

Reflections on the Final Day at the Commission on the Status of Women and Advocating for UIMF Language to be Included in CSW63's Final Document



UIMF Members at the United Nations Headquarters after the final Informal NGO Briefing Event at CSW6, posing with UVU Political Science and History Department stress balls (From L to R) Ezra Pugliano, Laila Mitchell William Gum-Causey, Megan Davis, Viktoriia Bahrii, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, Abdrulrahman Alghanmi, Michael Hinatsu, Hailee Hodgson, and Hannah Bieker

On Wednesday March 20th, the members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) delegates who traveled from Utah Valley University (UVU) to New York City to present at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) at the United Nations and myself attended and participated in one of the last events of the trip to CSW63. That morning we attended the Informal NGO Briefing at the U.N. Headquarters.



UIMF Members during the Informal NGO Briefing meeting with the CSW63 Committee at the U.N. Headquarters

During that event, members of many different NGOs were given the opportunity to use their voice to advocate for their own organizations to be a part of the final language and statement for CSW63. UIMF and UVU's very own professor and mentor, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, took the opportunity to speak to the CSW63 committee and advocate for sustainable mountain development (SMD), UIMF, and the hardships mountain civilians, in particular mountain women, face every day to be in the final language of the CSW63 statement. Dr. Abdrisaev also voiced his concern that mountain women are continually left out of UN agreements and further advocated for the UN to also consider nontraditional students and education as part of the 2030 Development Agenda.

My colleague and UIMF Vice President, Michael Hinatsu, was also able to speak and advocate for Dr. Abdrisaev's remarks as well as ask the committee a few questions about whether there are committees that advocate for minority groups during negotiations on the CSW63 final

document, noting instances in the published draft document of some communities such as island women, but not mountain women.

Being able to attend this high-level public forum at the United Nations was definitely a hands-on learning experience for me all due to the engaged learning model at UVU. I was able to gain a lot of professional experience and make connections with civil society participants from around the world in high-level political positions to not only possibly advance me in my professional career, but also to network with UIMF on the subject of mountain women and sustainable mountain development.

Megan Davis, UNA-USA Liaison and UIMF Member, UVU