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UIMF MEMBER
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) STATEMENT
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Mr. Ambassador, as a native of Utah in the United States, I have seen the effects climate change can have on mountain communities. These challenges require all of us to work together. Marginalized members of communities around the world, especially women, must take an active part in the development of climate change policy.

Climate change has caused extreme forest fires and harsh droughts, affecting communities throughout Utah and the world. In 2020, Utah had over 1500 forest fires. Actions needed to be taken and legislators rose to the occasion. Policy proposals in the state of Utah may provide a framework that other mountain regions can build upon to better incorporate the voices of women and girls. The One Utah Road Map, created by Utah Governor Cox and Lieutenant Governor Henderson, the second woman in the state's history to hold the office, seeks to address and mitigate the effect of climate change in Utah. The plan includes: investing in multimodal transportation options, delivering high-profile sustainability projects such as an inland port, and laying the groundwork for an air quality and climate change solutions laboratory. Such bold actions are desperately needed, and these goals highlight the benefit of collaboration to address the climate crisis.

Another solution to climate change has been through education. Many courses at Utah Valley University utilize a student engaged learning model, in which students collaborate as a group to solve real-world problems with a faculty serving as a mentor. Student engaged learning empowers students and prepares them to collaborate on complex issues. This approach gives all students, especially women and minorities, a voice to share their experiences. It is this type of approach, but on a global scale, that progress on climate change policy will be reached. It combines their unique views and ideas to approach these real-world challenges, such as climate change, and create real change. The insights of women and girls, especially those from rural and mountain communities are vital. These individuals experience firsthand the negative effects of climate change. As their voices are heard and views implemented, we will ensure that the United Nations' sustainable development goals are reached, promising a better future for all.

Thank you