

UIMF CSW66 Written Statement Published by UN Economic and Social Council

December 13th, 2021 marks the second time that a [Written Statement](#) I co-authored with other UVU students through NGO sponsorship has been accepted and published as an official UN document by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

As President of the Utah International Mountain Forum, (UIMF), it was my honor to again collaborate with members in the preparation and promulgation of this document. This was done through the student engaged learning (SEL) model, when students worked on this task as a group with faculty providing us with advice only.

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**Statement submitted by Russian Academy of Natural Sciences,
and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands
Development and Commerce, non-governmental organizations in
consultative status with the Economic and Social Council***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Per established [UN tradition](#), NGO’s in general consultative status with ECOSOC are able to submit a statement to the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW). The period that the Written Statements were accepted this year was between **24 September to 15 October 2021**, which meant that we had to begin drafting the document at the beginning of Fall semester before CSW in March. As a team, student members of UIMF regularly collaborated on the written draft through google docs, while meeting virtually on Microsoft Teams simultaneously. It was important to research the requirements for the statement posted by the UN, and consider in great detail the several interests

involved and every implication of our words. In this way, we were able to provide something of substantial value and address the issues in a professional manner.

As a prospective lawyer, I implemented my professional skills and experiences to accommodate content, language and style of the document to the requirements of the UN. At the same time, we integrated in the statement the message urging CSW66 to have in the focus sustainable development for mountain women, families, who in addition to experiencing problems from food insecurity, outmigration, to name a few, are also affected disproportionately by climate change.

One of the solutions we propose in the document is the importance of educational programs, the SEL method in particular, and the special role of non-traditional students in this process as learners who balance their education with family and work obligations.

This experience required us to learn how to work with NGOs. We are grateful to be co-sponsored by the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and Utah-China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce, two NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66). Upon creating the draft, we were able to receive approval from partnering international partners, and then submitted the statement to the United Nations (UN) secretariat for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Initially, myself and his peers needed to make changes in the original draft when the UN secretariat questioned why the statement presented the case of the academic institution which is not accredited with ECOSOC. We learned then how, in addition to articulating our own case, also to tie it to the partnership with both NGOs, which has an extended historical background. We conducted thorough research and presented a bold case proving the impact of the long-term partnership between Utah Valley University and Osh Technological University on the development of the student engaged learning (SEL) model at UVU.

The statement urges the Commission to have mountain women and girls in the focus of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The statement highlights the key role of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), in the effectiveness of UVU's student engaged learning (SEL) model for students' professional growth, international recognition and advocacy of mountain women and Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda of the United Nations.

Additionally, through the statement we were able to highlight the efforts of Utah politicians at the level of the United Nations related to the primary theme of the Commission, including all four of Utah's members of the U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman John Curtis, Congressman Blake Moore, Congressman Chris Stewart, and Congressman Burgess Owens; Utah Governor Spencer Cox and Lieutenant Governor Henderson; as well as U.S. Senator Mitt Romney.

As another important lesson, myself and my team learned how to integrate in the document experiences from the State of Utah to mitigate the impact of climate change on local communities and to share and exchange this knowledge with their partners from the Kyrgyz Republic.

The UIMF is continuing preparations for participation at CSW66 when it will host a parallel event on March 21st, 2022 and demonstrate in a practical manner the SEL model. The event will advocate for mountain women and girls while showcasing SEL and Utah as one of the best examples of SMD. The UIMF's main priority in contributing to the agenda of CSW66 in this way is to get language concerning mountain women – who are often left behind in their development due to globalization – into the final outcome document of CSW66.

Mr. Dallas Karren, UIMF President