

«Climbing towards 100»

Suggested strategic priorities for the UIAA 2025-2028

1. About this document

Since 2011 the UIAA has developed strategic plans to guide its mission and continued development over four-year periods. The current strategic plan expires in 2024.

In preparation of the next strategy, the Executive Committee and Management Board have gone through an evaluation of the current strategy and a series of analyses, including a SWOT analysis of the organisation itself and a mapping of its surrounding environment and external factors influencing our work (PESTLE; for Political/ Economic/ Social/ Technological/ Legal/ Environmental factors).

Based on the evaluation, analyses and an extensive consultation process starting at the 2023 General Assembly, seven priorities have been suggested for further development. We are presenting them here for comments by our member federations. Following these and other inputs this proposal has been developed for adoption at the 2024 General Assembly.

2. Introduction

Over the decades, the landscape of climbing has transformed substantially. Initially centred around traditional alpine expeditions and mountaineering, the sport has diversified to include a broad spectrum of activities such as sport climbing, hiking, ice climbing, and indoor climbing. This evolution reflects broader societal changes, technological advancements, and shifting environmental conditions that demand a responsive and proactive approach from the UIAA.

The UIAA strategy 2025-2028 will position the UIAA to remain an active and respected voice of climbers and mountaineers all over the world, serving the best interests of our member federations and our worldwide community. The strategy is designed to align the organisation's goals and services with those of its current members while also enhancing its appeal to new members, particularly from underrepresented countries and continents. The UIAA will continue to lead and represent the climbing and mountaineering community by promoting responsible climbing, setting and maintaining high standards, and supporting our member federations.

To strengthen its position as the global representative of the climbing and mountain sports, the organisation must also seek growth and development for itself. We must increase our resources and build financial solidity to be able to demonstrate tangible benefits to our member federations. We must maintain focus, progress and relevance of our projects and services, and ensure that our activities are prioritised according to their value and aligned with the strategy. The UIAA should build its relevance and solidity by improving and expanding services in the fields where it already has a strong reputation and widely appreciated services and products.

3. This is the UIAA

The UIAA is the global authority for the climbing and mountaineering. The UIAA works to promote safe and sustainable mountain sports and to lead and inspire the climbing and mountaineering community through its national member associations.

Guided by its Articles of Association the UIAA supports its member federations and the global climbing and mountaineering community by serving as their unified global voice. It champions safety, sport and sustainability while providing training and education, ensuring that these pillars uphold and promote the sport's highest standards of practice worldwide. By fostering collaboration with other organisations, the UIAA builds a strong, interconnected community. The UIAA facilitates international partnerships that allow member federations to share viewpoints and expertise and tackle challenges together.

Through these collective efforts, the UIAA actively supports the growth and advancement of climbing and mountaineering, taking on the grave challenge of climate change and aiming for a future that is both sustainable and inclusive for all enthusiasts and professionals alike. The UIAA is a global voice for responsible climbing and mountaineering, providing guidance on ethically sound, sustainable, safe, and nature-friendly climbing and mountaineering.

As a global authority the UIAA nurtures relations with top level international organisations with which it shares values and objectives, to effectively represent and advocate the values and interests of its member federations and the global climbing and mountaineering community.

4. Strategic priorities for development 2025-2028

For the years 2025-2028 the UIAA has set 7 priorities for development:

Wider global representation

The UIAA will strive to better serve its member federations in all parts of the world by providing leadership in matters of global concern and by building its relevance to the wider climbing and mountaineering community. By clearly defining and more actively promoting the benefits of membership based on the needs of individual federations, the UIAA will aim to grow beyond 100 member federations by its 100th anniversary in 2032.

Rock climbing and hiking

Recognising that rock climbers and hikers constitute a significant segment of the membership base, the UIAA will devote more resources towards addressing matters important to rock climbers and identifying opportunities for growth in relation to hiking, thereby supporting the needs and expectations of its member federations while increasing its relevance to potential new members.

Ice climbing

The UIAA is fully committed to developing ice-climbing as a sustainable, global sport. The objectives for 2025-2028 are twofold:

1. That the ice-climbing world tour grows to achieve sporting excellence and develops in a sustainable manner, with secured financing, stable regulations, organising body and business model ensuring its future.
2. That ice-climbing becomes an Olympic sport - "The Olympic Dream".

Safety Centre of Excellence

The UIAA will focus its long-standing and globally recognised work on continual improvement of climbing safety and standards through a Safety Centre of Excellence, encompassing equipment standards and certification, medical and safety advice, accident reporting and analyses, legal analyses, educational content and content reviews and communication.

Training and development

Building on its widely recognised training standards and certificates and the pool of knowledge and experience among its larger member federations, the UIAA will aim to promote more widely its standard programmes and supporting the efforts of member federations to develop their training structures according to their needs.

Climate change and sustainability

With our commitment to the UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action framework and recognising the serious global challenge of climate change and degradation of the natural environment, the UIAA will lean on the best available research, data and practices to relate how climate change affects our activities in the mountains and the mountain communities, how to adapt, and how to act responsibly. The UIAA will work by itself and with our member federations to minimise the impact of our activities on the climate and natural environment. To support these actions, we will provide realistic climate change and sustainability guidance adapted to the nature, needs and size of our member federations.

Financial development

The UIAA will develop its financial resources and its financial stability by renewing existing partnerships, by developing new ones, and by encouraging specific Commissions to develop and expand their income generating services.

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