



## RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

To hosts and participants of the 61 session of the  
United Nations Commission on Status of Women

18 March 2017

Dear colleagues,

Greetings from Utah!

Taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce to you a Utah Valley University (UVU) delegation which will participate in the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women during March 20-22, 2017. It is comprised of two faculty and five students, members of the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU ([www.utahimf.org](http://www.utahimf.org)).

This year is noteworthy for all of us in Utah who hosted the first ever international Women of the Mountains Conferences (WOMC) 10 years ago during the 2007 International Womens Day. Since then, WOMC has become a major grass-roots forums in North America to advocate gender as part of the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda of the United Nations. The UVU delegation will report to the CSW61 about major results of the WOMC and how undergraduate students were able to contribute to the promotion of gender and SMD agendas in North America, as well as globally. As another important example of contributions from UVU faculty and students to the United Nations, this conference, as well as all other initiatives and projects with focus on advocacy of gender and SMD agendas of the United Nations in the region and globally are funded from resources raised on local and regional levels.

UIMF members are working very hard to build their reputation in order to be known in the professional world by showing leadership and recognition. They were able to successfully host the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference under the umbrella of the United Nations Mountain Partnership at UVU on October 7-9, 2015. The 2016 United Nations Secretary General's Report on SMD for the first time recognized UIMF both for successful hosting of the conference and for contributing to the implementation of a number of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and SDG#5 on gender in particular.

I hope you would be able to meet these extraordinary students - future leaders in the implementation of the UN 2030 agenda. If you would like to know more about Women of the Mountains Conferences, please visit <http://www.womenofthemountains.org/>

With warmest regards,

Dr. R.E. Rusty Butler  
Member & U.N. Representative  
Co-Organizer  
Women of the Mountains Conferences