



COP29 side event:

“Uniting for Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Security in Mountain Regions”

organized by the Kyrgyz Republic and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Date: 21 November 2024

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Location: Pavilion of Kyrgyzstan

Concept note

According to the Report of the UN Secretary-General, mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change like extreme weather events, temperature rise and natural disasters, as well as to deforestation, land degradation, and pollution. One of the most visible impacts of climate change on mountains is the rapid melting of glaciers, which not only threatens local biodiversity but also impacts security and stability of rural communities as well as residents of big cities across the region depending on fresh water and other natural resources. Mountains not only support livelihoods in upstream countries but also benefit communities living downstream. In Kyrgyzstan and other mountainous Central Asian countries, glaciers, a key source of water, are melting at an alarming rate. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), more than 50% of glaciers in Central Asia could disappear by 2050, threatening water and food security for more than 64 million people in the region.

Most recently, the high exposure and sensitivity of mountain regions to climate change, combined with their fragility and underrepresentation, have been recognized in the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/77/172, titled ‘Sustainable Mountain Development.’ This resolution declared 2023-2027 as the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions.

Based on the COP28 Decision 1/CMA.5 Outcome of the first Global Stocktake, the first historic Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change was successfully held during the SB60 session in Bonn on 5 June 2024. Following this dialogue, Kyrgyzstan proposed including an item on mountains in the COP29 agenda to establish an annual Expert Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is providing a platform for political dialogue on risks associated with climate change and is implementing activities on the ground. The OSCE has developed a strong collaboration with the governments of the countries of Central Asia to jointly foster regional co-operation around climate change and its implications on stability and prosperity. The [OSCE’s flagship project on climate change and security](#) provides the avenue for this collaboration. Building on a wide regional consultation process in Central Asia, the OSCE and the Berlin based think tank adelphi published the [“Regional co-operation strategy on climate change and security in Central Asia’s high mountain areas”](#) in September 2024, which

includes a set of recommendations and concrete ideas to jointly address climate-related security risks in Central Asia.

Building on previous discussions and joint initiatives, the aim of this joint side event at COP29 is to strengthen co-operation among Central Asian countries, in order to take joint action to jointly address issues related to climate change and stability in mountain areas and lowlands, to develop joint decisions and recommendations taking into account local and national contexts as well as the latest international debates and scientific research.

Tentative Agenda

14:00-14:15	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amb. Dinara Kemelova, Special Representative of the President of Kyrgyzstan for the Implementation of the Five-year Action for the Development on Mountain Regions; - Amb. Bakyt Dzhusupov, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
14:15-14:25	<p>Input presentation: Main findings from the OSCE Regional co-operation strategy on climate change and security in Central Asia’s high mountain areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Beatrice Mosello, Senior advisor at adelphi
14:25-15:30	<p>Panel Discussion: Advancing regional action and co-operation on climate resilience in Central Asia’s high mountain areas and lowlands</p> <p>Panelists: Ministers and high-level representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as representatives of project donors and international organizations</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can regional co-operation enable joint action for addressing issues related to climate change and security in mountain areas and lowlands? - What more can the OSCE do? How can the existing initiatives be strengthened and what are the new avenues to advance climate resilience, prosperity, security and stability in the region?
15:30-15:40	<p>Q&A Conclusions and closing</p>
15:40 – 16:00	<p><i>Networking with tea and coffee</i></p>

This side event is supported through the OSCE project [“Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia](#) implemented in partnership with adelphi and funded by Andorra, Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

Please note, that photos will be taken during the event.