

Secretariat  
United Nations Framework on Climate Change  
UNFCCC secretariat  
P.O. Box 260124  
D-53153 Bonn  
Germany

September 14, 2012

Dear Madame Secretariat Figueres,

The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) requests that the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) establish an area of work for the world's mountains within the Nairobi Work Programme of the Convention.

Decision 6/CP.17 of SBSTA specified that Parties and relevant organizations are invited to submit to the secretariat their views on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi work programme. On behalf of [The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation](#) (UIAA) we propose and support the establishment of an area of work on "mountains and climate change". Special attention is urgently now needed by the world's mountain ecosystems in order to enable them and their people to respond and adapt in effective and timely ways to the many negative impacts of climate change.

Mountains provide fresh water, vital goods and services to more than half of the world's population but they are fragile ecosystems that require specific protection and management. Mountains are found on every continent, and at every altitude, from close to sea level to the highest place on the earth.

As a global organization, we recognize the importance of establishing an area of work focused on the responding effectively to the impacts of climate change on mountain ecosystems and livelihoods. We must point out that if the Secretariat acts accordingly, greater political attention and much-needed financial resources will be drawn on this critically important issue.

We ask that you act decisively and quickly to establish an area of work for the world's mountains within the Nairobi Work Programme of the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,



Jordi Colomer  
*UIAA Acting President*