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**Rotaractor from Congo**  
**68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Parallel event**  
**“Empowering Mountain Women Economically Through an Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning.”**  
**March 20, 2024**

Ladies and Gentlemen. On March 20th, 2024, I am honored to discuss a cause that is deeply close to my heart: the education of women and girls living in mountainous regions, facilitated through student-engaged learning (SEL). SEL involves students to solve practical problems together with the advice of their teacher. And student clubs like Rotaracts are well-suited for this model.

Since September 2023, I have been preparing to embark on a new chapter of my life as a student at the Utah Valley University (UVU) and a member of the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU. UIMF also includes UVU Rotaract and it partners with Orem-Lindon Rotary Club. Regarding the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club, since I arrived in the United States, I have constantly had the privilege of learning and serving there. The members of this club, older and with more experience than me, have greatly contributed to my personal development while allowing me to actively engage in community actions here in the United States. From classroom training with experienced speakers to field actions, every experience with this club has enriched me. I am convinced that the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club has brought me much more than what I have offered them in return. These ties help me to be involved in service projects benefiting local mountain communities in Orem and Lindon and to advocate for the improvement of the livelihoods of those communities, families, and women. They also help me to get connected with my peers in my native country, the Republic of Congo. From April 2020 until recently I was a Rotaract Club member in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. Over the past years, I have had the privilege of engaging in community actions within the Brazzaville, Republique Of Congo Rotary Club in my home country, where I have contributed to events and initiatives aimed at serving and strengthening my community. `

As a Rotaractor, I have been committed to promoting mutual dignity and access to education for all, particularly for women who are often marginalized. In this spirit, I co-founded in 2021, with partners the start-up "LNCHCLOTHES" in Brazzaville (Rep. Congo) and Gabon. Our start-up was financed by personal funds and through fundraising campaigns. This initiative aimed to provide young mothers in my community at Brazzaville and soon Libreville with training in entrepreneurship and gain financial independence through selling second-hand clothing. We helped approximately 11 young women and girls to start their businesses through our program. In mountainous regions, where geographical and socio-economic challenges abound, investing in women's education is of paramount importance. Not only does it open doors for individual

empowerment, but it also contributes to strengthening communities as a whole. Today I invite you all to join us in this crucial commitment to the SEL-based inclusive and equitable educational initiative for all. By uniting our efforts and sharing our knowledge and resources, we can truly create a better and fairer future for women and girls in mountainous regions, and by extension, for all inhabitants of this world.

Thank you.