

STATEMENT

Mr. Jesler Molina, MBA 68th UN Civil Society Conference

My name is Jesler Molina. I served as the President of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) from 2013 to 2015. Since I joined the organization in 2011 I worked hard in order to promote United Nations principles through the creation and sustaining the Model United Nations Club at Utah Valley University as part of the class under the same name and goals. As the first President of MUN club I decided to advocate for the Mountain Sustainability as well. My first contribution to the UIMF agenda on mountain sustainability was back in 2012 when I contributed a research on the Mexican Sierra Madre ranges for the 2012 Report on Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) in North America of the Mountain Partnership for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20).

Later that year, in Aspen, Colorado, I was part of the first meeting to organize other organizations nationwide with the purpose of establishing a North American regional hub for the Mountain Partnership under F.A.O.-U.N. Also from 2012 to 2014 I advocated the SMD agenda of the UN by coordinating Utah High School Essay Contests on different topics of the United Nations and publishing their jobs in annual academic journals.

On behalf of the UIMF I had the honor to speak at the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in December 2013 by advocating for the adoption of the three mountain targets among SDGs. My presentation focused on highlighting the challenges and struggles of Land-Locked Developing Countries and their connection to mountain sustainability. This was one of the several efforts made by UIMF to include mountain targets in the 2030 UN Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Finally, I would like to mention that we, as a coalition of student club, were able to accomplish so much in SMD advocacy thanks to the UVU model of student engaged learning and the important role from Dr. Butler and Dr. Abdrisaev as our mentors. It was such an amazing experience which contributed to our professional growth and recognition at the international level. And what is also very important it helped us to make difference in lives of mountain communities both in the State of Utah and globally.

Thank you