***Proposed statement for the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals session 12***

***Date xxxx***

***As delivered by xxxx***

Thank you, Mr Co-Chair.

We would like to highlight that during the OWG 11, 56 governments spoke requesting attention to mountain ecosystems and there were more than 100 interventions during the entire OWG process targeting mountains.

This strong call is however not reflected in the current draft. We request that attention to mountains be taken into account.

Specifically, our team proposes to add three main items that would allow sustainable mountain development to contribute to food security, poverty eradication, the health and social well-being of people around the planet:

1. reinstating a specific mention of mountains in proposed **goal 6: Secure water and sanitation for all for a sustainable world**;
2. recognizing the contribution of mountains in proposed **goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and reliable modern energy services for all;**
3. and expanding the wording in proposed **goal 15: Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss to promote their sustainable management.**

These minor additions will ensure that the contributions of mountain ecosystems are taken into account in this post 2015 process as they were in Rio 1992 with the Chapter 13 of the Agenda 21 and in Rio+20 with the three mountain paragraphs of the Future We Want document.

**Proposed goal 6**

**Regarding proposed goal 6**, we support target 6.5 but recommend adding **“with particular focus on mountain regions”** to “including appropriate trans-boundary cooperation,” so that the text reads**: implement integrated water resources management, including appropriate trans-boundary co-operation with particular focus on mountain regions.**

While we support target 6.6, we wish to highlight some specific ecosystems that are particularly important and at risk: **restore and protect those ecosystems (“including mountains, forests and wetlands”) and aquifers that provide water-related services.**

Because mountains provide between 60 and 80 percent of freshwater resources worldwide, we believe it is paramount that they be specifically named in the water- and sanitation-related goal.

**Proposed goal 7**

Regarding proposed goal 7, we propose **an additional target**:

7.3 **by 2030 increase by x% the adoption of adequate policies and safeguards for the production of sustainable energy, especially in fragile mountainous ecosystems**

In Latin America, 85% of the hydropower energy is generated from mountains. Hydropower is also increasingly important in Asia and Africa. Hydropower, one of the main sources of sustainable energy in mountain regions, is a leading source of energy in Europe, stemming from the Alps.

**Proposed goal 15**

Turning to proposed goal 15 on **ecosystems and biodiversity,** we strongly support revising the goal to encompass the crucial role that the mountain ecosystems play. Because mountains host 25% of terrestrial biodiversity and are important sources of agro-biodiversity as well as vital genetic resources for crops and livestock, we believe that the goal could be strengthened by reflecting their noteworthy importance:

**15. Protect, manage and restore fragile terrestrial ecosystems, such as mountains, drylands and other degraded ecosystems, and halt their biodiversity loss.**

As for target 15.2, we would recommend adding another specific mention so that the text reads: by 2020 ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, **with particular attention to wetlands and mountains.**

In conclusion, we propose adding to the target 15.4: **by 2030, ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests and of mountain ecosystems, increasing their contribution to global water, food and energy security**

This would reinforce and highlight the role that mountains play in providing crucial goods and services to humankind, such as most of the world’s water.

Thank you for your consideration.