

**Statement**  
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**Osh Technological University**  
**67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Side event**  
***“Advocating for mountain women and girls’ education through student-engaged learning.”***  
**March 8, 2023**

Hello dear colleagues,

I am proud to speak in this event as a part of the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. I am a student at Osh Technological University, which is located in the Kyrgyz Republic - a country where the mountain ranges reach over 90% of the land. I grew up here and understand the pressing problems which women and girls face here.

Mountains cover most of the earth's surface. At least half of the global population depends on mountain resources and mountain areas home to millions of people. In many mountainous regions within the Kyrgyz Republic winter snow collects, which slowly turns into water in spring and summer.

Due to global warming, the ice in the winter melts early, and on the peaks has shrunk leading to less water in rivers and lakes. Due to bad water quality, ordinary women experience negative health effects including inability to have children or become greatly ill. In winter, they must carry water from distant places many times dying, drowning or falling ill. I was saddened by the fact that women in remote mountain areas of my country who were educated were neither allowed to work nor to fulfill their dreams, with even the forced marriages of young girls continuing. Lack of internet and technology access only increases this problem.

Working with Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University and being a part of events by the Mountain Partnership has given me many opportunities, including to learn through student engaged learning how to empower myself as a group effort with my peers. We also shared the problems of our mountain communities and advocated with our peers in Utah. We jointly celebrated the International Mountain Day and spoke during a parallel event for the United Nations 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Both of these events were made possible due to technology.

I want to provide this opportunity to others by working with a similar model at Osh Technological University where students will work on real problems together as one team and our teachers will help us as mentors. I hope to share this knowledge through SEL with my peers to continue to provide better opportunities and technology to the mountain women and girls in the Kyrgyz Republic and globally.