

Statement

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67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Parallel Event

Empowering Mountain Women through Inclusive Student-engaged Learning Educational Initiative

March 6th, 2023

Good afternoon, my name is Emmanuel Omaria. Women's empowerment in mountain communities in Uganda is a crucial issue. These regions are generally characterized by rugged terrain, poor infrastructure, and limited access to resources, which makes it challenging for women to participate in economic activities and decision-making processes. Women empowerment in Uganda's mountain communities is a delicate issue that requires the involvement of various stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector. However, several initiatives already promote women's empowerment.

Mountain girls have been ensured educational access, including the provision of scholarships and construction of schools. Women are encouraged to take community leadership positions, including through training and mentoring programs to promote participation in decision-making,

Efforts in women's economic empowerment through the provision of microcredit and other financial services have enabled them to start businesses and become self-reliant.

My experiences at Utah Valley University (UVU) provided me with an opportunity to learn about the Student-Engaged Learning (SEL) model where students are encouraged to work inclusively as a group to address real-world issues with faculty serving as mentors. SEL encourages the participation of women leaders in school activities, student clubs, and academic research to address the challenges their community faces. It has helped me enhance my critical thinking and active learning, encouraging me to think critically and creatively. This helped me develop problem-solving skills that can be applied in real-world situations. Through my involvement in the Cultural Envoy Leadership Program, Students and myself have express our cultures through dance and outreach.

I hope to return to Uganda and implement the SEL model there.

Thank you.