



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Item 19 (l) of the provisional agenda\*

### Sustainable development

## Sustainable mountain development

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

Covering 27 per cent of the world's surface, mountains are key ecosystems that provide humanity with essential goods and services such as water, food, biodiversity and energy. However, mountain ecosystems are vulnerable to natural disasters, climate-related events and unsustainable resource use. Mountains are home to about 1.1 billion people who are among the world's poorest: half of rural mountain dwellers face food insecurity. Access to services and infrastructure is lower in the highlands than in other areas. Mountain communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards because of their high dependence on agriculture (encompassing crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry) as their primary source of livelihood. Alone or in combination, these factors make living in mountain areas increasingly difficult and they are often adverse drivers that compel people to migrate. Identifying new and sustainable livelihood opportunities and adopting practices that build the resilience of people and environments in mountain areas is an urgent requirement for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The present report includes some recommendations on actions to accelerate progress towards sustainable mountain development.

42. The Utah International Mountain Forum helped to raise global awareness of issues affecting mountain women at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in March 2018. Also at that session, the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, the Mountain Institute and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce, all Mountain Partnership members, submitted a joint statement.

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\* [A/74/150](#).

