



October 17, 2013

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat
Forestry Department
UN Food and Agriculture Organization
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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the youth of the City of Orem, Utah, and Utah Valley University, both members of the Mountain Partnership, we, the students of the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU, would like to thank the Permanent Mission of Italy for hosting this event, and thank the Mountain Partnership for its continued efforts to advocate a sustainable mountain (SMD) agenda all over the world. Our thanks also, to the Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN, for hosting Joseph McCain, member of UIMF as its intern and providing him with a great opportunity to interact with officials from the UN and mountainous Nations while he conducts research dedicated to the cooperation between Utah and Kyrgyzstan under the umbrella of SMD agenda of the United Nations.

We, the aforementioned, would like to state our continued support for; Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, all General Assembly Resolutions (53/24, 55/189, 57/245, etc.) pertaining to Sustainable Mountain Development, the foundation of the Mountain Partnership, the Bishkek Global Mountain Platform, the MDGs, etc. We also acknowledge and proclaim support for the conclusions of the 1st through 4th Global Meetings of the Mountain Partnership and the current Mountain Partnership Governance and Strategy (2014-2017). We also support the efforts of Vertex (our regional civil society leader) and the Government of Mexico (our regional government leader), to create a strong and effective coalition of MP members in the northern part of this hemisphere which will be able to contribute to the global efforts of mountain communities.

From hosting the first International Women of the Mountains Conference in Orem, UT in 2007 to our delegates sent to the third Women of the Mountains conference in Peru in June 2012 to the recent Global Meeting of the MP in Erzurum, Turkey, UVU, and the city of Orem, have striven to represent the interests of women and sustainable development in mountainous regions throughout the world. With a focus on preparing youth to be the future leaders in SMD-advocacy, the UIMF will continue to support the Women of the Mountains conference, and will be hosting events during the next year that will highlight these important issues:

- On December 6th, 2013, we will host UVU's 4th annual celebration of International Mountain Day in Utah.
- On March 8th, 2014, we will celebrate International Women's Day with a special roundtable conference.
- On March 28th, 2014, we will host our 4th annual Utah High School Essay Contest, focused on the International Year of the Family Farm.

The participation of Mark Peterson and Jordan Giles, each a once or former student of UVU and the UIMF, at the 4th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Erzurum, Turkey, and the presence of Mr. McCain at this meeting of the Mountain Focus Group, demonstrate the dedication of our students to the advocacy of Sustainable Mountain Development. We will continue to contribute to, and support the involvement of Rocky Mountain youth in, this far-reaching cause.

Thank you again,

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "H".

Sam Hill
President
Utah International Mountain Forum