



Mountain Focus Group Meeting

ITALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
885 Second Avenue (One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza), 49th floor

BACKGROUND NOTE

1 Mountain Focus Group meeting

The Mountain Focus Group meeting is going to take place in the Italian Mission to the United Nations, on 14 December 2011, from 12:30 to 14:00 hours, and it will be followed by a light lunch. The meeting is jointly organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Italian and Swiss Mission to the United Nations.

(see appended draft Agenda)

1.1 Objective

The overall objective is to work towards a common understanding on how best to include mountain development in the discussions and negotiations on Rio+20. Strategically timed - the Rio+20 inter-sessional meeting is going to be held on 15 and 16 December at the United Nations headquarters in New York -, the meeting aims to benefit from the participation of key representatives of the UNCSD such as Vice-chair of the Board for the Preparatory Committee Paolo Soprano. Co-Executive Coordinators for Rio+20 Brice Lalonde and Elizabeth Thompson have been invited, too, as follow-up to Brice Lalonde's role on the panel of the Lucerne World Mountain Conference (October 2011). The event took place in Lucerne (Switzerland) in the framework of the Mountain Partnership.

1.2 Background context

The "Mountain Focus Group" played a key role in the establishment of the Mountain Partnership - a global alliance of more than 180 members, including 50 governments, that aims to promote sustainable mountain development around the world - and meets regularly in New York, usually on the margins of the Commission of Sustainable Development. The meeting of December 14 will follow-up to a similar event held at the Swiss Mission earlier this year (May 2011). Participants at the meeting will share information on how to advance the effective implementation of the sustainable mountain development agenda in the preparatory process leading to Rio+20.



Meeting of the Mountain Focus Group

**Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations
New York, 14 December 2011**

Draft Agenda

12.30 - 14.00 hours

- 1. Welcome address**
Permanent Mission of Italy (co-Chair)
Permanent Mission of Switzerland (co-Chair)
- 2. Lucerne World Mountain Conference (Global Synthesis Report, The Lucerne Call for Action)**
- 3. Status and forthcoming steps of the Rio+20 process**
- 4. Mountain Partnership initiative and Rio+20 (submissions to the compilation, possible role of the Mountain Partnership in preparation for and after Rio+20)**
- 5. Any other business**

A light buffet-lunch will be provided
