Development Report 2025, Mountains and glaciers: water towers*. Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000393070>.

⁶ ICIMOD. 2023. *Water, ice, society, and ecosystems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya*. S Chaudhary, N Chettri, M Jackson, et al. (eds.). Kathmandu: ICIMOD. Available at <https://hkh.icimod.org/hi-wise/>.

⁷ Arnone E, Gobiet A, Haslinger K, et al. 2022. Climate Changes and Their Elevational Patterns in the Mountains of the World. *Reviews of Geophysics*. 60(1). Available at <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2020RG000730>.

and adaptation needs, the identification of climate action priorities, the communication of implementation and financing needs for adaptation, including estimated costs of adaptation measures and associated investment needs, and the tracking of progress in the implementation thereof. Consistent with the differing national circumstances and capacities to assess, address and report on mountain-related climate risks and priorities, the extent to and manner in which mountain-related climate issues are reflected in national reporting varies across countries and regions.

18. Some participants shared examples of integrating mountain priorities into national reporting across sectors. For example, Peru's NAP integrates glacier monitoring into national adaptation planning and addresses glacier retreat as a cross-cutting climate risk affecting water resources, food security, health and livelihoods. It also promotes ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through the restoration of high Andean wetlands and peatlands, traditional water harvesting practices, and early warning systems for glacier-related hazards, drawing on traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems. Lesotho's NAP, NDC and other national climate reporting and planning instruments prioritize the protection and restoration of mountain ecosystems as a foundation for climate resilience, including through initiatives on integrated catchment management, sustainable land management and the restoration of landscapes and livelihoods. Mountain-related climate risks are taken into account in Andorra's adaptation, biodiversity conservation, energy and development planning. Kyrgyzstan's updated NDC places emphasis on action pertaining to water resources, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy, forestry, biodiversity and climate-resilient infrastructure, recognizing its dependence on healthy mountain ecosystems and glaciers. It also integrates considerations of just transition, social inclusion and gender equality to address the vulnerabilities of mountain communities. These examples illustrate the use of landscape-level approaches to resilience-building that encompass measures related to ecosystem restoration, water security, livelihood protection and disaster risk reduction.

19. Some participants highlighted the importance of baseline information on climate risks and vulnerabilities, indicators for assessing current and future climate impacts, and locally tailored climate projections and adaptation responses that take into account differing impacts across upstream and downstream areas within mountain and connected river basin systems. This information informs assessments of and national reporting on adaptation action. Some participants also emphasized that the treatment of mountain-related climate issues in national reporting should remain nationally determined.

2. Resilience-building in mountain regions

20. Integrated landscape-level approaches emerged from the discussions as key to success in strengthening climate resilience in mountain regions. Interventions that encompass ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management, disaster risk reduction and actions for achieving water security and resilient livelihoods were seen as more effective in this regard than isolated sector-specific actions. Participants emphasized the value of reframing mountains as areas not only of vulnerability, but also of opportunity and for investment. Linking the resilience of mountain regions to water, food and energy security, biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods and other downstream benefits can help to broaden support for mountain-related climate action and attract investment therein from governments, financial institutions, the private sector and other partners.

21. Limited mountain-specific data on climate risks, vulnerabilities and impacts, and weak links between identified adaptation needs and available support for implementation, were identified as major barriers to effective adaptation in mountain regions. The highly localized nature of mountain-related climate risks means that detailed climate, ecosystem-related and socioeconomic information is needed to address them, but such information is often unavailable. Vulnerability of mountain regions to climate change remains poorly understood, leading to poorly targeted adaptation action and difficulties in developing investment-ready adaptation projects. Participants noted the absence of clear and predictable pathways for connecting locally and nationally identified priorities for mountain-related climate action with the international finance, technical assistance and capacity-building

support required for implementation. Strengthened international cooperation is also essential to address these challenges, including through transboundary cooperation where relevant.

22. Participants pointed out the importance of effective science–policy interfaces, inclusive knowledge systems and knowledge exchange on mountain-related climate risks and adaptation as enabling conditions for effective climate action in mountain regions. Institutions and regional initiatives can help in translating mountain-specific science and risk information into national and international climate and adaptation action planning processes, while accessible repositories of tested adaptation solutions can support learning about and replication and adaptation of successful approaches across different mountain contexts.

23. Existing regional and global organizations, networks and platforms, such as the Adaptation at Altitude programme, the Alpine Convention, the Andean Mountain Initiative, the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion, ICIMOD, Kyrgyzstan’s Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (2023–2027) and the Mountain Partnership, were highlighted as useful for scaling up mountain-related adaptation solutions and facilitating consideration of mountain-specific risks, needs and experience in wider climate policy and implementation processes.

24. According to the experience of several countries, outcomes are more impactful when Indigenous Peoples and local communities participate in decision-making and implementation in relation to climate action and have stewardship of land, forests and water resources. Participants emphasized that Indigenous Peoples and local communities that have stewarded such ecosystems across generations should be meaningfully involved in planning and implementation of climate action, with their knowledge valued as a core input rather than an add-on.

3. Support needs

25. Participants noted that efforts to strengthen climate resilience in mountain regions are often constrained by their cross-cutting nature and the higher costs and logistical complexity of implementing adaptation action in remote and difficult-to-access terrain. One example of higher implementation costs relates to the installation and management of early warning systems related to glacial lake outburst floods, leading to perceived investment risks. Participants also noted that financing cycles are often shorter than the time needed for ecosystem restoration and adaptation benefits to materialize.

26. Furthermore, mountain-related climate risks and priorities were noted as typically being dispersed across the areas of water, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity and forestry, which prevents them from being addressed as a distinct area for the purpose of planning or financing action. This can make needs for climate action in mountain regions less visible and consequently makes it more difficult to finance and implement action for addressing them.

27. Participants highlighted challenges in accessing climate finance for addressing climate-related needs in mountain regions. Several noted that mountain ecosystems and communities are not explicitly referenced in the programming criteria of some climate funds, which may limit the visibility of mountain-related adaptation needs and their consideration in funding decisions. In response to this concern, some participants therefore proposed greater recognition of mountain-related adaptation needs within existing financing mechanisms.

28. Several participants noted the limited technical capacity of some countries facing high levels of climate-related risk in mountain regions to access or mobilize finance for addressing it. Suggestions made for overcoming this challenge include provision of support for preparing investment-ready adaptation projects, provision of grant-based and blended finance, use of de-risking instruments, establishment of public–private partnerships and building the capacity of national and local institutions to access, manage and deploy finance for adaptation in mountain regions.

29. The importance of making climate finance more accessible to communities implementing adaptation on the ground was emphasized. For example, participants noted that creating direct or locally accessible pathways for mountain communities, Indigenous Peoples

and subnational actors to access climate finance could help to ensure that resources reach those most exposed to climate impacts as well as support locally led implementation of adaptation action.

C. Strengthening consideration and coherence of efforts pertaining to mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC

30. Participants recalled that the Convention, in its preamble and Article 4, paragraph 8, recognizes that developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are among those particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and calls on Parties to give full consideration to what actions are necessary under the Convention, including actions related to funding, insurance and technology transfer, to meet the specific needs and concerns arising from the adverse effects of climate change.

31. NAPs, NDCs, BTRs, national communications and other national climate reporting or planning instruments were identified as important means for enhancing the visibility of priorities for action to strengthen the climate resilience of mountain regions. Participants noted that NAPs could integrate consideration of mountain ecosystems and upstream–downstream linkages in relation to climate risks, water resources and adaptation needs, where relevant to national circumstances, while national communications could be used to share information and experience on mountain-related climate impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation action. BTRs could be used to track whether adaptation action relevant to mountain communities and ecosystems is being implemented and report the effectiveness of interventions, while long-term low-emission development strategies offer a longer-term framework for integrating resilience-building in mountain regions into national development strategies. It was highlighted that guidance developed by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on NAP formulation and implementation could integrate stronger consideration of mountain-related adaptation priorities.

32. Participants identified opportunities for strengthening consideration and coherence of efforts pertaining to mountains and climate change across the UNFCCC **adaptation, and loss and damage architecture**:

(a) The **United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience** provides adaptation targets, indicators and tools for planning and assessing progress towards determining issues that affect mountain regions and implementing solutions. It guides adaptation efforts for mountain regions. Participants suggested considering specific Belém Adaptation Indicators⁸ relating to ecosystems, water, early warning systems and systematic observation, and drawing on evidence from and the experience of mountain countries and communities relating to their application in mountain contexts;

(b) Under the **NWP**, mountains, high-latitude areas and the cryosphere are mandated thematic areas with related work supported by expert engagement, knowledge products and dialogue, including on issues such as transboundary climate change impacts and early warning systems. Some participants proposed next steps under the NWP, through its existing activities, to facilitate further exchange among Parties, experts and relevant knowledge holders on mountain-related climate risks, water-related impacts and adaptation needs, adaptation approaches, and needs for finance, technology and capacity-building support. They highlighted the importance of ensuring that knowledge products are accessible, including through appropriate use of language and translation into other languages;

(c) The **Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts** provides an opportunity for examining mountain-related loss and damage, and particularly for addressing both extreme and slow onset events, including glacier retreat and broader cryosphere change, as well as economic and non-economic losses affecting the ecosystems, livelihoods, culture and identity of Indigenous Peoples and mountain communities. Some participants proposed strengthening the development and application of methodologies for assessing economic and non-economic losses resulting from climate change impacts in mountain regions, including losses affecting ecosystems,

⁸ Contained in decision [12/CMA.7](#), annex.

livelihoods, cultural heritage, identity, spiritual values and relationships with mountain landscapes. Work under the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change was highlighted as supporting mountain countries and communities in identifying and addressing technical assistance needs related to loss and damage, including through capacity-building and information-sharing. The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage was also noted as supporting countries in developing funding proposals, strengthening institutional capacity and accessing resources for responding to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in mountain regions.

33. Work related to **finance, technology and capacity-building** support under the UNFCCC was also identified as providing opportunities for translating climate-related needs in mountain regions into implementation of action:

(a) The Adaptation Fund, the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund constitute potential sources of **financial support** for adaptation and resilience-building in mountain regions. Participants noted opportunities for those funds to strengthen recognition of the specific support needs of mountain regions and cryosphere-dependent communities within their existing financing frameworks, as well as to develop guidance on taking such needs into account in the context of the new collective quantified goal on climate finance. Provision of support for project preparation, use of de-risking instruments and blended finance, establishment of public-private partnerships, promotion of nature-based solutions and provision of payments for ecosystem services were among the approaches discussed by participants for addressing the higher costs and investment risk associated with implementing adaptation action in remote mountain areas and supporting the development of viable project pipelines;

(b) Priority **technology needs** for supporting adaptation action in mountain regions were identified in relation to, inter alia, locally adapted early warning systems; hazard monitoring, modelling and forecasting for glacial lake outburst floods, slope instability in mountain areas and changes in water availability; local capacity to operate and maintain relevant technologies and monitoring systems; and the integration of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems into the selection, design, deployment and use of technologies;

(c) **Capacity-building** opportunities identified relate to strengthening the ability of communities and institutions in mountain regions to access and use finance and technology for adaptation and resilience-building; improving national databases on mountain-related climate risks, impacts and vulnerabilities and methodologies for attributing observed impacts to climate change; and strengthening capacities to monitor and respond to mountain hazards. Regional and transboundary cooperation platforms were also noted as useful channels for exchanging knowledge and providing context-specific technical support for managing shared climate risks in mountain regions.

34. Mandated work in the area of **research and systematic observation**, such as through the research dialogue, Earth Information Day and collaboration between the UNFCCC and the Global Climate Observing System, the IPCC and the World Meteorological Organization, where relevant to mountains, can support efforts to strengthen climate observation networks, forecasting and early warning systems; improve cryosphere, glacier and permafrost monitoring; enhance climate modelling and climate risk assessment; and generate the evidence base needed for adaptation action and disaster risk reduction, consistently with the role of systematic observation as per paragraph 3 of decision [22/CP.27](#). Several participants identified opportunities for addressing persistent observation gaps in many mountain regions. Suggestions include strengthening long-term observation and the resulting data, including on glaciers and the cryosphere, as well as improving modelling, attribution, forecasting and early warning. Several participants highlighted the importance of ensuring that scientific information, including evidence of glacier retreat, snow loss, permafrost thaw and cascading hazards, informs national planning and decision-making pertaining to climate risk management and adaptation. They also emphasized the value of transboundary research that integrates traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems into the assessment and management of shared mountain-related climate risks.

35. The **GST** provides an overarching means of strengthening the visibility and consideration of mountain-related climate issues across the UNFCCC process. The outcome of the first GST refers to mountains, alongside other ecosystems, and includes the encouragement of integrated and ecosystem-based adaptation in mountain regions⁹ as well as the mandate¹⁰ for the expert dialogue on mountains and climate change held in 2024.¹¹ Some participants identified the second GST as an opportunity for Parties to share evidence and experience in relation to issues such as glacier and snow loss, permafrost thaw and adaptation in mountain regions. Some suggested linking future technical consideration of mountain-related climate issues to the five-year GST cycle.

36. Some participants pointed to mitigation-related issues in mountain regions, such as concerning forests, peatlands, and hydropower and other renewable energy systems, and suggested that such issues could be considered, as relevant, as part of the ongoing work under the UNFCCC **mitigation workstream**. They also highlighted climate-related risks that can affect energy systems and associated infrastructure in mountain regions, including glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and changes in water availability and hydrological regimes. In addition, they noted the contribution of black carbon deposition to accelerated snow and ice melt and its implications for mountain and cryosphere systems.

37. Suggestions were made to consider climate change impacts on glaciers, protected areas, water resources and sacred sites and the rights and participation of Indigenous Peoples under the **United Arab Emirates just transition work programme**, and to use relevant existing platforms, such as the **Global Climate Action Agenda**, to facilitate the sharing practical experience, including by non-Party stakeholders, of addressing climate action in mountain regions.

38. Participants also suggested strengthening the consideration of mountain-related issues in addressing climate action on agriculture and food security under the **Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security**.

39. Possible linkages among existing UNFCCC workstreams were also discussed in relation to the consideration of mountains and climate change, with suggestions including:

- (a) Feeding systematic observation and monitoring information into work related to the Belém Adaptation Indicators and future GSTs;
- (b) Making scientific and regional knowledge curated under the NWP available to adaptation practitioners and, where relevant, for work related to NAPs;
- (c) Considering linkages between mountain ecosystems and downstream water, land-use, agriculture and food systems, as relevant, in work under the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security;
- (d) Sharing information on observation and monitoring in mountain regions and identified technology needs for implementing adaptation action with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (e) Exploring linkages among discussions relating to mountains, water and oceans and climate change, particularly where changes in mountain and cryosphere systems have downstream effects.

40. Participants provided inputs on exploring synergies between work on mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC and processes and initiatives outside the UNFCCC process, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in relation to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and use of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems. Participants referred also to the United Nations General Assembly initiative on the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034),¹² United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 7/10 on the

⁹ Decision [1/CMA.5](#), paras. 55, 56 and 63(d).

¹⁰ Decision [1/CMA.5](#), para. 181.

¹¹ Further information on the dialogue is available at <https://www.unfccc.int/event/expert-dialogue-on-mountains-and-climate-change> and an informal summary report is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/642760>.

¹² See <https://www.un-cryosphere.org/en>.

preservation of glaciers and the broader cryosphere, in particular in mountain regions,¹³ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.¹⁴

D. Options for continued engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC

41. Participants discussed whether and how engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change can continue as part of the UNFCCC process. While several participants expressed interest in continuing to engage on the topic, views differed on the purpose of such engagement, and the appropriate form, frequency and level for it.

42. This subchapter reflects, as clearly and distinctly as possible, the views expressed by participants on this matter during the dialogue.

1. Views on the form of continued engagement

43. Participants recognized the value of continued engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC in order to maintain a focus on issues affecting mountain and downstream regions, support strengthened implementation of action to address them, and ensure continuity of relevant work. Such continued engagement was considered useful for exchanging knowledge and experience on mountain-related climate risks, adaptation approaches and resilience-building, and for discussing associated needs for support in mountain regions.

44. The following overarching parameters for continued engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change emerged:

(a) Some participants stressed that, irrespective of format, its purpose and linkages with existing mandates under UNFCCC workstreams should be clearly defined. They also highlighted the importance of identifying practical opportunities for integrating the knowledge, experience and outcomes emerging from continued engagement on mountains and climate change into existing UNFCCC workstreams while avoiding duplication of efforts;

(b) Several participants highlighted the value of engagement, including contributions from stakeholders not directly represented in Party-driven negotiations, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, non-governmental organizations, scientists and private sector actors. They also highlighted the importance of reflecting different regional perspectives in the design and substantive focus of any engagement, given the variation that exists among mountain systems and the national circumstances of mountain countries;

(c) Some participants emphasized that any such engagement should be Party-driven, facilitative and non-prescriptive and that it should not entail new obligations or reporting requirements for Parties.

2. Views on an annual dialogue

(a) Goals and functions

45. Several participants expressed support for an annual or otherwise recurring dialogue on the topic of mountains and climate change. Such a dialogue would provide a space for periodic sharing of knowledge and experience on climate risks and action in mountain regions; discussing needs for finance, technology and capacity-building support for addressing climate risks; and strengthening links between evidence, policy and implementation in advancing climate action in mountain regions. It would also provide a space for discussion that, irrespective of consideration of a prospective formal agenda item

¹³ See <https://docs.un.org/en/UNEP/EA.7/Res.10>.

¹⁴ See <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>.

on mountains and climate change, would help to maintain political attention on the urgency of addressing climate impacts in mountain regions.

46. Participants suggested a range of possible functions for an annual dialogue on mountains and climate change, including:

(a) Building a coherent picture of the role of mountains within wider environmental and socioeconomic systems, including their connection to river basins, lowlands and coastal areas, and their importance for water security, food systems, biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods;

(b) Providing a space for discussing both climate risks in mountain regions and opportunities associated with them in relation to livelihoods, innovation, renewable energy, biodiversity conservation and investment;

(c) Sharing knowledge and experience pertaining to mountain-related climate risks, adaptation approaches, resilience-building and needs for implementing adaptation action, including through engagement among Parties, scientists, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, practitioners and other stakeholders;

(d) Discussing climate risks and adaptation responses across mountain regions and the impacts of these on downstream areas, including the implications of changes in mountain ecosystems for, inter alia, water and food systems, biodiversity and livelihoods and accounting for the variation that exists in regional circumstances;

(e) Identifying support needs for and sharing experience on mountain-related climate action, including national climate reporting and planning instruments such as NAPs, NDCs and BTRs. Some participants mentioned project preparation, access to public and private finance, capacity-building and engagement with the private sector as areas that could be discussed in terms of support needs;

(f) Providing inputs related to mountain-related climate risks, including evidence thereof and experience in addressing them, and needs for finance, technology and capacity-building support, where relevant, to inform ongoing UNFCCC workstreams and processes, such as the GST.

(b) Scope and opportunities

47. Several participants noted that an annual dialogue could provide a forum for discussing responses to rapidly evolving climate impacts in mountain regions, such as glacier retreat and ecosystem change. In this context, some participants considered a five-year cycle of engagement on the topic insufficient to respond to the pace of change of and urgency of addressing such impacts.

48. Participants highlighted the importance, for any frequency of dialogues, of clearly defining their purpose, scope and modalities, their relationship with existing UNFCCC workstreams and the value they would add to the UNFCCC process so as to ensure coherence with ongoing work, avoid duplication of efforts under the UNFCCC process.

49. Some participants noted that an annual dialogue could build on a clear workplan or multi-year structure each year, rather than operating as a stand-alone event. The thematic focus of annual dialogues could rotate at intervals to cover, inter alia, water security, cryosphere change, adaptation, loss and damage, means of implementation for climate action, migration, private sector investment in adaptation and resilience-building, biodiversity, agriculture and ecosystem services in mountain regions.

50. Some participants suggested a layered approach to continued engagement on mountains and climate change, combining technical discussions at the global level with regional dialogues and high-level political engagement. The UNFCCC regional climate weeks were identified as potential venues for region-specific discussions, in the light of the significant variation that exists among mountain systems and the differing national circumstances of mountain countries.

51. Some participants proposed using mechanisms such as expert groups, communities of practice and open-access knowledge platforms and forging stronger links with relevant

scientific processes, such as with the IPCC, with a view to supporting knowledge exchange and informing decision-making aimed at strengthening climate resilience in mountain regions.

(c) Limitations and risks

52. Participants identified several limitations and risks associated with an annual dialogue on mountains and climate change. Some cautioned that, without clearly defined objectives, a distinct value in relation to existing UNFCCC processes, and periodic review, an annual dialogue could become repetitive or lose its relevance.

53. Others highlighted the additional financial, institutional and human resource demands associated with organizing and participating in a new mandated annual event. Concerns were raised about the capacity of smaller delegations and other stakeholders to engage effectively across multiple negotiation tracks, events and dialogues, as well as the resource implications for the secretariat. Participants also emphasized the importance of ensuring inclusive participation, including by engaging non-mountainous and downstream countries, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders whose perspectives may not be adequately captured through existing channels. These considerations would need to be factored in when designing such a dialogue, to ensure effective participation.

54. Participants noted that an annual dialogue would not in itself ensure implementation of action to address climate risks and strengthen resilience in mountain regions and discussed the importance of establishing a clear idea of how its outcomes would feed into existing UNFCCC workstreams and decision-making processes. Some highlighted the practical challenges of translating technical discussions into negotiated outcomes, noting that, without such linkages between technical discussions and negotiated outcomes and relevant decisions by the governing bodies, opportunities to advance implementation could remain limited. Drawing on lessons learned from the annual ocean and climate change dialogue, participants noted that there is a risk of technical experts participating only in the dedicated annual event without sustained engagement in relevant UNFCCC workstreams and negotiations.

55. Participants also noted a potential trade-off in defining the scope of a future dialogue. While broadening its focus to interconnected systems, such as the cryosphere, could engage a wider range of Parties and stakeholders, including those concerned with ocean systems and small island developing States, some cautioned that a broader scope could dilute attention to mountain-specific challenges and priorities.

(d) Practical considerations

56. Participants discussed practical considerations arising from a prospective annual dialogue on mountains and climate change. These include defining its objective, scope, intended participants and expected outcomes, for example through terms of reference; establishing a multi-year structure through which successive dialogues could build on previous discussions and outcomes, such as by rotating thematic areas annually; holding the dialogue in conjunction with sessions of the governing or subsidiary bodies to facilitate participation by Parties and relevant stakeholders; and ensuring opportunities for meaningful engagement by representatives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders.

57. Participants emphasized that an annual dialogue on the topic would need to complement relevant work being carried out under the UNFCCC, including in the context of the GST, the global goal on adaptation, the NWP, work on addressing loss and damage, and research and systematic observation, while also being coherent, as appropriate, with relevant work being conducted outside the UNFCCC process, including under the other Rio Conventions and by the IPCC.

3. Alternative options for continued engagement

58. Participants also discussed a range of possible options for continued engagement on the topic of mountains and climate change other than holding a recurring dialogue or relying solely on existing arrangements under the UNFCCC. Views differed on the appropriate form, frequency and level of the engagement, which suggests that different options or combinations

of options for continued engagement are worth considering. Participants emphasized that a central consideration was the need for a clear pathway from engagement and knowledge exchange to implementation of action to address climate risks and strengthen resilience in mountain regions and the need to ensure that ongoing work under the UNFCCC is complemented rather than duplicated.

59. Participants put forward the following options, noting that they are not mutually exclusive and could be pursued in combination:

(a) **Greater integration of the consideration of mountains and climate change into existing UNFCCC workstreams:** opportunities exist for strengthening consideration of the topic within existing UNFCCC workstreams (see chap. IV.C above), such as under the NWP and the GST and in the context of the global goal on adaptation, work on loss and damage, and research and systematic observation. Holding a technical dialogue on mountains and climate change linked to the second GST was also proposed;

(b) Several arrangements for a recurring dialogue, including annual, periodic or time-bound formats, were proposed that could help maintain attention on mountains and climate change, facilitate continued stakeholder engagement and support relevant action. Some participants viewed a recurring dialogue as a feasible intermediate approach between the current arrangements and a more formal process under the UNFCCC. They noted that such an approach could evolve over time if it demonstrates added value to the UNFCCC process and gains broader support among Parties. The options proposed include:

(i) **A time-bound dialogue followed by a review:** an annual dialogue on mountains and climate change could be held over an initial five-year period followed by an evaluation of its form, frequency, participation and impact, including its contribution to ensuring the continued visibility of and implementation of action pertaining to the topic, with a view to informing any subsequent iterations of the dialogue;

(ii) **A periodic dialogue:** a dialogue on mountains and climate change held less frequently than annually could maintain a focus of attention on the topic and support continuity of relevant action, while reducing demands on Parties and avoiding repetition of similar discussions. Such a dialogue could be timed to coincide with key milestones under the Paris Agreement, including the GST, with its outcomes informing subsequent consideration of mountains and climate change at higher political levels under the UNFCCC process;

(iii) **A combination of annual and GST-linked dialogues:** an annual or otherwise recurring dialogue on mountains and climate change could be held with a view to maintaining consideration around the topic and stakeholder engagement on it, while a more focused technical dialogue linked to the GST could be convened in order to consolidate outcomes from preceding dialogues into inputs to the GST;

(c) **A multi-year road map or workplan:** a multi-year road map or workplan could also provide an overarching framework for continued engagement on mountains and climate change under the UNFCCC. The multi-year road map for work on mountains and climate change could set out thematic priorities to be addressed over a defined period, with the focus rotating periodically. It could identify relevant technical activities to be completed during that period, as well as possible linkages with other work under the UNFCCC process;

(d) **A dedicated item on the agenda for UNFCCC sessions:** introducing an item on mountains and climate change to the agenda for sessions of the governing and/or subsidiary bodies was identified as an opportunity to accord the topic greater political visibility and establish a direct connection to decision-making and implementation of action. However, different views were expressed on this suggestion. Some participants opposed this option, citing unclear added value to the UNFCCC process and cautioning against creating new obligations or reporting requirements for Parties through the introduction of a more formal process for consideration of the topic;

(e) **Informal meetings among interested Parties:** Parties that are mountain countries, as well as other interested Parties, could convene informal meetings prior to sessions of the governing and/or subsidiary bodies with a view to identifying opportunities

for coordinated interventions in relation to mountains and climate change across existing items on the bodies' agendas;

(f) **Other approaches outside the UNFCCC process:** other proposed options include establishing a new United Nations body, analogous to UN-Oceans, and integrating a focus on mountains into the United Nations Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences.
