

STATEMENT

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69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Parallel Event

“An Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women and Girls”

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Honorable delegates, esteemed guests,

My name is Aidana Akibaeva, and I come from the beautiful but remote mountain regions of Kyrgyzstan. I stand here today to speak for the many young women in our villages who never get the chance to pursue higher education—not because they lack dreams or talent, but because early marriage is chosen for them.

In our rural and mountainous areas, many girls face immense pressure to marry young, often before they even finish school. Education is seen as a luxury, not a priority. But when a girl is denied higher education, she is denied opportunity, independence, and a future of her own choosing.

I believe that the United Nations must include mountain women in its strategies and take action to help them access higher education. This means:

- Scholarships and financial support for rural girls who want to study.
- Community programs to change mindsets and reduce the pressure of early marriage.
- More universities and training centers closer to rural areas, so distance is not a barrier.

Educating women is not just about their future—it is about our future. When a woman is educated, she lifts her family, her community, and her entire nation.

I ask you today: Let us not leave mountain women behind. Let us give them the chance to learn, to grow, and to lead.

At the end of my speech, let me please thank the Utah Valley University and Osh technological University as hosts of this parallel event at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women for this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you.