Student Engaged Learning to Advocate for Mountain Women and Targets at UN ECOSOC Forums
The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference

Moderator:
Samuel Elzinga

Student, Utah Valley University (UVU), Political Science Major
President, Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU
The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference

UIMF members speaking at the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development, Trusteeship Council Chamber, July 19, 2018
Mr. Kurmanbek Dyikanbaev

Deputy Chief of Staff and Representative of the President to the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Dyikanbaev was a member of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan (2010-2017); an expert on the project “Decentralization” at the UNDP in (1998-2001); Chairman of the National Association of municipalities (2002-2009) and a member of the Constitutional Council in 2005 and 2010. He is the author of 5 books on decentralization.
President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Sooronbay Sharipovich Jeenbekov

Since 24 November 2017

Bishkek, 26 August 2019

Dear participants of the Conference!

It is my great pleasure to greet you at the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference. This time you will concentrate your efforts on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”.

For the Kyrgyz Republic, where people live in the cities as well as in the mountainous areas, the issue we consider today is of a key importance. I believe that concerns of the mountain communities, the most vulnerable to the modern challenges like climate change and migration, must be highlighted in the final document of the Conference and remain in the focus of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

Official Delegation and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic with their partners from Utah, as well as other delegations, are intended to contribute to the work of the Conference.

I wish you success in achieving ambitious goals of the Conference which will lead to significant changes in everyday life of the mountain communities globally and in the Kyrgyz Republic.

With best wishes,

Sooronbai Zheenbekov
SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Established since 2006

Utah Valley University delegation hosted in Kyrgyzstan during August 2-12, 2019
SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT
2018 was declared as the “Year of Development of Regions” in Kyrgyzstan

2019 is the “Year of Development and Digitization of Regions” in Kyrgyzstan

As per 2015 FAO-UN study, the rural and mountain communities in particular disproportionately suffer from the food insecurity and modern challenges such as climate change.

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They have to be in the focus of the final document of this conference and the United Nations 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development
SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your attention
The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference

Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev

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Lecturer, History and Political Science, Utah Valley University;
Mentor, Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University;
Alternative focal point at the UN for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences,
An NGO in general Consultative status with ECOSOC
Focal point for the FAO-UN Mountain Partnership at Utah Valley University

Dr. Rusty Butler

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Dr. Butler is the United Nations ECOSOC main representative for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (an NGO in General Consultative status).

He served as the Honorary Consul General of the Russian Federation in Utah (2000-2016) and as Associate Vice President of International Affairs & Diplomacy at Utah Valley University until retiring in 2016.
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RANS AND UIMF

Was started in 2016

RANS co-sponsored UIMF visits and statements at:

1. 53rd session of the UN Commission on Social Development in January 2018;
2. 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018;
3. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018;
4. 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2019
The Utah Valley University student-engaged learning is an extracurricular model with the Utah International Mountain Mountain Forum, UIMF, a coalition of student clubs serving as its driving force.

Through UIMF students are able to gain professional skills and experiences as a group by self-implementing practical initiatives, which make a difference in the lives of mountain communities. Importantly, their teachers serve only as advisors.
WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE 2007

(L to R) Governor of the State of Utah Olene Walker (2003-2005), Governor of the State of Montana Judi Martz (2001-2005) and Dr. Danielle Butler, Honorary Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic to the State of Utah during the First International Conference Women of the Mountains at Utah Valley University on March 8, 2007.

Dr. Jane Pratt
Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU hosted the Fourth International Conference Women of the Mountains under the umbrella of the United Nations Mountain Partnership on October 7-9, 2015.

The UN Secretary Generals Report on SMD A/71/256 on July 29, 2016 highlighted UVU students for hosting UN forum as engaged learning initiative and contributing to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals #5 on Gender and #15 on Life on Land.
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RANS AND UIMF

UIMF members speak at the United Nations High–Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RANS AND UIMF

Thank you for your attention
Dr. Sara Ulloa

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Department Chair for the Languages and Cultures Department at Utah Valley University

Women of the Mountains, Andean Region, PERU
Third International Women of the Mountains conference in Puno, Peru

Advisor, Utah International Mountain Forum at Utah Valley University.

UVU Peru Study Abroad Director
UVU STUDENT INITIATIVES

• Students have engaged in humanitarian projects and organizations to aid children in orphanages because educating society with a real context, provides sufficient information to engage community partners to support a variety of initiatives that can benefit all stakeholders.

• Students have been able to engage in different academic and cultural activities, and gather information for a broader and deep-rooted research about the Andean areas.

• I have been deeply captivated by the reality of some remote areas where even though women and children suffer rustic conditions, they have learned to use limited resources the best they can to stay alive and still be happy. Thus, we still strive to motivate children and women to be educated so that they can have more opportunities in their future.
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Dr. Alexander Stecker

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Since 2007 contributed to the student engaged learning model as Political Science coordinator at UVU; The Honorary Professor of the International University of Kyrgyzstan
WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE 2007

• The First International Women of the Mountains Conference was hosted at UVU on March 8-10, 2007.

• It promoted the gender and SMD agendas of the UN by representatives from all states in the Rocky Mountains region.

• It was co-hosted by the International University of Kyrgyzstan.

• I would like to greet here among the presenters of this workshop Mr. Kurmanbek Diykanbaev, official representative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Parliament of the country.

• This is an example of a partnership between our two academic institutions who jointly advocate for the cause of the mountain people
WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE 2007

(L to R) Governor of the State of Utah Olene Walker (2003-2005), Governor of the State of Montana Judi Martz (2001-2005) and Dr. Danielle Butler, Honorary Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic to the State of Utah during the First International Conference Women of the Mountains at Utah Valley University on March 8, 2007.

Dr. Jane Pratt
UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM

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• The UIMF, a coalition of student clubs at UVU serves as a core of the student-engaged learning extracurricular model.

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• Dr. Keith Snedegar, Dr. Kathren Brown, Dr. David Connelly, Dr. Jay DeSart, Ms. Kimberly Williamson and many others from the History and Political Science Department provided funds, knowledge, experiences and passion for UIMF members to be successful in SMD agenda advocacy
Congratulations to UIMF members with being successful in raising awareness about the importance for the mountain communities to be in the focus of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development agenda.
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Jesler Molina

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UVU MBA Graduate
Former President UIMF & Model United Nations
Participated in the 2013 UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
Model United Nations Team

Sustainable Mountain Development in North America
from Rio 1992 to Rio 2012 and beyond

Regional Report

Jesler Molina
Utah Valley University
Student Advisor

Model United Nations of the Far West
65th Annual Session
UIMF Essay Contests
2013 UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference

Michael Hinatsu

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UVU student
Vice President, UIMF

Participated at the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, March 2019
39% of mountain people are vulnerable to food insecurity – a 30% increase since 200, despite only a 16% increase in population

Worldwide, 1 out of every 3 mountain people in developing countries is vulnerable to food insecurity

Half of all people living in rural mountain communities are living in conditions of severe poverty and food insecurity

UVU’s student-engaged learning (SEL) model empowers students to address issues of sustainable mountain development within their own communities

The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) is a coalition of UVU student clubs that uses SEL to advocate for mountain women at all levels
How UIMF implements SEL:

• Students have the problem of finding out how to most effectively advocate for mountain women at all levels
• Students work together under UIMF to learn from one another
• Students create their own goals and have the primary responsibility to solve their learning objectives on their own
• Faculty serve as mentors to the process

For more info, please visit www.utahimf.org
UIMF under SEL advocated at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2019 by:

• Making a written statement published as the ECOSOC official document E/CN.6/2019/NGO/64;
• Including language about mountain women to the CSW63 Zero Draft Document;
• Lobbying for adoption of that language from the UNSG, ECOSOC President, 46 UN Member States;
• Hosting a parallel event to advocate for mountain women at the Church Center of the UN on March 19, 2019
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D. William Gum-Causey

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UVU nontraditional student
Member of the UIMF
Participated at the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, March 2019
Non-traditional student and engaged learning

• Married.
• Interned House Representatives in the Utah State Legislature.
• Conducted research for a House Representative of the US Congress
• Conducted research on County Government Structure which was compiled into a report
• I am hosting The currently the Senior Manager for Social Sustainability with UN Global Compact during this Conference.
• I have contributed to the UIMF efforts to advocate for the UN sustainable mountain development agenda in the state of Utah. All of this has been done through engaged learning which allows students to gain professional skills through hands-on activities as a group, with faculty serving them as a mentor.
UN Sustainability Goal Number 5

• “1 in 5 women and girls, including 19% of women and girls aged 15 - 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner with the last 12 months” (#5).

The National Institute of Justice in the United States

• Reports “84% of American Indian and Alaskan women have experienced sexual assault, this is 1.2x’s more likely than non-Hispanic white women.
• Reports that in most cases the abusers are non-Indian, or non-tribal members.
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Rebecca Bindraban

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Editor-in-Chief, Youth and the Mountains Journal
UVU student, Political Science major
The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference

Carlos Alarco
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Associate Director - Global Academic Programming at UVU
Web Administrator - womenofthemountains.org
Global/Cultural Events - CGIE
Women of the Mountains

Information on:

- 10 years of UVU International Mountain Day Celebrations
- Other activities related to UIMF and the United Nations.