

Global Sustainable Mountain Development: Contribution of Kyrgyzstan in Solving of Problems in Mountainous Countries

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The importance of world's mountainous regions has been recognized since International Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Therefore, Agenda 21 contains the chapter 13 specifically dedicated to mountains. Today, mountains make up 25% of Earth's surface, are home to 26% of world's population, and are a source of clean water for half of humanity. In addition, mountains are characterized by a high level of biological and cultural diversity.

Mountain dwellers face challenges such as harsh climatic conditions; vulnerability of mountain ecosystems to natural and technogenic impacts; low agricultural productivity; high logistical and energy costs of life support, communication isolation and limited access to social and economic services. These factors contribute to complexity of economic activity in mountains, causing poverty, social conflict, migration, and political instability.

Given the importance of mountain ecosystems and their role, at initiative of Kyrgyzstan, the year of 2002 was declared by the UN the International Year of Mountains. Final event of the year was the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit. Outcomes of the International Year of Mountains and Bishkek Global Mountain Summit were:

- Adoption of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, which is main international document on sustainable development of mountain regions.
- The International Mountain Partnership Program was approved. Office of this program was created and still operates under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, Rome).
- Eight resolutions of the UN General Assembly on sustainable development of poor mountainous countries were adopted with recommendations to provide them with all possible assistance, including writing off their external debts.
- The UN Resolution of January 30 in 2002, proclaimed December 11 as the International Day of Mountains.
- Signed the Central Asian Mountain Charter (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan).
- The National Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Mountain Development was developed.
- The Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Mountain Development was developed (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Xinxiang of China).
- Adopted the "Law on mountainous territories of Kyrgyz Republic" (2002).
- International classification approved the definition of "Mountain countries isolated with high transport costs" "Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals" (New-York, 2005).
- A number of books and dissemination materials have been published and conferences have been held with assistance of the UN University, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and other international organizations.

Last year, by the initiative proposal of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov, the United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2022 as the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, at the proposal of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The corresponding resolution titled "International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, 2022" (document A/76/L.28) was adopted at the plenary meeting and invites Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and stakeholders, including civil society, private sector and academia, to observe the International Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable mountain development and the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems.

Moreover, the Kyrgyz Republic also takes the initiative to adopt a UN resolution on holding the 5th anniversary of sustainable mountain development, which will allow to:

- **raise awareness and capture attention of global communities**
- **coordinate regional and international cooperation**
- **successfully exchange information and experience**
- **support sub-regional and inter-regional agreements regarding protection of mountain areas and their sustainable and equitable development**
- **encourage activities of regional, national and international organizations**
- **coordinate global activities for the implementation of sustainable mountain development programs.**