

# The Global Mountain Women's Partnership

The Global Mountain Women's Partnership (GMWP)

(A draft document prepared for launch at BGMS)

Date of initiation: October 2002

Expected date of completion: October 2012

## 1. Potential Lead Partners

- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- The Mountain Institute (TMI)
- Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Berne
- The Government of Japan (ODA)
- Austrian Coordination Bureau, Bhutan (ACB)
- Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Netherlands
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

*Agencies listed above have supported and participated in CMW. This global gathering of many stakeholders served as the inspiration for the GMWP. The Partnership welcomes many more stakeholders.*

## 2. Main Objectives of the Partnership

The main objective of the GMWP is to promote the interests and perspectives of mountain women and contribute to an improvement of their livelihoods. The GMWP will provide a framework for cooperation between mountain women and all stakeholders, such as development partners/donors, governments, policy makers, non-government organisations and civil society organisations, the private sector,

indigenous mountain women and their representatives and organisations, researchers and practitioners, entrepreneurs, and media professionals.

The GMWP will be guided and defined by the values expressed in the Thimphu Declaration adopted by the participants of Celebrating Mountain Women (CMW), a global gathering, held in Bhutan from October 1-4, 2002, as part of the International Year of Mountains celebrations. The operations of the Partnership will be based on commitments made by partners and implementation will be supported through linkages between partners/institutions/organisations and improved monitoring systems.

The GMWP will work within the overall framework of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, laid down by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD 2002), and will provide scope for implementing Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Thimphu Declaration.

Ultimately, the Partnership should enhance the capacity of mountain women to be the source of energy and the driving force behind all its initiatives so that it caters to their needs and aspirations and helps to sustain them. In the short to medium-term, the Partnership will aim to:

1. Advocate policies and laws that provide equality-based social, political and economic rights to women. Ensure that such policies and laws exist to specifically address women's well-being and rights;
2. Inform mountain women about their human, political, and economic rights, including property, environmental, health, cultural, and intellectual rights, and provide adequate training to claim these rights;
3. Promote equitable representation of mountain women in decision-making bodies at all levels,

and promote their participation in negotiation and decision-making processes, including in conflict prevention and resolution;

4. Ensure that health programmes focus on reproductive, mental, and sexual health problems including HIV/AIDS, and other emerging diseases in mountain areas. Women are especially vulnerable in an environment, in and outside the home, where a great deal of physical and mental abuse takes place;
5. Encourage research and disseminate results of mountain women's indigenous knowledge — such as natural resources, traditional farming and conservation techniques, cultural, health, and religious practices;
6. Increase access to information about business, markets, technology and other livelihood opportunities that utilise and conserve the diversity of mountain environments, and promote links to existing and emerging markets; access to skills-based training programmes and social services to meet the development needs of mountain women which must be improved;
7. Promote physical and social infrastructure (roads, electricity, schools, telecommunications, markets) that is sensitive and responsive to women's needs, particularly in location, design, and utility. Enhance income generation and entrepreneurship among mountain women, reduce their workload, and improve the quality of their lives.
8. Ensure dissemination of information on all activities and information gathered as a result of the Partnership through mainstream media.

### **3. Relationship of GMWP to Objectives of Agenda 21 and Relevant Goals and Objectives of the UN Millennium Declaration**

The GMWP will work within the framework of the goals and objectives of Agenda 21. While the GMWP relates to the entire agenda, it will focus more specifically on:

- Chapter 3: combating poverty
- Chapter 11: combating deforestation
- Chapter 13: managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development
- Chapter 14: promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Chapter 15: conservation of biological diversity
- Chapter 24: global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development
- Chapter 25: children and youth in sustainable development
- Chapter 26: recognising and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities
- Chapter 27: strengthening the role of NGOs: partners for sustainable development

- Chapter 28: local authorities and initiatives in support of Agenda 21
- Chapter 30: strengthening the role of business and industry
- Chapter 31: the scientific and technical community
- Chapter 32: strengthening the role of farmers
- Chapter 34: transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, and capacity building
- Chapter 36: promoting education, public awareness, and training
- Chapter 37: national mechanisms and institutional cooperation for capacity-building
- Chapter 40: information for decision-making

The goals and objectives of the GMWP overlap and are an integral part of the eight UNDP Millennium Development Goals, to be achieved between 1990 and 2015. More specifically:

- halve extreme poverty and hunger
- achieve universal primary education
- empower women and promote equality between women and men
- reduce under-five mortality by two-thirds
- reduce maternal mortality by three-quarters
- reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB
- ensure environmental sustainability
- develop a global partnership for development, with targets for aid, trade, and debt relief

### **4. Expected Results**

The results of the Partnership will be the products of networking, research, advocacy, and practice.

The Partnership will be organised under seven thematic areas. The first five were the CMW themes and the last two were adopted based on feedback from CMW:

- Natural Resources and Environment
- Health and Well-being
- Entrepreneurship
- Legal, Political, and Human Rights
- Culture and Indigenous Knowledge
- Technology (with a focus on ICTs and time/labour saving devices)
- Conflict Resolution and Peace.

The themes will be examined in the framework of:

- Research
- Policy
- Practice: Advocacy and Mainstreaming of Mountain Women's needs and concerns

### **5. Arrangements for Funding and Budget Estimate**

The Executive Committee will assist the Secretariat in developing strategies for mobilising resources.

An estimated budget of US \$1 billion for ten years is visualised to materialise commitments at the global, regional, national, and local levels. A detailed budget for the GMWP is to be worked out.