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UIMF MEMBER
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) STATEMENT
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Mr. Ambassador, I am an international student at Utah Valley University majoring in Political Science. I was born and raised in Lima Peru, but my mother and father's ancestors come from the central and southern mountain part of Peru. The mountainous areas of Peru are rich in different ways such as traditions, natural resources, etc., as the rest of the country is too. Mountain ecosystems are considered fragile ecosystems and, at the same time, key to Peru's sustainable development. Mountains provide water, food, energy, minerals, and recreation where culture and biodiversity in all its forms are preserved. They also supply fresh water to 50% of the world's population. I had the opportunity to visit some mountain areas of my country and it was hard to see that they do not have access to basic human needs such as quality education and healthcare. And this gets more and more common when you visit more far cities. Climate change also negatively affects this area of the country.

Peru is one of the country members of the Mountain partnership which is a voluntary alliance of governments and organizations committed to working together with the common goal of achieving sustainable mountain development around the world. The Mountain Partnership stimulates initiatives such as: Improve quality of life and sustain healthy environments in the worlds' mountain regions. In 2006, Utah Valley University joined the Mountain Partnership, as the first academic institution in North America. In 2012, Utah Valley University hosted the Third Women of the Mountain Conference in Puno, Peru. Dr. Sara Ulloa with 5 UVU students through a service project, hosted that forum as a preparatory event for the Rio+20 UN Conference in Brazil.

I want to add my voice to encourage more people to start to worry about the mountain areas of our planet and mountain population. They are vital for us and for the future generations and if we continue ignoring them, we will lose greatly.