

Engaging Global Voices: My Role in Hosting a Parallel Event at CSW70



On March 10, 2026, I had the opportunity to participate in hosting a Parallel Event at the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Participating in this event was the culmination of months of preparation, research, and service projects that deepened my understanding of sustainable mountain development and the role of Indigenous women in these regions. Throughout this process, I engaged in projects that explored the challenges faced by Indigenous women in Georgian mountain communities and around the world, particularly about environmental conservation, food security, and gender equality.

Through the Student Engaged Learning (SEL) model at Utah Valley University (UVU), I was able to actively participate in hands-on research and initiatives that connected academic learning to real-world issues. This approach provided a platform for both traditional and non-traditional

students first-generation college students, working professionals, and international scholars to collaborate and contribute to global discussions on sustainability and gender equity.



Ana Caballero-Ferreyro Speaks at the Event

This experience exemplified the SEL model, requiring me to apply my academic studies in global politics to a real-world diplomatic setting. By engaging in research on Indigenous women and sustainable mountain development, I was able to present a perspective that highlighted their crucial yet often overlooked contributions to environmental conservation and food security. Their use of traditional farming techniques, such as milpa cultivation, and their leadership in biodiversity preservation are essential in achieving sustainability goals. However, they continue to face systemic barriers, such as limited access to education, land rights, and financial resources. Addressing these inequalities is essential for global sustainable development.

Participating in this event reinforced my understanding of how grassroots efforts intersect with global policymaking. My research on mountain women communities provided insight into the ways in which gender, sustainability, and policy must work together to create lasting change. I saw firsthand how student-led research and advocacy can impact international discussions, demonstrating that youth engagement is critical in shaping policy decisions. Participating in CSW69 was a deeply meaningful and transformative experience. As a Mexican-born student studying Global Politics, this opportunity allowed me to bring the voices of Indigenous mountain women into an international space. It was empowering to see months of research and preparation come to fruition, and it solidified my commitment to advocacy, sustainable development, and gender equality.

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