

The Contribution of UVU Student Clubs to the International Agenda of Sustainable Mountain Development

Presentation at the Mountain Pavilion during the U.N.
RIO+20 Conference on Sustainable Development

June 18-19, 2012

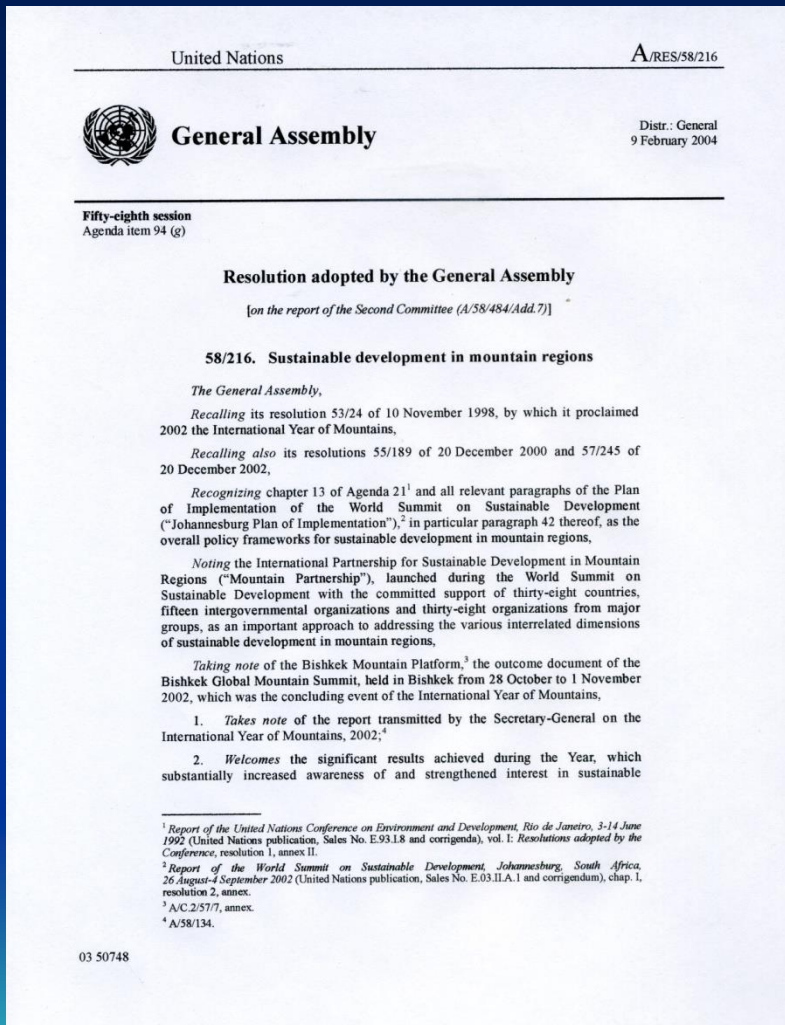
John McClure,

Utah International Mountain Forum

Utah Valley University



New ties of UVU with the United Nations



- In 2006 UVSC became a member of the Mountain Partnership of the U.N.-related Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome (www.mountainpartnership.org)
- Mountain Partnership coordinates efforts of international organizations and global communities on implementing U.N. Resolution on Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) (see text on the left)

The International Conference “Women of the Mountains”:


- - The first event organized by UVSC on implementing of the U.N. Resolution on SMD.
- -Hosted on March 8th-10th, 2007 by UVSC together with the International University of Kyrgyzstan.
- -Held under the auspice of the U.N., the World Bank and the U.S. Department of State;
- -More than 110 experts from 21 mountainous states worldwide and 9 Rocky Mountain states of the Northern America took part at the gathering; for the students, this was an opportunity to observe a gathering of world leaders and transform their classrooms into a global platform in addition 7 students were able to presents essays on topics related to the conference;
- -The final document, titled “Orem Declaration of Mountain Women” presented a vision of an increased involvement of the Rocky Mountain communities to the global U.N.-supported sustainable mountain development and gender agendas.
- -Web-site was created: (www.womenofthemountains.org);

Conference Results



**Participants of the International
Conference during the
presentation of the Kyrgyz yurt
at the UVSC,
March 9, 2007**

United Nations A/64/222

 **General Assembly** Dist.: 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.

* * *

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.

* * *

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**Excerpts from the report of the U.N. with praise of the
main results of the Conference in Orem, Utah**

Initiatives in Latin America



- Have been undertaken by UVU students since 2007 when:
- 1) Students from a Spanish class embarked in a service learning project and fundraised money to help more than 800 children affected the 2007 Ica earthquake in Peru. Students joined efforts with community members to aid these underprivileged children.
- 2) Since then, students have been able to aid with school supplies and basic necessities to orphanages in Mexico (2008), Dominican Republic (2009), Bolivia (2010) and Peru (2010) among others.
- 3) Several UVU partnership initiatives have focused on collaborative efforts based on common interests, needs and priorities.

Second International Conference “Women of the Mountains”:

- -Hosted by UVU and IUK on March 8-9, 2011 in Orem, Utah;
- -”.....Served to strengthen the regional approach for advancing the SMD and gender agendas by both expanding network of North American MP members and involving youth from high-schools of Utah and students of UVU in the activities of the Conference....”

• *Report on SMD on North America for RIO+20 U.N. Conference, January 9, 2012*



Second International Conference “Women of the Mountains”:



January 30, 2011

The Honorable Julie Fisher
House of Representatives
State of Utah
E-mail: jfisher@utah.gov

Julie,

I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to accompany you on the floor the other day. I loved meeting your colleagues, meeting the speaker, and talking to you about the different items of business you attend to as a representative.

I am emailing you because I would like the House of Representatives to support a resolution that would support the state of Utah's membership in the Mountain Partnership. The Mountain Partnership is bringing countries, cities, groups and organizations together to work towards a common goal: to improve the lives of mountain people and protect mountain environments around the world in coming together to contribute ideas with the intention to benefit all members through joint efforts with the United Nations to create a dialogue on progress and new ideas between Mountain Communities. The entrance into the partnership is free and it seeks through the voluntary alliance of Partners to enhance the lives of mountainous people. Additionally, members of Utah would be able to participate and represent the state at summits and meetings held by the Partnership.

The City of Orem recognized the benefits of being a member of the Mountain Partnership and signed a resolution to join this month. Utah could be recognized as a regional hub for the Northwestern mountainous areas if we support a resolution to become part of this partnership before other states. Many economic opportunities could come about by joining the partnership. For example, innovations that Utah has implemented for infrastructure may be viewed as beneficial by officials that are part of this partnership. Other countries could then employ Utah companies to do what they have done in Utah in their country.

Why is it important that we pass this resolution now and where do these leaders meet about the issues?

It is important we pass this resolution before other states do so that Utah becomes the leader and hub for the northwestern hemisphere. The annual Women of the Mountains Conference is hosted at UVU every year (March 8th and 9th). It is a large conference where many leaders from around the world, including officials from The Mountain Partnership and the UN come to UVU and highlight the ecological and economic importance of mountainous areas around the world. Many issues that we face in Utah (i.e. economic, ecological, preservation, deforestation) because of our location are discussed by citizens of Utah as well as citizens living in mountainous areas around the world. I know you are really busy, but if you get a chance check out our blog for more info: <http://internationalmountaincoalition.blogspot.com/>

By supporting this resolution Utah could see many economic opportunities created through the sharing of innovations with other countries and the creation of jobs. Attached is the resolution Orem passed (we could pass the same resolution but tailor the text to the state of Utah). Please take a look at it and let me know if you would be willing to help out with this. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Wishing you all the best,

Christina Lowe

Christina Lowe
Co-Chair of the Mountain Partnership Advocacy Group in Utah

1) STUDENTS ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN:

-Mainly promotion SMD-agenda at UVU and in the state of Utah;

-Recruiting new members of the Mountain Partnership (MP) from the state of Utah. From seven new members of the MP accepted during 2010-2011, five (City of Orem, Salt Lake City, Park City, Provo City and NGO “Hope”) joined that coalition from Rome, Italy due to students efforts



With Mayor of Park City Dana Williams after City Councils decision to join MP

Letter from UVU student, Christina Lowe to Utah State representative Julie Fisher with request to support Utah Membership at the MP

February 21, 2011

The Honorable Michele Bachelet
United Nations Undersecretary General for UN Women
304 East 45th Street
15th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States
Tel: +1 212 904-6400
Fax: +1 212 904-6705



Utah Scholarship Foundation
887 North 100 East Ste. #4
Lehi, Utah 84043
www.missutahpageant.org

Re: International Women's Conference in Utah, USA – “Women of the Mountains”

Dear Mrs. U. N. Undersecretary General,

I am writing you as Miss Utah 2010 and one of the leaders of the youth advocacy group in the state of Utah to promote the United Nations agenda on sustainable mountain development with focus on gender issues. On behalf of the organizing committee of the “Women of the Mountains” conference, I invite you to take part at our main gathering on March 8-9, 2011 in the State of Utah. With the co-sponsorship of the United Nations “Mountain Partnership”, the conference is co-hosted by Utah Valley University and the Kyrgyz National Center for Development of Mountain Regions (www.mountainpartnership.org).

We would be honored to have you as a representative among the participants of the conference as women who contribute immensely to the promotion of gender roles on a global scale. This will be the second time an entire U.S. region (Rocky Mountains) will examine problems of sustainable mountain development globally.

While serving as Miss Utah I have had many opportunities to travel the state and meet with women concerning our roles in the community. Given the unique perspective this has given me, I have recognized Utah's ability to become the hub for a global discussion about women and their roles in discussing issues of sustainable development. We have many educated, talented, and empowered women that would be an inspiration to other women around the world. We also live in a mountainous region where many challenges are faced and met consistently. These women care about issues that you have advocated for such as education, gender roles, and the potential of women. I admire your ability to bring women together regarding these important issues that we all know are so pertinent to all of our success.

I am proud to be a student at Utah Valley University where, as a strong woman, I am able to contribute to conferences such as this. The United Nations commended Utah Valley University for hosting the first Conference “Women of the Mountains” on March 8-10, 2007. A number of important results were achieved in the integration of Rocky Mountain communities into the network of global mountain communities. The Secretary General of the United Nations submitted in his report to the General Assembly (August 31, 2008) that: “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 legislative representatives between Rocky Mountain States and mountain nations in Central Asia, including support of sales of hand-made local handicrafts from the mountains of Central Asia in the United States and the funding of cultural exchanges.”

Our goal is to more closely integrate Northern American mountain communities with the Mountain Partnership and Mountain Forum. In our efforts to bring the state of Utah together for this conference I, along with other Mountain Partnership advocates, have encouraged cities to join The Mountain Partnership. Thus far, Salt Lake City, Orem City, and Park City have joined and showed their support for these issues and conference. This gathering will help us to further strengthen ties with the global mountain regions. I feel that your presence and your ideas on cooperation between mountain communities will enhance the quality of the conference and make it a more complete success. Additionally, it will help to educate the women of the Rocky Mountain region of the U.S. to benefit our partners around the world.

I hope you are able to attend to our gathering or send a representative.

If you have questions, please communicate with me by e-mail or by phone: 201.0manutah@gmail.com or 435-671-0001. OR, you may wish to communicate with the Co-organizer of the Conference Ambassador Bakytbek Abdusshev, abdutah@uvu.edu, phone: 801-863-8351 (office).

With warm regards,

Christina Lowe

Christina Lowe
Miss Utah 2010

Letter from UVU student, Christina Lowe to Michele Bachelet, U.N. Undersecretary on Women Issue with invitation to come to the Conference

Second International Conference “Women of the Mountains”:

- **2. STUDENT CLUBS:**
- Foreign Affairs (FA) Club and Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) Clubs gained recognition and new student-members (in 2010 FA had few members, and SMD had only one student [Matthew Joseph], after the Conference 15-20 new students joined each club)



Second International Conference “Women of the Mountains”:



Shelby Jorgensen, a junior at the Utah County Academy of Sciences (left), who won first prize (\$500) for her essay “Women’s Education in Mountainous Regions” with Dr. Keith Snedegar, Chair of the Organizing Committee of the workshop



Audience at the workshop

- 3. UVU STUDENTS ADVOCACY OF SMD AMONG HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS
- Workshop on women and children issues for high-school students in the state of Utah was organized on March 7, 2011 at Orem Public Library.
- Representing six schools across the Wasatch Front, 54 students submitted essays for workshop on women and children’s issues.
- 37 UVU students were assigned to all high-schools in Utah in order to help principals of schools to provide essays from their students



Copy of the Certificate of participation for Utah High-School students on Gender Issues

Second International Conference “Women of the Mountains”:



Kyle Vanderniet, UJU student (first on the right) with family hosts Ambassador of Macedonia to the U.S. Zoran Zolevski



Students secretariat in action

- Students Organizing Committee of the Conference was created, which included:
- 1) Members of the Mountain Partnership Advocacy Group - 3 students;
- 2) Secretariat – 10 students
- 3) Sessions moderators – 17 students
- 4) Members of protocol and hosts for VIPs - 15
- 5) Information desk – 4 students;
- 6) Media and PR – 4 students;
- 7) Documentaries session – 1 students;
- 8) Organizing Committee of the Workshop for High-Schools of Utah – 14 students;



Utah International Mountain Forum:

- -Created during summer 2011, after the second international Conference Women of the Mountains;
- -Includes:
 - 1) Sustainable Mountain Development Club;
 - 2) Foreign Affairs Club;
 - 3) Russian/Slavic Club;
 - 4) America Israel Alliance;
 - 5) College Republicans
 - 6) College Democrats
 - 7) Model UN
- Blog for UIMF: <http://utinternationalmountainforum.blogspot.com/>

Utah International Mountain Forum:

• ACTIVITIES:

- -Convinced Provo City to join Mountain Partnership on August 10, 2011;
- -Co-hosted visit of Ambassador O' Keefe, Director, Open World Program for U.S. Library of Congress on September 19, 2011;
- -Hosted visit of Ambassador Asylbek Aidaraliev, President, International University of Kyrgyzstan on November 11, 2011;
- -Hosted video-Conference "20th Anniversary since disintegration of the Soviet Union" with Andrei Sakharov Foundation on November 21, 2011;

Proclamation

*The Mountain Partnership
August 10, 2011*

WHEREAS, The Mountain Partnership is bringing countries, cities, groups, and organizations together to work towards a common goal; to improve the lives of mountain people and protect mountain environments around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Mountain Partnership intends to benefit all members through joint efforts with the United Nations to create dialogue on progress and new ideas between Mountain Communities; and

WHEREAS, The City of Provo is interested in learning about the environments, needs, and cultures of other communities and recognizes mountain communities play a vital role in the world's culture and economy and have ecological systems that provide large quantities of potential resources ranging from forestry, agriculture, rich biological diversity, great areas of recreation, tourism and social heritage for the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, The City of Provo and other communities with mountain climates can share both knowledge and historical data about development and industry; and

WHEREAS, The City of Provo can serve as an example of how to achieve sustainable mountain growth and contribute greatly to the members of the Mountain Partnership's good efforts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Curtis, Mayor of the City of Provo do hereby declare Provo's support of

The Mountain Partnership

and call upon all residents to lend their support to the people of the world's mountain communities by joining together to share knowledge and expertise about critical issues such as water, infrastructure, industry, education, and social services and participate in relevant initiatives.



In Witness Whereof, I Hereby Set My Hand and Affix the Official Seal of the City of Provo, Utah, this 10th Day of August, 2011.

John R. Curtis
John R. Curtis, Mayor

ATTEST:
Janene Weiss
Janene Weiss, City Recorder

Proclamation of Provo City about joining Mountain Partnership on August 10, 2011

**20TH ANNIVERSARY
SINCE DISINTEGRATION OF THE
SOVIET UNION**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21
11:30
EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

9:00 A.M.
"VIEW FROM RUSSIA"
ROUND TABLE VIA SKYPE WITH PARTICIPATION OF:
1) DR. FREDERICK WHITE, ASSOCIATE DEAN, CHS, UVU
2) DR. NATALIA GRONSKAYA, NIKHINY NOVGOROD
3) REPRESENTATIVE OF ANDREI SAKHAROV MUSEUM IN NIZHNY NOVGOROD
4) ALEKSEY SEMYONOV, PRESIDENT OF ANDREI SAKHAROV FOUNDATION

MODERATOR: DR. RUSTY BUTLER, ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & DIPLOMACY
Q&A 9:45 A.M.

10:00 A.M.
"VIEW FROM WASHINGTON, D.C."
ROUND TABLE VIA SKYPE WITH PARTICIPATION OF:
1) U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.S.R. JACK MATLOCK (1987-1991),
2) U.S. AMBASSADOR TO UKRAINE WILLIAM MILLER (1993-1998),
3) DR. WILLIAM B. HILL, PROFESSOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY AT THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON DC, SERVED THE TERMS BETWEEN 1999 AND 2006 AS HEAD OF THE OSCE MISSION TO MOLDOVA.

MODERATOR: ALEKSEY SEMYONOV, PRESIDENT OF ANDREI SAKHAROV FOUNDATION
Q&A 10:45 A.M.

11:45 A.M.
"VIEW FROM NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS"
ROUND TABLE VIA SKYPE WITH PARTICIPATION OF:
1) LINDSAY FUNK - U.S. PRESIDENT OF STANFORD U.S.-RUSSIA FORUM, STANFORD UNIVERSITY
2) NIKHITA ALENIYEV - STANFORD U.S. RUSSIA FORUM OFFICER, MOSCOW HIGHER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
3) RICHARD PORTWOOD - CO-FOUNDER THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN-RUSSIAN ENGAGEMENT OF EMERGING LEADERS (CAREEL)

MODERATOR: JOHN McCLURE, STANFORD U.S.-RUSSIA FORUM, DELEGATE, RUSSIAN AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLUB, CO-PRESIDENT, UVU
Q&A 12:30 P.M.

CO-SPONSORS:
UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMACY, HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 801-863-8994 OR 801-380-7467

Poster of the video-Conference "20th Anniversary Since disintegration of the Soviet Union"

Utah International Mountain Forum:

• ACTIVITIES:

- -Hosted International Conference “10th Anniversary since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan” with participation of Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.N., Murad Askarov and deputy chief of mission of Afghanistan to the U.N. Ahmad Zahir Faqirih;
- -Hosted with Orem Public Library celebration of the day declared by the U.N. as International Mountain Day on December 09, 2011, which happened for the second time in Utah history.
- -Contributed to the report on Sustainable Mountain Development on North America for RIO+20 U.N. Conference in Brazil



Co-Chairs of UIMF Rey Benitez (first from the left) and John McClure (first from the right) greet at the airport Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the U.N. Murad Askarov and deputy chief of mission of Afghanistan to the U.N. Ahmad Zahir Faqirih



With VIPs at Sundance



Poster on Celebration International Mountain Day at Orem Public Library



At Orem Public Library during celebration of International Mountain Day

Utah International Mountain Forum:

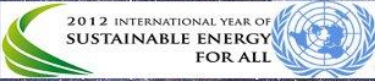
UVU students, who contributed to the SMD report on North America:

- - **Victoria Gibson** and **Jordan Giles** (Alaska Range);
- - **Kate Woolfe, Alexis Sagen** and **Sean Edwards** (Appalachian range);
- **Josh Harding** and **Kevin Wrigley** (Cascade Range);
- - **Nikko Pederson** and **Jesler Molina** (Sierra Madres);
- - **Debbie Tudor, Trevor Tippets** and **Byron Olsen** (Laurentian Range);
- - **Esteban Nunez** and **Andrew Reams** (Sierra Nevada);
- **Jonathan Latham** and **Troy Bradley** (Rocky Mountains);
- **David Banks, Brooke Hodson,** and **Lindsey Burton** (Coast Ranges)

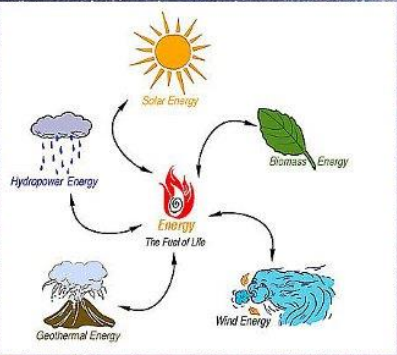


Report on Sustainable Mountain Development on North America for RIO+20 U.N. Conference in Brazil

Second Utah High-School Students Workshop and Essay Contest



2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL
Declared by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution 65/151 in December 2010



The 2nd Annual Utah High School Students Workshop and Essay Contest




"Sustainable Energy for Mountain Communities"

Friday, March 30, 2012
2 PM-6PM
Orem Public Library, Storytelling Wing

Event is free and open to the public

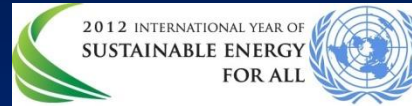
The General Assembly's Resolution 65/151 called on the Secretary-General, in consultation with the inter-agency group UN-Energy to organize and coordinate activities to be undertaken during the Year in order to "increase awareness of the importance of addressing energy issues, including modern energy services for all, access to affordable energy, energy efficiency and the sustainability of energy sources and use" at local, national, regional and international levels.

CO-SPONSORS:

Special thanks to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at UVU for financial support of the workshop through ELLA grant

CONTACT PERSONS:
Dr. Keith Snedegar, Chair, Organizing Committee of the workshop, e-mail: snedegke@uvu.edu, or Jesler Molina, member, Utah International Mountain Forum, e-mail: jeslermolina@hotmail.com.



- Nearly 70 high school students submitted essays on topics relating to types of alternative energy, the costs of developing energy, the environmental impact of energy production and the impact climate change has on mountain communities.



Winner of the first place and \$500 of award money
Justin Ngo (L)
Copper Hills High School, Salt Lake City
with Chair of the organizing Committee *Dr. Keith Snedegar (R)*



Group photo of the organizers and winners of the top ten places of the workshop





The Third International Women of the Mountain Conference in Peru



To Add Photos from
Puno, Peru !!!!!!!!!!!

Major goals:

- Dedicate to Rio+20 U.N. Conference and 10th Anniversary of International Year of Mountains;
- Focus of UVU students activities on urgent needs and challenges in the lives of mountain communities in Peru;
- Expansion of networking between UVU with students with counterparts in Peru and CONDESAN in particular, in promoting gender and SMD-agenda through global youth efforts;
- Contribution to the Conference agenda from UVU students, John McClure, President International Mountain Forum and Jared Martin;



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

UIMF and RIO+20



Major goals:

- To contribute to the agenda of RIO Summit;
- To advocate more attention to the SMD in general agenda of sustainable development of the United Nations;
- To establish ties with youth and partnering institutions from other regions of the world with particular focus on ICIMOD and CONDESAN;

UIMF supports *Mountain Youth's Appeal to Rio+20 Delegates* as the final document of a Global Youth Forum on Mountain Issues and Sustainable Actions at Mountain Pavilion, Athletes Park, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 15 June 2012 .

UIMF unfortunately missed the event due to scheduling the third Women of the Mountain Conference in Puno, Peru during June 12-15, 2012