



Climate-neutral and Climate-resilient Alps 2050

Declaration of Innsbruck

The Alpine Conference

- *considering the fact* that the average temperature increase in the Alpine area is nearly twice as high as in the surrounding areas and
- *deeply concerned* by the increase of the adverse consequences of climate change in the Alps, especially through extreme events and natural hazards, that also have particularly high impacts on the region's economy which relies increasingly on ecosystem services,
- *aware* that the activities in the Alpine area, among others through emissions from traffic, buildings and tourism, contribute to climate change, which underlines the need to take adequate action to reduce these emissions,
- *acknowledging* that the Alpine area is a fragile and vulnerable area with specific natural, cultural and historical features and unique biodiversity, encompassing highly sensitive ecosystems which need to be preserved,
- *considering the fact* that the constantly growing and often conflicting uses of the Alpine resources are increasingly endangering the alpine living, economic and cultural space and the resulting impairments either cannot or can only be repaired with substantial effort, considerable costs and over long periods of time,
- *aware* that the vital interests and needs of the population living and working in the Alps need to be considered sufficiently and adequately, also with regard to demographic changes,
- *aware* of the overall goal of the Alpine Convention to establish a balance between necessary protection and economic development,

- *aware* of the need to foster a sustainable economy in order to meet the climate-related challenges of the Alpine region and to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at global level,
- *convinced* that further cooperation between the mountain regions of the world is necessary for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, with the goal of increasing international awareness regarding the particular vulnerability of mountain areas,
- *mindful* of ongoing research and systematic observation activities in the Alpine region and of the need to encourage continued transnational research in the Alps that will serve a better understanding of the interaction between territory, economy and environment in the Alps and help forecasting future climate developments in the Alpine area,
- *acknowledging* the manifold initiatives for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in the Alpine area, especially the ClimaHost competition and the Alpine Partnership for Local Climate Action (ALPACA),
- *basing itself* on the Alpine Convention, its Protocols and Declarations and the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2017-2022

at its XV session on the 4th of April 2019 in Innsbruck

1. *reaffirms* the objective to work towards climate-neutrality and climate-resilience of the Alps until 2050 in line with European and international provisions, including the need to update by 2020 the nationally determined contributions under the 2015 Paris Agreement;
2. *adopts* the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 prepared by the Alpine Climate Board (Annex 1) and *urges* all Contracting Parties, Observers and relevant partners and actors to implement it to the best of their abilities;
3. *intends to* further develop the Alpine area as a model region for comprehensive and integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, in cooperation with regional and local authorities and in line with the Paris Agreement 2015 and the results of the UNFCCC COP 24 in Katowice 2018;

4. *calls upon* all Contracting Parties to give the Alpine area priority within their respective climate strategies and action plans at all relevant levels;
5. *intends to* intensify its efforts to reinforce awareness on climate change in order to motivate the relevant actors and the general public to take decisive action to contribute to achieving the objective of climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps 2050;
6. *calls upon* the Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention to contribute to the implementation of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 in line with their respective mandates;
7. *adopts* the 7th Report on the State of the Alps on the topic of “Natural Hazard Risk Governance” (Annex 2) and *calls upon* all Contracting Parties, Observers and relevant partners to implement the recommendations of the report to the best of their abilities;
8. *calls upon* the intensification of cooperation and involvement, in the context of sustainable risk prevention, of all concerned parties, stakeholders and the responsible national, regional and local authorities.