



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME
THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING FEDERATION

RESOLUTION

approved by the UIAA General Assembly
in Istanbul, October 7, 1994

TOURISM FLIGHTS IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

This resolution describes general principles, which have to be used as a basis by the UIAA Associations, according to the local situation in each country.

The UIAA notes the increasing concern among visitors to mountain regions and local people living in these areas at the use of aircraft for tourism purposes. Both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft spoil the attractiveness of mountain regions through noise pollution and by undermining the ethical basis for many mountain activities.

The UIAA is very much aware that a key characteristic of mountain regions is their naturalness and the extent to which the sights and sounds of nature dominate the scene. This provides the backdrop for a very wide range of mountain activities. Many of which have elements of adventure, physical effort and discovery, while also depending on remoteness for their full enjoyment. For those who live in mountain regions the excessive use of aircraft can affect daily activities and create an unwanted intrusion into economic activities that depend on a harmonious relationship between people and nature.

While taking into account the particularly valuable role that aircraft may play in rescue and emergency needs, as well as the transportation of heavy loads,

the UIAA requests that governments and the authorities responsible for air traffic regulation bring in appropriate measures to better control and limit the use of aircraft for tourism purposes in mountain regions. Provided there are no other reasonable transportation means, aircrafts may be used for the access to the border of mountain regions but should not be tolerated in the highest areas themselves. Sightseeing flights can only be accepted at a distance such that they do not provoke any noise intrusion in these areas. Of course, landing and picking up persons for recreational or commercial purposes should be excluded for both ethical and noise pollution reasons in mountain areas valued for their natural qualities.

These limitations will not in any way preclude the use of aircraft in mountain regions to meet essential rescue or emergency needs, or exceptional transportation of heavy loads.