

## **Nova Friburgo Charter in Celebration of the "2018 International Mountain Day"**

### **A warm salute to the residents, visitors, and admirers of mountain environments of the world!**

The participants of "Mountains 2018," which took place in Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro, during 10-14 December 2018, conscious of the importance of mountain ecosystems to the equilibrium of the Earth and the challenges that these environments are currently facing as a result of climate changes, mass

tourism, predatory economic activities, and other global transformations stress the need for actions focused on mountain environments, pursuant to world trends and initiatives as set forth in Agenda 21, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Rio+20 Declaration, and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Organization for 2030.

Mountains account for roughly 22% of the world's surface. It is estimated that about 17% of Brazil's territory is comprised of mountain environments, which feature a large part of the remaining traces of natural forests, water sources, and other resources that ensure the delivery of several ecosystem services essential to human welfare, to the maintenance of biodiversity, and to the equilibrium of nature. Brazil's mountain environments are located mostly in its southern and southeastern regions, which feature high population density and intense economic activity, hence impinging on the natural resources in these areas and increasing their vulnerability, as well as that of the residing populations and of those depending on the mountains.

Mountain environments are among the first to be affected by climate change and rising urban pressures, facts that have already begun to engender environmental, economic, and social ripple effects. Such pressures point to the clear need for specific transversal strategies aimed at the protection,

conservation, restoration, appreciation, and sustainable development of these territories for the benefit of the whole population.

We, the participants of "Mountains 2018," recommend the establishment and implementation of specific management and sustainable development strategies for mountain environments, highlighting:

- Enhancing the awareness and mobilizing urban and rural populations about the importance of mountains;
- Defining, identifying, and mapping out mountains, including data collection and dissemination;
- Boosting research and the generation, adaptation and dissemination of technologies and innovations suitable to their specific conditions;
- Rescuing and appreciating of local knowledge, stimulating exchange of information and promotion of good practices with a view to publicizing and fostering strategic knowledge aimed at improving the quality of life of people living on mountains and of the environmental equilibrium;
- Improving conditions for communication, housing, urbanization, sanitation, accessibility, and sustainable transportation;
- Stimulating mechanisms for management of natural risks;
- Enhancing and spurring sustainable economic activities, as well as those geared to sports, recreation, culture, and management, including local production systems and the production of healthy foodstuffs, aiming at food security;
- In order to reach the above goals, it becomes necessary to urgently define programs, institutions, resources, legislation, and other policy tools conducive to responsible actions in mountain environments whilst stimulating a transversal approach;
- Finally, encouraging the Brazilian government and that of other countries to join international initiatives towards the sustainable development of mountains, notably Mountain Partnership.

In view of these concerns, the participants of "Mountains 2018" are committed to undertaking and paving the way for initiatives along the above mentioned lines, whilst calling on all sectors of society, including citizens, decision-makers, managers, legislators, public officials, and private agents to come together and exert such efforts with the swiftness and effectiveness required by current circumstances.

Nova Friburgo, December, 11th, 2018

