

**Statement about the creation of a Central America and Caribbean Initiative by Leonel Iglesias Gutiérrez, National Forestry Commission (Comision Nacional Forestal – CONAFOR), Mexico**

Mexico and the Central American and Caribbean countries attending the Second Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership (Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica and the UNDP Resident Representative in Mexico) wish to formally declare to honourable delegates and world representatives present here their determination to continue to support the Partnership's Initiatives and to strengthen collaboration as reflected in the sharing of experiences and resources. They would also ask the meeting and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat to give their approval, supported by financial resources, to the promotion and establishment of a geographic initiative, in addition to, and operating along the same lines as, the existing five, in an effort to give greater priority to the mountains of the Central American and Caribbean countries. They would like this request to be recorded in the minutes of this Second Global Meeting. It should also be noted that the proposers are able to provide the logistical assistance and funding to hold an initial meeting with the countries of the region involved to determine the action to be taken with the support of the Partnership Secretariat. Mexico has offered to host the meeting to launch the Initiative, to be attended by the Central American and Caribbean countries and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.