

My Day 3 at CSW67 and Speaking at a Side Event



UN Headquarters on 3/8/2023

On the 3rd day of UN-CSW67, I arrived at the UN Headquarters at around 7:45 am. We talked about our schedule for the whole day and Nikki Smith took a group photo. Then, we all proceeded to the lobby wherein we had a staff from the office of the President of General Assembly waiting for us to meet Mr. President.



Office of the President of General Assembly

Thanks to Dr. Rusty Butler for making this possible and making the necessary political arrangements for us to meet the President Kőrösi.



President of UIMF Alitha Thompson, addressing the audience

After meeting the President of GA, we proceeded to the Conference room 1 wherein we had our Side Event hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic at 10am. On the chair was the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic and Alitha Thompson was the moderator of this event. The others in the dais were many UN officials like Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria, Permanent Representative of Angola, Permanent Representative of Andorra, UNEP Representative. They were also accompanied by UVU Rotaract President, Dr. Rusty Butler, Dr. Jay DeSart, and Dr. Baldomero Lago.



My speech during the side event

My speech was at almost at the end of the session wherein I spoke about how India has been ranked low on various indices that measure gender equality and how there is a misleading stereotype that Gender Equality in the IT area in India is much worse compared to the west. I

gave some statistics to prove the above point. Later I moved on to the fact that I represent the growing women in Tech area and how was part of AI For Rural wherein we promoted working on improving the livelihoods of rural and mountain people as well as sustainable mountain development with the help of Artificial Intelligence. Along with this, I stressed on the fact that investment has to be made to educate the women and to achieve greater food security so that she is able to make wise purchasing decisions. Finally, I thanked the Utah International Mountain Forum for providing me this opportunity which encourages us to advocate jointly for sustainable mountain development and improve livelihoods of people. This was a proud moment for me and could never be forgotten.



On the Left, with my mentor Dr. Baktybek Abdriseav, On the Right is the Deputy Ambassador of Austria

Later I clicked some photos with my mentor, Dr. Baktybek and with the Deputy Permanent representative of Austria. I am thankful to the universe that I met my mentor few years back via AI For Rural, his constant push to see me improve and achieve has always instilled great encouragement and confidence in me and because of which I was able to participate and deliver my speech in the UN CSW 67 at UN headquarters on the International Women's Day.



Discussing my research with Madam Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic

I was immensely overjoyed when Permanent representative of Kyrgyz Republic, Madam Ambassador Kasymalieva congratulated me on the speech I gave. She said it was a wonderful speech to be delivered on the International Women's Day and she herself couldn't stress more on the importance of mountains in the globe. We spoke a few more dialogues on my research and my research paper published as well.



Sun Zhiqiang, Political Coordinator for the Permanent mission of China to UN

Dr. Hong Pang had made a request to Mr. Sun Zhiqiang to allow us to watch for 15 mins. the Security Council Meeting which was in progress. We proceeded to the meeting hall wherein diplomats and delegates of different countries were speaking on topics which was crucial to the part of country they represent. In that 15 mins, we heard Pakistan delegate speaking on how Afghan terror has disrupted normal functioning of government in border areas and was requesting the chair to address this issue as an immediate necessity as its about the safety of the Pakistani Citizens living in those areas.



Our Visit to the US Department of State to UN

Our last major activity for the day was meeting the Deputy Permanent Representative from the United States to the United Nations, and other members of the permanent mission. One of Dr. Bak's former students had landed a job as a political advisor at the permanent mission, and set up a meeting for us after meeting him outside the UN headquarters. Inside the room with the Deputy Ambassador, several students ask questions about various topics which either concerns their home country or their subject of interest. In the picture to the right, I also asked him about the wasted food which is seen throughout the USA and I had read during my course that 40% of the food is either wasted on retail or at households rather than in the production end. He directed me to a series of articles which was released during the previous ambassador's official tenure. He should genuine interest to our questions and we appreciated his time with us.



UN PLAZA, CONFERENCE ROOM 4

At around 4:45 pm we proceeded to the Conference room 4 to attend the “Development of peace education in the digital age for global partnership and the empowerment of all women and girls” hosted by South Sudan and IWPG.



Initially, they introduced to us what the organization IWPG does via a video. They aim to generate world peace at many parts of the world and many women are getting together for this purpose especially in countries like South Sudan and India.

Next, UN ambassador of South Sudan , Aya Benjamin Warittle spoke how he supports girls education as a tool to eliminate gender based violence and permanent adherence to ceasefire. There is now almost 35% of women representatives in all forms of government and its leading to some substantial steps for women in South Sudan. They are working on capacity building at county levels mostly in-person. There are significant opportunities in this process as most women are often tied to their homes as primary caretakers.

Capacity Building has positive impact on the lives on girls via radio, tv, classroom on phone etc. Telecom services have come forward to the prevention of GBV and for peace services. They have created safeguards against the online related hate speeches regarding telecommunication treatment. Before this, only 11% of the population of the South Sudan used online platform.

The issues that are relevant to them and the key to build stable South Sudan are achieving sustainability development, capacity building on digital transformation, Research funds, and digital education funds for children.

Later on, Stephanie Campbell, Australian Ambassador for Gender Equality, spoke on how important it is that we need men to promote gender equality. Technological space in digital space is game changer to reach wide audience especially for peacebuilding. Women are regarded as peacebuilders and play a major role in technology and education. She stresses the need for data to access the patterns regarding communication violence. She also says the fact that 21% of the Australian defense are women. They promote peace in conflict areas, and election related violence. There were times when women had to go to hiding during these times and use digital platforms to get help and assistance from the defense.

She concluded her speech by saying peace negotiations are 60% more effective and more likely to last if initiated by women. There is no doubt that there is increased risk in communication and there is need for tools to access basic infrastructure, increase surveillance to peace work. To manage and mitigate this, we need to build digital technological space that is safe for women.

Maha Ali, Secretary general of the ministry of trade and industry, Jordan emphasized that promoting community culture while changing stereotypes are the killers of national plans. It is very important to achieve technology and digitization advancement in Jordan with reference to submitting complaints when women are subjected to violence.

Sook Yuong, International Women Peace Group (IWPG) chairwomen said that even though there are 610 IWPG branches globally , people are used to violence and that world is not of peace as expected. To live and excel with like minded people with harmony – peace is very important. We should be able to overcome difference, overlook education to solve gender

equality. IWPG conducts online offline education to practice peace and its natural to say no to war. Women peace activists gather and elect to spread peace by providing Peace lectured education by IWPG. DPCW (declaration of Peace and Cessation of War) is co-operative organization of IWPG. Their motto is to resolve root causes of conflict and overcome them, E.g. war between Catholics and Muslims in Philippines. They succeeded to restore social order and economy here and the weapons were melted down to build IWPG peace monument.

This conference ended at 6pm and later we left the headquarters to head towards UN Symphony Orchestra which was in collaboration with United Voices 4 Peace to be held at BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Centre, 199 Chambers Street, New York. We took two subways to reach here and the event begun at 7:30pm. The Composers are below:

Special guest conductor: Anoa Green (USA)

On the programme:

Works by ten women composers

*Louise Farrenc (France)
Souad Bushnaq (Syria)
Bora Yoon (Korea/USA)
Maria Brodskaya (Ukraine)
Lucia Canuso (Argentina)
Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph (South Africa)
Zhang Haihui (China)
Sussan Deyhim (Iran)
Angelica Negron (Puerto Rico/USA)
Florence Price (USA)*



UN SYMPHONY, BMCC TRIBECA ARTS CENTRE

Out of the major world symphony orchestras, only 5.1% of compositions were by women composers. For many decades, women composers were nearly half of graduating classes at composition departments of major music conservatoires around the world, but the major orchestras still rarely feature their works. The UN Symphony Orchestra will showcase diverse works by women composers from around the world. Their goal is to raise awareness of this issue and inspire change. Finally, I left the venue at 8:45 pm and called it a fruitful day.

Priyanka Prem Kumar, UIMF member