

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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Hello everyone, It is my pleasure to raise my voice today at this distinguished panel in support of the mountain families, women and girls. Mountain ecosystems are unique natural formations of great biological and climatic importance for the whole world. Due to global warming and growing anthropogenic pressure, they face many problems, including environmental, social and economic challenges.

Students of the Osh Technological University together with their peers from the Utah Valley University through student-engaged learning (SEL) method tirelessly advocated for addressing problems of mountain communities. SEL engages various social groups, including youth, in active problem-solving. Students can play a key role in the conservation of mountain ecosystems through their energy, knowledge, and innovative approach.

It is well-known that the main problems of the mountain regions are ecological, social, economic and anthropogenic ones.

Ecological challenges because of the cutting down of forests, leading to the destruction of ecological systems and soil erosion; pollution of water resources because of the nonsystemic development of industry and tourism; Climate change leading to the melting glaciers and soil degradation.

Social and economic challenges: Remoteness and inaccessibility of the regions, limiting access to education and medical care; Population decline due to the migration of young people to cities; Limited employment opportunities and weak infrastructure.

The destructive impact of tourism: The uncontrolled flow of tourists leads to pollution and the deterioration of natural sites. The lack of environmentally responsible policies in tourism harms the local flora and fauna.

In collaboration with students at the Utah Valley University, we developed and applied the following methods to address the challenges of mountains and mountain communities:

Educational Initiatives include hosting of ecological panels and seminars at schools and universities; academic studies and initiatives with focus on sustainable development of mountain regions.

Ecological volunteerism includes planting trees and restoration of mountain forests; hosting actions to collect garbage and protection of nature reserves.

Development of ecotourism: Promotion of the principles of responsible tourism among the population. Creation of tourist routes with minimal impact on the environment.

Social and technological projects: Development of mobile applications for monitoring the environmental situation in the mountains. Organization of charitable foundations to support the local population.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that mountain regions require a comprehensive approach to solve their problems. An inclusive SEL method based on active team efforts of students could play a crucial role in preservation of these unique ecological systems. Youth has to become a driving engine for positive changes by uniting science and social activities for protection of nature and improvement of the quality of life of mountain communities.