

Statement
**Parallel event “Mountain Women Empowerment Through the Inclusive
Student-Engaged Learning Model”**
65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
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My appreciation to the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences as well as Utah Valley University for the opportunity to advocate for mountain women on this global platform. UIMF advocates for mountain women, girls, and families, who are among the poorest and most neglected on national and international levels. UIMF does so through a Student Engaged Learning (SEL) approach that encourages students to gain professional skills while addressing real-world issues on local and international levels with faculty serving as advising mentors. As our major contribution to this advocacy campaign, we utilized SEL to host the Fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference in 2015 in Utah. UIMF was also highlighted by the UN Secretary General’s report on SMD A/74/209, the only student group worldwide to have received such recognition.

As part of our contributions to the activities of UIMF, I focus on the promotion of the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda of the United Nations within the state of Utah and North America. I research and implement the Rotary International model in Utah’s mountainous region to support neglected female populations. Since 2020, I have served as President of UVU Rotaract, which is a student club of Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UVU Rotaract is also a member of the UIMF coalition. An important aspect of our efforts is that we are now working in close partnership with Orem Rotary club and on a monthly basis Rotaractors together with Rotarians jointly working together to serve local communities and fulfill Rotary International goals. Our club hosted a Rotary International World Polio Day at UVU on October 21, 2020. This event raised awareness among students and the local community about the ongoing work of eradicating Polio and additional pathways for civic engagement. During the fall semester of 2020, Rotaract under my leadership contributed to the efforts of UIMF members to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations by hosting a special event at UVU on March 2, 2020, as well as the eleventh United Nations International Mountain Day observation at UVU on December 2, 2020. I led the efforts of Rotaractors in a service project for Coats for Kids, in conjunction with the Rotarians from Orem City. They helped to raise funds for the provision of 153 new coats to children in 7 local elementary schools whose families do not have the financial means to provide them. Rotaract contributed to a service project to raise funds jointly with Orem Rotary by selling oranges as preparations for CSW65 and in support of the Coats for Kids initiative. Due to our combined efforts with Orem Rotary, over \$5000 dollars were raised in a short time. These are instances of how non-traditional students are able to effectively utilize UVU’s SEL model and positively contribute to UN agendas on a local level.

As representatives of the mountainous State of Utah and its local communities we are eager to continue our advocacy efforts to bring mountain communities and families to the focus of not only CSW but also UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.