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AS/CK/Alp 25-25

International Day for Biological Diversity 2025– High Level Message

“Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development in the Alps”

Esteemed Executive Secretary,

Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development in the Alps is a theme that resonates deeply with us at the Alpine Convention.

The Alps are more than just a mountain range. They are a vital ecological, cultural, and economic region that stretches across eight countries, home to nearly 15 million people, and visited by many more each year. But with climate change, mass tourism, and habitat loss threatening this fragile region, it is more urgent than ever to rethink our relationship with nature and ensure a more harmonious coexistence.

For over 30 years the Alpine Convention has worked to protect the Alps while promoting their sustainable development. As an international treaty and pioneer of its kind, the Convention strives to ensure that nature and development can work together. With eight Protocols covering areas such as transport, tourism, agriculture, and spatial planning, the Alpine Convention offers a guiding framework for a more sustainable future.

The Convention also promotes the participation of local communities, recognising that sustainable development must involve those who live and work in the Alpine region. It encourages dialogue, research, and innovation – turning sustainability from theory into action.

However, serious challenges remain. The Alps are warming at twice the global average. Glaciers are retreating, biodiversity is under threat, and traditional Alpine

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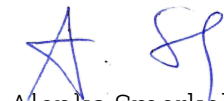
communities are shrinking. If we want to achieve harmony with nature, we must act urgently and effectively.

Strengthening the implementation of the Alpine Convention is crucial. That means better coordination between countries, investment in green technologies, and the protection of our ecosystems that provide precious services, as well as the protection of traditional land-use practices that support biodiversity and cultural identity.

We are extremely grateful to the Convention on Biological Diversity for its unwavering dedication to global biodiversity. Its vision aligns closely with our own. The Alpine Convention, as a leading regional actor, remains fully committed to working in partnership with the CBD Secretariat to translate and implement the Global Biodiversity Framework targets in the Alpine region.

We wish you a meaningful International Biodiversity Day and hope that it inspires a future where people live in harmony with nature, where development respects ecological boundaries, and where cross-border cooperation drives lasting sustainability.

Yours sincerely,



Alenka Smerkolj
Secretary General

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