

STATEMENT

Nursel Bilimbekova

International Ala Too University

69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Parallel Event

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

March 10, 2025

Honorable delegates, distinguished guests,

My name is Nursel Bilimbekova, and I come from Balykchy, a small but strong community near the beautiful mountain lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. I am here today with one message: Mountain women must have a voice in politics.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Members of Parliament in Kyrgyzstan. I saw firsthand that when women are in leadership, women’s issues are addressed more effectively—whether it’s fighting domestic violence, improving education, or ensuring economic opportunities. But the reality is that mountain and rural women are underrepresented. Their voices are rarely heard in decision-making spaces.

The United Nations must include mountain women in its strategies and help strengthen their political participation by:

- Supporting leadership training and mentorship programs for rural women.
- Encouraging quotas and policies that increase women’s representation in government.
- Bringing political awareness and civic education to mountain communities.

Women in the mountains are strong, capable, and ready to lead—they just need the opportunity. A nation is stronger when all voices are heard, especially those from the most remote areas.

I ask you today: Let’s make sure mountain women are not just voters, but leaders. Let’s give them the space to shape policies that impact their lives.

I would also like to thank the organizers of the event, the Utah Valley University and Osh technological University as hosts of this parallel event giving me the opportunity to speak and advocate for my community and women of the mountains all over the world.

Thank you.