



## Economic and Social Council

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**Statement submitted by Ecoforum of Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Covering 22 percent of the earth's land surface and home to around one billion people, mountains provide vital goods and services such as freshwater, which sustain the well-being of roughly half of humanity.

The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development brought global attention to mountains by recognizing the need to strengthen knowledge and promote sustainable development of mountain regions. The Millennium Development Goals helped promote global awareness and political action leading to substantial progress in reducing poverty in various countries and regions.

However, recent studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Mountain Partnership indicate that, despite notable progress, poverty is still prevalent in mountain regions.

Building on the progress of the Millennium Development Goals, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals contain three targets that specifically address challenges faced by mountain peoples and environments in two goals, 6 and 15.

We urge the Member States to support keeping the three targets and to monitor their implementation through indicators, given mountains' vital role in sustainable development. Moreover, we call on Member States to support the recognition of mountains as crucial to achieving a water-secure world and to place greater emphasis on fragile mountain ecosystems where populations are still facing poverty and hunger.

We encourage Member States to reflect on the past progress of the Millennium Development Goals to design more inclusive and transparent policy mechanisms to promote improved lives and livelihoods of mountain communities. We urge Member States to put mountain peoples at the centre of conservation efforts to ensure their participation in the decision-making processes that affect the environments they call home.

With a shift toward people-centric approaches and the belief that mountain peoples are the true custodian of ecological diversity in mountains, we invite Member States to reflect in the post-2015 development agenda the need to fully integrate in national sustainable development plans and strategies the mountain knowledge systems that promote harmony with nature.

We call on Member States to increase investments in producing reliable, timely and accurate data that improve monitoring, evaluating and reporting the progress achieved on the mountain targets.

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