

Bilateral And Multilateral Diplomatic Activities

Dr. Rusty Butler,

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals class,

April 22, 2024

Utah Valley University

HONORARY RUSSIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN UTAH



Induction of Honorary Consul General Rusty Butler at Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City by Consul General Yuri Popov from San Francisco 2000



Vernadsky Award by the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences in Moscow 2013



Merit Award in Moscow by the Deputy Foreign Minister 2004

2002 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES SALT LAKE CITY RUSSIA HOUSE



Couples Gold Medalists Anton & Elaine at Russia House 2002



Russian Deputy Prime Minister
Valentina Matviyenko at Russia House

MOSCOW-UTAH YOUTH GAMES MOSCOW JULY 2003



MOSCOW-UTAH YOUTH GAMES MOSCOW JULY 2003



MOSCOW-UTAH YOUTH GAMES IN UTAH FEBRUARY 2004



Opening Ceremony at Rice Eccles Stadium with Olympic Torch



Moscow Mayor Luzkov addressing the Utah State Senate

DIPLOMATIC GUESTS IN UTAH



Iceland President Grimsson visits UVU, 1997



PR OF INDIA TO UN, AMBASSADOR PURI & WIFE AT ARCHES NATIONAL PARK, 2013



BLESSED BY THE DALAI LAMA IN 2001



Ambassador of China Li Zhaoxing at UVU 1999

DIPLOMATIC GUESTS IN UTAH



Permanent Observer of Palestine to the UN at UVSC (nd)



Russian Archbishop Dmitri at UVU 1999



Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the USA, H.E. Kislyak 2015



Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, Archbishop Auza, 2015

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OPEN WORLD DELEGATIONS



Kyrgyz Open World librarians at UVU June 2009



State Department International Exchange group from Kyrgyzstan March 2008

PRESIDENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ASKAR AKAEV IN UTAH



Governor Walker with President of the Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akayev & wife Mayram Akayeva in Governor's Mansion, Salt lake City 2004



President of the Kyrgyz Republic Askar Akayev & wife Mayram Akayeva at UVU with Utah children 2004

Involvement in Sustainable Mountain Development



Building a partnership between the UVU and the International University of Kyrgyzstan (IUK) with a focus on SMD.
Dr. Aidaraliev, President of IUK at UVU (second from the left)

IUK is an academic institution in the Kyrgyz Republic with extensive ties to the United Nations and contributions to the UN SMD agenda

- In 2006, through the encouragement of IUK, Utah Valley University joined the Mountain Partnership under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- UVU was the first academic institution in North America to join the MP.
- The Mountain Partnership coordinates Sustainable Mountain Development activities globally through more than 450 members, including Utah Valley University, RANS, and Utah-China F.I.S.H.D.& C.



[Mountain Partnership: Home \(fao.org\)](http://fao.org)

Dr. Rusty Butler became the main focal point for the MP at UVU.

Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev became the second focal Point for the MP at UVU.

Women of the Mountains conferences at UVU

- Women of the Mountains conferences were:
- 1) UVU's major initiatives to contribute jointly with IUK to the SMD advocacy in North America from 2007 to 2015;
- 2) Major forums to promote gender and SMD under MP in North America.
- 3) Regional initiative to promote SMD by MP members in North America
- 4) Held four times and brought international guests to the conference and recognition for UVU and UIMF at the UN level.
- 5) Forums continued traditions of the "Celebrating Mountain Women" conference hosted in Bhutan during the International Year of Mountains in 2002.





General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 August 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 56 (h) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development

Sustainable mountain development**

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 60/198, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-second session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions. The report describes the status of sustainable mountain development at the national, regional and international levels, including an overall analysis of the challenges ahead, and provides suggestions for consideration by the Assembly as to how to continue to promote effectively sustainable development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context, including chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.

C. Gender

40. The Women of the Mountains Conference, held in Orem, Utah, United States, in March 2007, organized by Utah State University and the Utah-Russia Institute, built on this momentum and emphasized practical steps to ensure an improvement of women's status in mountain communities around the world. The adopted Orem Declaration of Mountain Women, underlines, inter alia, the need for collaboration with Brigham Young University (United States) in the collection and compilation of data on women in mountainous areas, through further development of the WomanStats database, which will allow for improved analysis and understanding of the condition of women in mountains around the world and the development of interventions tailored to their specific needs.

* A/62/150.

** Submission of the report was delayed to incorporate latest information on activities in support of sustainable mountain development.

Women of the Mountains - 2007 Conference



► The conference hosted more than 120 participants from all over the world.

UVU was featured for the first time in the 2007 UN Secretary General's report on SMD, the only academic institution from North America.

► The 2009 Secretary General's Report on SMD highlighted its role to establish a regional network on SMD and gender issues.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 August 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Item 55 (h) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development

Sustainable mountain development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 62/196, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fourth session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions. The report describes the status of sustainable mountain development at the national and international levels, including an overall analysis of the challenges that lie ahead, and provides suggestions for consideration by the Assembly as to how to continue to promote and effectively sustain development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context, including chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") and the Millennium Development Goals.

Gender

58. In response to the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women (the final document of The Women of the Mountains Conference, 2007, organized by Utah Valley University and the Utah-Russia Institute in Orem, Utah, United States of America), several institutions in the Rocky Mountain States of North America established a regional network on sustainable mountain development and gender issues. This led to exchanges of state legislatures/parliaments between Rocky Mountain States and mountain nations in Central Asia; including support of sales by Vista 360, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of hand-made local handicrafts from the mountains of Central Asia in the United States and the funding of cultural exchanges.

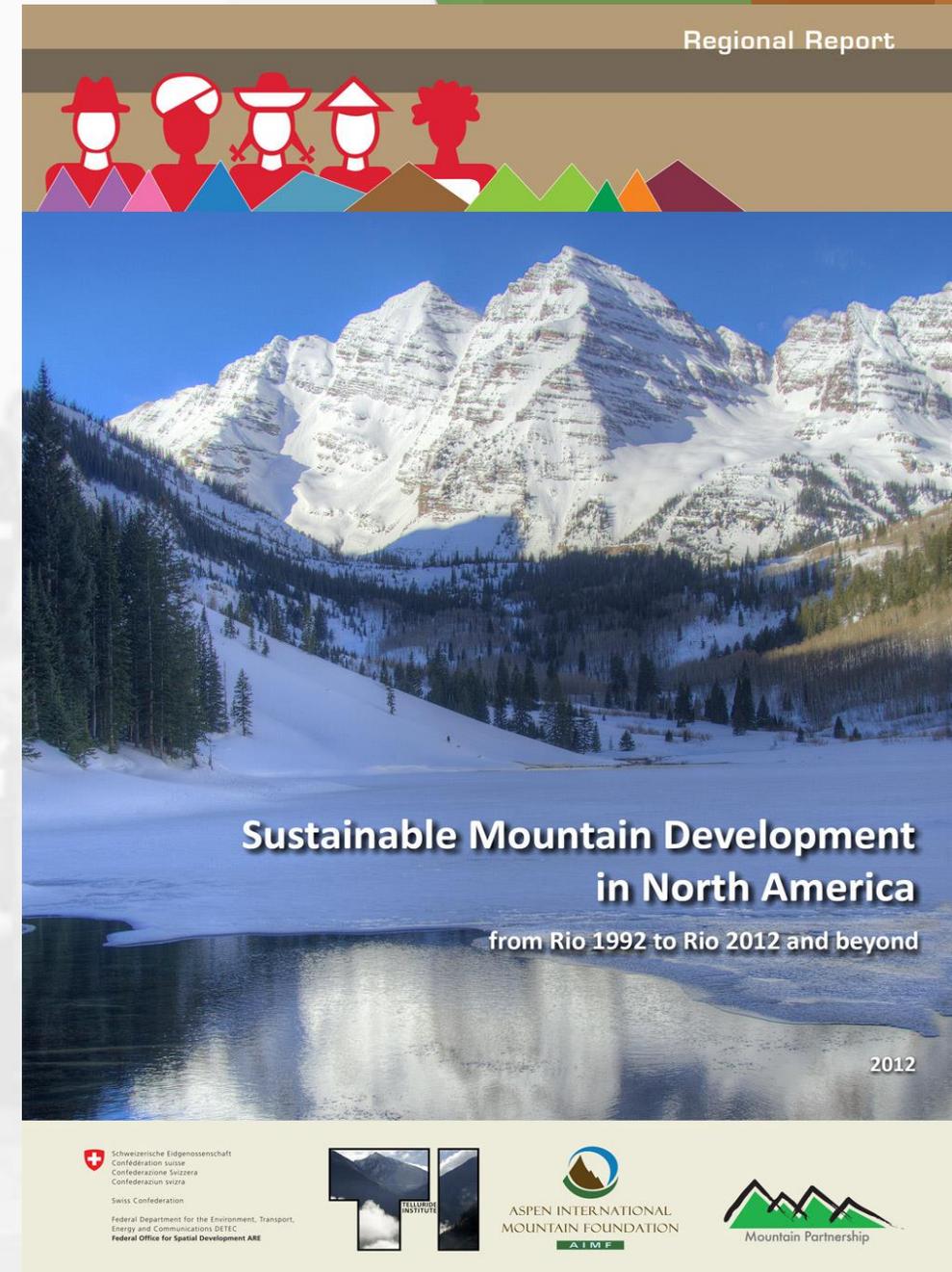
* A/64/150.

Women of the Mountains - 2011



► Conference Outcomes

- Gathered more than 100 participants from 20 mountain countries and international organizations, including the UN;
 - Continued WOMC 2007 efforts to create a North American network of institutions to advocate for SMD.
 - *For the first time* was hosted through student-engaged learning by creating a students organizing committee comprised of 65 UVU students.
- ➔ *Sustainable Mountain Development in North America: The Regional Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the RIO+20 in January 2012 highlighted the forum as strengthening the regional approach for advancing Sustainable Mountain Development and gender agendas.*



Women of the Mountains - 2015



- ▶ WOMC for the *first time was hosted as a SEL at UVU* in October 2015.
- ▶ UIMF members made its preparations during four semesters and then hosted it at UVU campus.
- ▶ The organizing committee included 79 students from UVU, UofU, and BYU.

WOMC gathered more than 100 participants, UN officials, diplomats and experts on gender issues. The Secretary General's Report on Sustainable Mountain Development A/71/256 on 29 July 2016 featured the UIMF as a host of the conference.

It highlighted the outcome document of the conference



Seventy-first session
Item 19 (j) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development

**Sustainable mountain development
Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

Mountain and upland areas have a universal importance: they provide water and other global goods and services to humanity. However, mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to climate change, extreme weather events and land degradation and recover slowly from disasters and shocks. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States pledged to leave no one behind and stressed the importance of reaching those furthest behind first. Mountain communities in developing countries are particularly vulnerable and require special attention, given that one in three people in those areas is at risk of hunger and malnutrition.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets relating to mountains as well as to poverty, hunger, sustainable agriculture, climate change and gender equality, there is a need to prioritize mountain areas by focusing on the specific challenges they face and the opportunities they provide. Mountain-specific policies and the inclusion of mountain communities in decision-making processes and capacity development can improve the livelihoods of communities while also conserving and restoring mountain ecosystems. In particular, efforts should be made to increase scientific knowledge of mountains and collect disaggregated data for sound analysis, policy advice and, ultimately, for change.

39. The Utah International Mountain Forum hosted the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference at Utah Valley University in October 2015 to address the critical issues faced by women and children living in mountainous regions across the globe and provide a forum to discuss gender equality. The outcome document contained the following observations:³

- (a) Goal 5 could be achieved through strong support for improving women's rights and welfare, including women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;
- (b) Successful implementation of target 6.6 could be achieved by supporting the vital role that women play in the protection of the environment and water sources, particularly as custodians of traditional knowledge that builds resilience and allows for adaptation to climate change;
- (c) With respect to target 15.1, women play a critical role in joint planning as promoters of innovation, development and cooperation for common benefit.

* A/71/150.

³ "The final document of the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference". Available from www.womenofthemountains.org/images/2015/16-03-31-WOMC-Finalized.pdf.



Student-Engaged Learning Model

- ◇ Since 2011, an inclusive, co-curricular, student-engaged learning (SEL) model at UVU encourages both non-traditional and traditional students to work as a group to advocate for mountain regions with faculty serving as mentors.
- ◇ The Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU serves as an extracurricular core of this model.
- ◇ The curricular part of the model encourages students to participate in club activities and build professional connections between students and mentors.



- ▶ Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs was created at UVU to advocate for SMD in the State of Utah and elsewhere.
- ▶ Foreign Affairs, Sustainable Mountain Development, Model United Nations, and Rotaract are leading clubs within the coalition.
- ▶ www.uvu.edu/utahimf/;

Advocating for Adoption on Mountain Targets among SDGs

- ◇ Through the model, from 2012 to 2022, UIMF members have advocated for adopting and implementing as part of the SDGs:
 - ◇ 1) Target 6.6,
 - ◇ 2) Target 15.1, and
 - ◇ 3) Target 15.4
- ◇ to ensure sustainable development for mountain communities within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



- ▶ UIMF President Jesler Molina advocated for inclusion of three mountain targets among SDGs during the session of the United Nations Open Working Group on SDGs in New York on December 11, 2013

Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL at UVU



PR of Hungary to the UN, H.E. Csaba Korösi,
on 2 April 2012;



*My best wishes to the Utah International Mountain Forum
in - so ably - promoting the SDGs and the Post 2015 Development Agenda
With my fondest memories
Martin Sajdik*

President of the Economic and Social Council, PR of Austria to the UN, H.E. Martin
Sajdik on 12 February 2015;

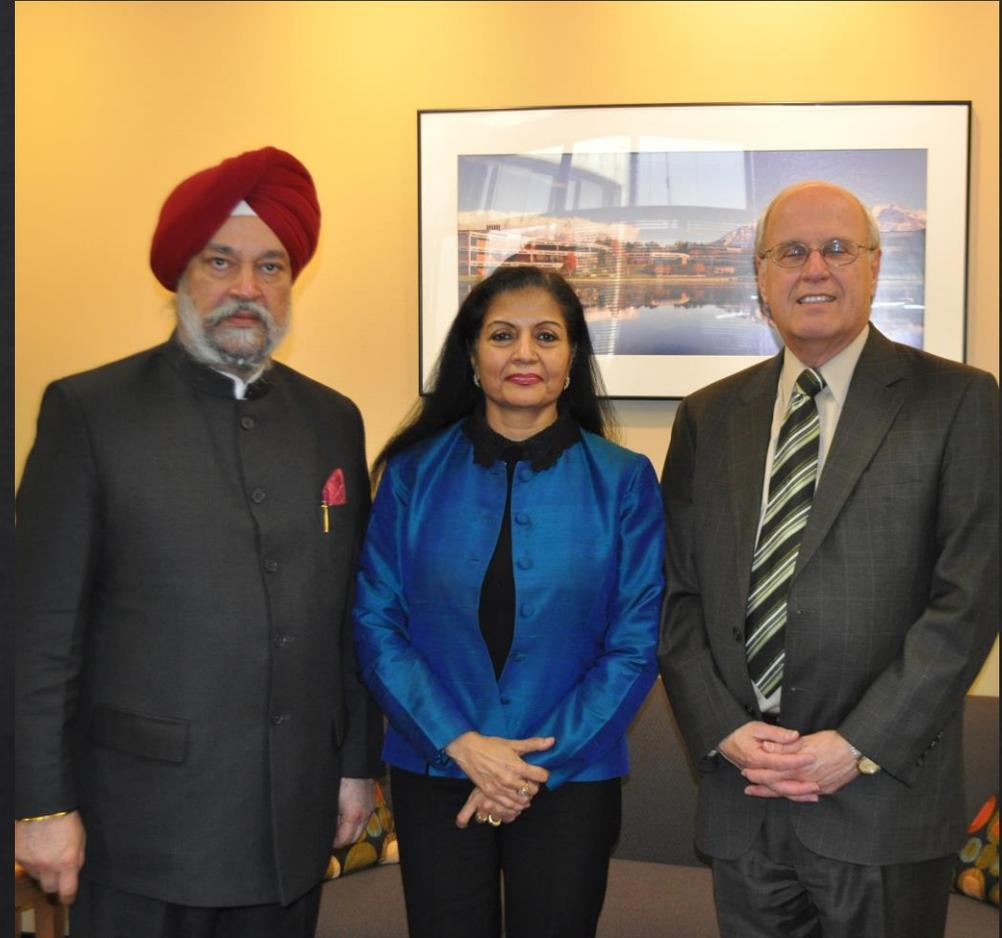
Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL at UVU



President of the UN General Assembly,
PR of Fiji to the UN, H.E. Peter Thomson
on 7 December 2015;



PR of Romania to the UN, H.E. Simona Mirela Miculescu
on 26 March 2012;



PR of India to the UN, H.E. Hardeep Singh Puri
on 15 February 2013;

Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL at UVU



PR of Macedonia to the UN, H.E. Pajo Avirovikj
on 18 March 2013;

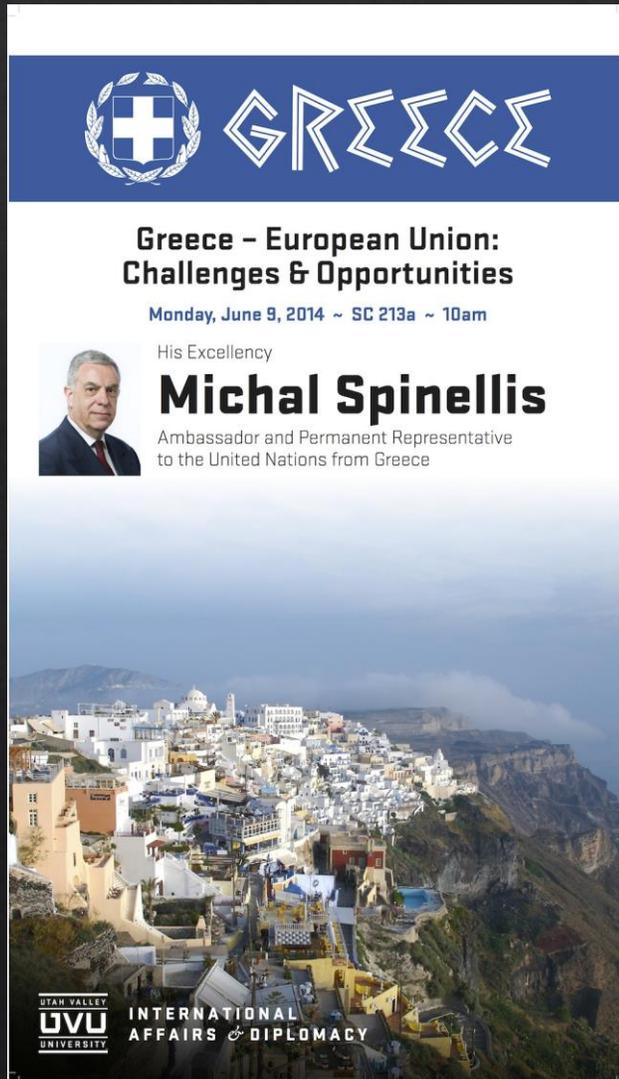


PR of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN, H.E.
Talaibek Kydyrov,
on 22 March 2013;



PR of Switzerland to the UN, H.E. Paul
Segar on 25 March, 2013;

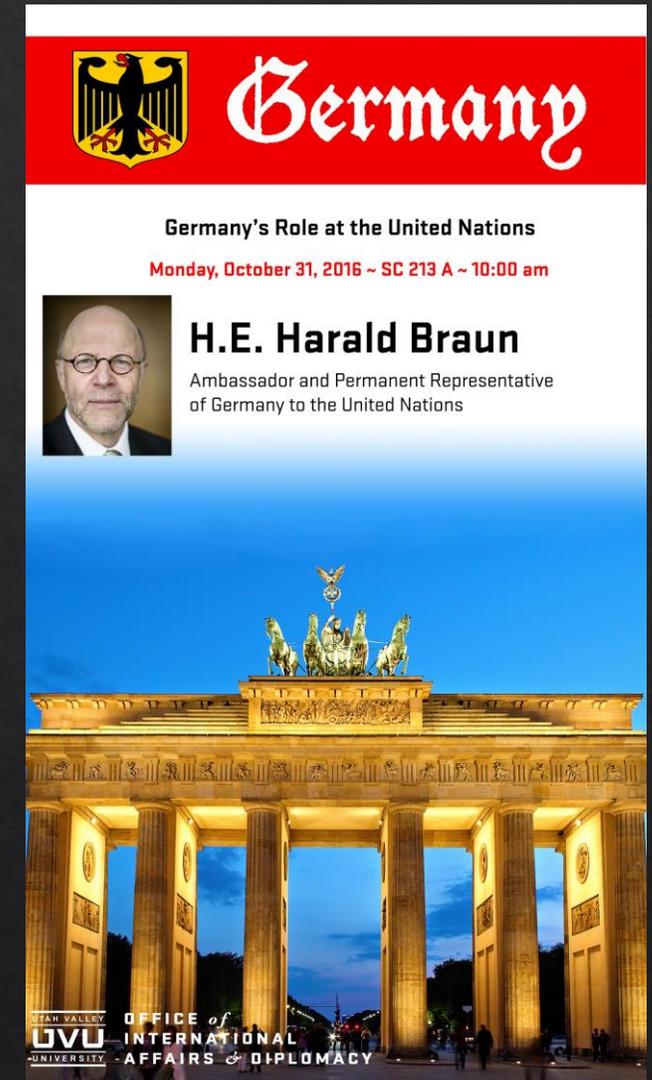
Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL at UVU



PR of Greece to the UN, H.E. Michel Spinellis on 9 June 2014;



PR of Romania to the UN, H.E., Dr. Ion Jinga on 7 October 2015;



PR of Germany to the UN, H.E. Harald Braun on 31 October 2016;

Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL at UVU



Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States, His Excellency Muktar Djumaliev, on 3 June 2013
Permanent Representative of Russian Federation to the United Nations, His Excellency, Dmitry Polyanskiy on 5 April 2019.

A poster for a United Nations event. At the top, the United Nations logo is on the left, and the text "United Nations" is in large white letters on a blue background. Below this, the event title "From Crisis Management to Transformation - The UN in a Brave New World" is written in blue. The date and time "Monday, May 15th, 2023 ~ CB511 ~ 1:00 PM MST" are in red. A small portrait of H.E. Mr. Csaba Körösi is shown next to his name and title: "H.E. Mr. Csaba Körösi, President of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly". A handwritten note in black ink says "Vo UMF with special regard" and is signed with a signature. Below the text is a photograph of a large assembly hall with many people seated at desks, facing a stage with a large screen. At the bottom, there is a QR code and text: "Please use the QR code to: RSVP for in person attendance, watch the virtual event, or learn about student involvement in cohosting the visit." Logos for UVU College of Humanities & Social Sciences, UVU Department of History & Political Science, and UVU Peace & Justice Studies are at the very bottom.

President of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Csaba Korosi, on 15 May 2023

Advocating SMD at the United Nations



RUSSIAN ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES

In 2017, Dr. Rusty Butler was appointed as the main representative at the United Nations for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (RANS). RANS is a non-governmental organization in general consultative status under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

Since then, through RANS, UIMF members have been able to:

- 1) Attend sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women annually;
- 2) Co-host parallel events during each session;
- 3) Submit written statements advocating for SMD to the UN secretariat for approval and distribution as official UN documents;
- 4) Apply for making oral statements during general debates of CSW.



(L to R) H.E. Peter Thomson, PR of Fiji to UN and his wife; Irina Churkina, wife of H.E. Mr Vitaly Churkin, PR of the Russian Federation to UN; H.E. Ms Katalin Annamária Bogay, PR of Hungary to UN and her husband (seated), Dr Rusty Butler and H.E. Mr Vitaly Churkin, PR of the Russian Federation to the UN, On 25 May 2016,

Advocacy for Women of the Mountains at the United Nations



RUSSIAN ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES



UIMF delegation with members of UUV's Office of Global Engagement outside UN Headquarters, March 2019

- ◇ Since 2016, UVU and RANS involved students through the SEL model at different forums of the Economic and Social Council on Sustainable Development.
- ◇ Through participation in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, they both advocated for mountain women, and reported on the results of the hosted four International Women of the Mountain conferences.

United Nations A/74/209

 **General Assembly** Distr.: General
22 July 2019

Seventy-fourth session
Item 19 (l) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development

Sustainable mountain development
Report of the Secretary-General

42. The Utah International Mountain Forum helped to raise global awareness of issues affecting mountain women at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in March 2018. Also at that session, the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, the Mountain Institute and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce, all Mountain Partnership members, submitted a joint statement.

United Nations E/CN.6/2018/NGO/37/Rev.1

 **Economic and Social Council** Distr.: General
20 February 2018

Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-second session
12–23 March 2018

Statement submitted by Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, The Mountain Institute, Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The United Nations Secretary-Generals' Report on sustainable mountain development A/71/256, from 29 July, 2016 highlighted the UVU model of student engagement in advocacy of gender and sustainable mountain development agendas of the United Nations.

The model allowed students, non-traditional ones in particular, to gain professional skills and experiences through the advocacy of the mountain and rural women causes on local and global levels.

This experience demonstrates that students of all ages can play an essential role in the implementation of the 2030 development agenda of the United Nations, and gender issues in particular.

SEL MODEL RESULTS:

Since 2006 UVU and UIMF contributed important initiatives that advocated for Gender within SMD in the State of Utah and at the UN:

1. Hosted regularly the international Women of the Mountains conferences as a major regional forum in this hemisphere to advocate for gender as part of the SMD agenda;
2. Since 2011, advocated for SMD through an inclusive student-engaged learning model.
3. Advocated for mountain targets adoption and implementation during 2013-2015;
4. Annually observed the International Mountain Days on December 11 to promote SMD in the State of Utah and elsewhere.

As a recognition of UVU and UIMF gender and SMD activities, the United Nations Secretary General's Reports on SMD highlighted them 6 times since 2007, the only academic institution in North America.

SEL MODEL AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

- ▶ 1. The developed model implements SDG 4, which aims to *“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”*
- ▶ 2. It allows everyone to get involved and contribute at any stage of the life
- ▶ 3. It allows everyone to get educated at any stage of life

Q & A?

Thank you