



UIAA Resolution on Climate Change

The UIAA General Assembly Meeting in Seoul, South Korea, on 23rd October 2015:

Having said that the UIAA - founded in 1932 in Chamonix and recognised by the International Olympic Committee as the international federation representing mountaineering and climbing - has a global presence on five continents with 80 member associations in 50 countries representing about 2.5 million people, and the mission to promote the growth and protection of mountaineering and climbing worldwide, advance safe and ethical mountain practices and promote responsible access, culture and environmental protection.

Expressed its concern at the threat to the earth's living resources, including but not limited to, mountain areas and human communities, from the effects of climate change.

Considered the crucial contribution that mountaineers can have on public understanding of climate change issues, through their historical observations and current knowledge of mountains areas, where the impacts of climate changes is highly visible.

Considered that its knowledge of mountain geography and ecosystems allows the Union to be highly influential witnesses to climate change in our time, and to extend that influence beyond the mountain community to everyone around.

Considered the UIAA Resolution on Climate change – taken in the General Assembly in Banff, Canada, on 14 Oct 2006, with which all mountaineering Associations, and their members, were urged to consider both the implications of climate change, for their own activities, and also the opportunities they have to influence other organizations, from the public to the private sector, to greater understanding of the climate change crisis and to increase the readiness of these other interests to take action to tackle climate change problems.

Considered, also, that UIAA intends to draw the attention to the fact that the mountain wants to - and can effectively contribute, with its specificity -, determine the achievement of important objectives in the fight against climate change, because the mountain is the place that encloses important environmental values that need to be preserved in the whole planet: fresh water,

stones and metals, woods and forests, the biodiversity that humanity and future generations may not see dispelled.

Noticed that the changes taking place are particularly evident in areas of medium and high altitudes, which they can be up to two or three times more intense than in lowland areas, and that the heating causes effects very noticeable and dangerous in the mountainous areas, for example: the regression of glaciers; melting of snow layers and the raising of the permafrost height, with related problems at lower altitudes once affected by the presence of perennially frozen soil layer; the intensification of erosion processes and the resulting changes in ecosystems of high altitude; structural failures and physical disintegration of rocks.

Considered, *last but not least*, that mountains are “*Water Towers*” for billions of people, in every continent, and that if they will empty, we will not only create environmental problems, but humanitarian crisis, and political problem on a scale never seen before, and that saving our mountains means saving ourselves, and future generations.

Welcomes the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21 or CMP11, the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP 11) to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

Supports the Conference objective to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world, and the overarching goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase to 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, shearing the concern that *"the current pledges, be they under the Kyoto protocol, or be they under the Convention in a voluntary form, are clearly not enough to guarantee that the temperature will stay below 2 °C and there is an ever increasing gap between the action of countries and what the science tells us"*. (Christiana Figueres – Executive Secretary – UNFCCC – during the closing briefing at the 2012 Doha Conference).

Endorses for rapid actions against human-caused climate change, setting up binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for individual countries with enforcement mechanisms, overcoming the, already important and essential, framework for negotiating specific international treaties (called "protocols"), to finally concretize the objective of the Treaty to *"stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would"..." remove " ..dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system"*.

Hopes that the Conference, through a comprehensive agreement, will start new and decisive action to address climate change, constraining the entire world population and States, within a framework of common awareness of the dangers for the entire planet and a newfound solidarity between peoples, cultures and behaviors consistent with the environment in which we live.