

Berne, 11th December 2009

Dear Federation President,

December 11th is International Mountain Day and it is with great pleasure that the UIAA is able to issue the following Declaration on this day

UIAA Mountain Ethics Declaration

The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation is pleased to release the **UIAA Mountain Ethics Declaration**, a document that was unanimously accepted by the General Assembly of the UIAA in Porto, Portugal in October 2009.

This document was generated over many years and draws together the wisdom and work of earlier declarations such as the Mountain Code, the Summit Charter and the Tirol Declaration. It addresses the issues of how we behave in the mountains, our responsibilities to ourselves and indeed to each other. The tenets of this document become a reality when UIAA members climb in foreign areas and demonstrate a respect for the culture and the climbing traditions of the host countries.

At the core of this declaration is a basic belief that access to the mountains and wilderness is a fundamental human right; as long as the access is achieved in a responsible manner as outlined by this document. It is a document about good style and the best practices, about caring for other climbers. But most of all it is the human spirit.

In closing I would like to quote the preamble to the declaration which challenges all of us to:

“Stretch your Limits, Lift your Spirits and Aim for the Top”



President
International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation - UIAA