Mountain areas cover approximately 24% of the earth’s surface; an estimated 12% of the world population lives in them and they provide ecosystem services well beyond their boundaries. Mountain areas in various regions of the world are not homogeneous environments due to differences in geographic, natural, social and economic contexts. Nevertheless, they are often confronted with similar challenges, such as accessibility, delicate ecosystems, vulnerability to climate change and demographic changes. The coexistence of rural and urban dimensions in mountain areas makes them a particularly relevant case in the context of the CSW 62 priority theme. Despite the specific conditions, women living in mountain areas worldwide face common challenges related to gender equality and empowerment. This side event aims at discussing the role of women in mountain areas, the main related challenges, possible solutions and relevant policies.

**PROGRAMME**

**WELCOME ADDRESSES**
- H. E. Jan Kickert, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York
- H. E. Markus Reiterer, Secretary General, Alpine Convention

**PANELLISTS**
- Musonda Mumba | UN Environment
  The role of women in mountain areas worldwide: joint challenges
- Marianna Elmi | Alpine Convention
  A concrete perspective: the role of women in the Alps and experiences from European mountain areas

**MODERATED DISCUSSION** with the panellists, representatives of the co-organizing missions and of civil society as well as the public

Please RSVP using the following email address:
jana.pressler@bmeia.gv.at
(RSVP before 13 March is mandatory for non-UN grounds pass holders)