The scientists who attended the session on glaciers and water resources impacted by climate change at the HIGH SUMMIT COP26 Conference have prepared this document for the delegates and policy makers of the COP26 Conference in Glasgow. We would like to forward the following statements:

- **Glaciers are fragile elements of our mountains.**

- **Glacier changes are among the best and most evident sentinels of climate change.** Their strong frontal retreat and volume loss over the past decades in response to increasing temperatures can be well recognized by everyone.

- **Glaciers represent precious water resources for the mountains and the more densely populated lowlands.** Their melt water is key for agriculture and hydropower production in many regions, it regulates river run-off and contributes significantly (currently about 25%) to sea-level rise. Glaciers also play an important role as a buffer for flash floods, for tourism and recreation, as a cultural heritage and as a source of natural hazards.

- **Glacier melt is enforced by several additional processes such as surface lowering and disintegration, darkening by pollutants, lake formation and increased liquid precipitation.**

- **The ongoing and projected shrinking or even disappearance of many glaciers during the 21st century as a consequence of further increasing temperatures will thus have significant economic and societal impacts.**

- **Expected additional consequences of further temperature rise are permafrost degradation with an increasing potential for hazards, landscape changes and the loss of biodiversity.**

- **Measures to reduce the magnitude and rates of glacier melt are thus urgently needed.** As possible direct interventions, such as covering the ice are only applicable to small parts of selected glaciers, only the reduction of greenhouse gasses would slow down the melting of most glaciers.

- **We thus urge policy makers to suggest and adopt national strategies and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and all citizens to contribute at their own level to reduce their climatic footprint.**

- **Only with some adjustment to our lifestyle and adopting sustainable actions can we reduce our climatic footprint, and, maybe, protect glaciers from melting away. The remaining glaciers will show us if we have failed or succeeded in reaching our goals.**

Minoprio, 24 September 2021

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