



Ambaixada del Principat d'Andorra  
a la República Federal d'Alemanya

NV DEU. 01/23

**NOTE VERBALE**

The Embassy of the Principality of Andorra to the Federal Republic of Germany presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and, has the honour to convey the letter from H.E. Ms. Sílvia Calvó Armengol, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development in office of Andorra, addressed to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Simon Stiell.

The Embassy of the Principality of Andorra to the Federal Republic of Germany kindly requests the transmission of the enclosed letter to the distinguished recipient.

The Embassy of the Principality of Andorra to the Federal Republic of Germany avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 23 March 2023

**Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**  
**BONN**



Govern d'Andorra  
La ministra de Medi Ambient,  
Agricultura i Sostenibilitat

Mr. Simon Stiell  
Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC  
BONN

Andorra la Vella, 22 March 2023

Dear Mr Simon Stiell,

As Minister of an entirely mountainous country, allow me to draw your attention to the Preamble and Article 4.8 of the Convention which invites Parties to give full consideration to the needs arising from the adverse effects of climate change on fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems, among others.

Mountains cover almost a quarter of the Earth's surface and are home to 15% of the world's population and half of the biodiversity hotspots. Moreover, they are the main natural water reservoirs having a crucial role on water and food security, not only for its local residents, but also for lowland citizens that benefit directly or indirectly from their services. Mountain ecosystems have been identified among the most vulnerable to climate change, as temperature evolves faster in these regions, both in terms of impacts on the population that live there, and in the ecosystem services they provide. As a result, people living in mountains are among the world's most vulnerable.

The high exposure and sensitivity of mountains to climate change, their fragility and underrepresentation were already recognised in Chapter 13 (*Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development*) of the 1992 Earth Summit Agenda 21, in the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/234 on "Sustainable Mountain Development" and also in the findings of the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC). More recently, the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC (March 2023) draws special attention to the upcoming irreversible adverse impacts and adaptation limits of mountain regions and their severe consequences for people, infrastructure and economy.

Besides, addressing challenges in mountain regions is of utmost importance for accomplishing many targets of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2022 the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, during which many international environmental bodies started to bring specific attention to mountains, such as the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

Andorra also chose this crucial international year to reinforce its compromise in favour of mountains by being elected member of the Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership, as representative of the Europe electoral group. Thus, the Principality of Andorra is firmly committed to the efforts undertaken by this partnership in the implementation of the Mountain Agenda and the achievements and impacts it oversees.

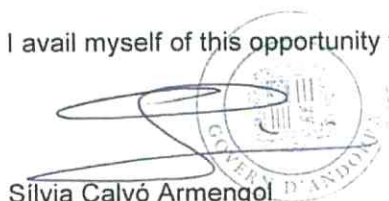
These newest concerns are all welcomed developments that have been taken over and resulted in a ministerial meeting organised by my country, under my leadership, during COP 27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh, on 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, and attended by 15 other mountainous countries. The aim was to give more visibility to mountain vulnerability to climate change, increase the importance of collaboration for stronger voice of mountainous countries and, over all, to give mountains the importance they deserve under the process. This is a common concern of member States of the Mountain Partnership.

As a result of the abovementioned meeting, the purpose of the present letter is to request the inclusion of an item on mountains in the agenda of COP 28.

We believe it is high time to start building a momentum and to bring mountains into the centre of climate change discussions, as a strong mark of our collective commitment towards mountain sustainable development.

I truly hope that our request would be taken into consideration and I remain at your disposal for any query.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink over a circular official seal. The seal features the coat of arms of Andorra and the text 'GOVERN D'ANDORRA' around the perimeter.

Sílvia Calvo Armengol

Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development in office