

DAY 0 FOR UIMF AT CSW62: PREPARATIONS IN NEW YORK

MARCH 20, 2018 EDITOR

As members of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), arrived to New York City for the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) on Sunday, March 18, 2018, we made final preparations for the visit to the United Nations. We started by studying the routes from our places of accommodation to the sites of our main activities included in the agenda of the visit like the locations of the UN Pass and ID office, Church Center of the United Nations, place for our parallel, and Café Olympia, place for our debriefing during the first day of official activities. Our side event at the United Nations is scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2018 at 11:30am and it presented a challenge for delegation members: due to the fact that the UN Pass and ID office opens at 9:00am, it will be necessary for us to calculate time arrive early enough to be the first in line to receive passes and then to start preparations for hosting a side event.



Near the UN Pass and ID office

By arriving a day or two early, we were able to get situated in our hotels. Our member, who was responsible for logistics and protocol, missed his connecting flight from Oregon and for

any case three of us were ready to start preparations for a backup plan: to replace him as moderator for the side events next day. Fortunately, he was able to find another flight and to come to our meeting right in time at 5:30pm. He didn't have his luggage arrive yet and was wearing casual outfit, but his mood was very positive. Later in the afternoon, we met together at Grand Central Station, which was the closest metro station for couple of us to come from our hotels. Then, we began to walk through the route and checked a time and location at most important sites, such as: UN Pass and ID office, walk by the front entrance of the UN Headquarters, and locate the Café Olympia. We sat down then at Café Olympia to discuss the distribution of brochures, gifts for dignitaries, and folders prepared with documents regarding previous UIMF achievements. As well as make alternate plans, should more logistical problems arise. If one or more members would not make it to the side event, others would then take extra roles or delegate the needed task to other students. One by one each event for the next day was looked at and analyzed to see what still needs to be accomplished to ensure a smooth operation throughout the day.



Reviewing agenda for the visit at Café Olympia

As part of the non-traditional student approach, some members were able to bring family members to support them in promoting the SMD agenda. Families are a major factor in the wellbeing of women, particularly in mountainous regions. This provided the UIMF the opportunity to be an example of including family members from mountain areas.

After achieving their goals of hosting a side event and parallel event, UIMF members discussed also how to build a conversation during the meeting at the liaison office of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN) which was scheduled during the first day of the visit. One of the main goals for them during the meeting was to express thanks to the staff of the office for including the language featuring UIMF contribution to the advocacy of the mountain women in the 2016 United Nations Secretary General's report on sustainable mountain development.

After a year of planning and finalizing preparations for the side event and subsequent meetings, the Utah International Mountain Forum looks forward to a presenting the results of the 2015 Women of the Mountains Conference (WOMC). and having a successful conference at CSW62

Matthew Rands, President UIMF