



Fifth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership  
Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger, migration  
11-13 December 2017; FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy



# Mountain targets implementation through the student engaged learning model



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A COALITION OF STUDENT CLUBS  
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# STUDENT ENGAGED LEARNING

- ❑ Co-curricular problem-based learning (PBL) pedagogy implemented at UVU since 2008;
  - ❑ Students take maximum responsibility for their learning by being placed in cooperative groups to address practical aspects of SDGs implementation;
  - ❑ Faculty serve as mentors by delegating power to students:
  - ❑ Students gain professional experiences by advocating the Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) agenda until 2015 and currently by implementing mountain targets
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# The UVU Model

- ✘ The model developed by UVU as a co-curricular initiative implements four major principles of the PBL model in the following ways:
    - + 1. as a problem to deal with, students learn the importance of advocacy of the UN SMD agenda at local, regional and global levels;
    - + 2. as learning vehicles, students work jointly through the student clubs;
    - + 3. as club advisors, faculty guide the processes of students learning;
    - + 4. as a final step in learning, students practically implement assigned SMD advocating initiatives.
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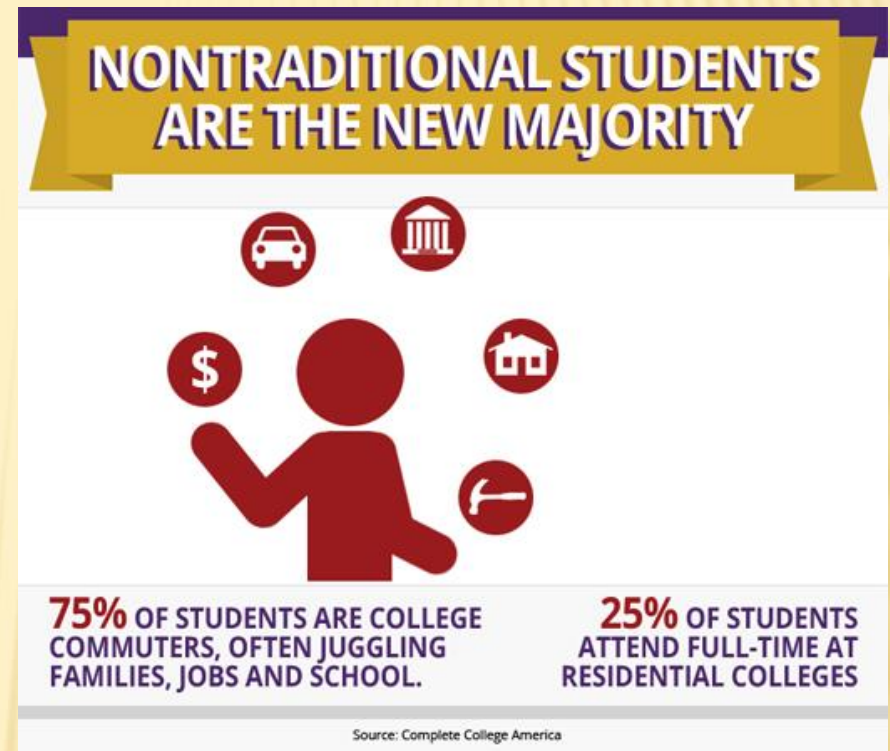
# Implementation of the SDGs through problem-based learning

- ❑ The Model UN
  - ❑ educational simulation and academic activity in which students and youth can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations
- ❑ The UVU Model
  - ❑ engages students in contribution of initiatives, resources, and funds to the practical implementation of the SDGs, and in particular mountain targets
  - ❑ engages in mountain targets implementation both youth and non-traditional or adult students



## Non-traditional students

- ❑ older than 25 years
- ❑ working part- or full-time jobs
- ❑ often financially challenged.
- ❑ represent more than 30% of college undergraduates in the USA
- ❑ possess a wide range of professional experiences important for the implementation of SDGs



# Utah Valley University:

- ❑ Is the largest undergraduate school in the State of Utah with tradition of vocational training since 1941.
- ❑ Contributes to one of the most successful models of sustainable mountain development in the United States
- ❑ Is a member of the Mountain Partnership since 2006
- ❑ Focuses on the implementation of three recommendations of the UN General Assembly Resolution “International Year of Mountains, 2002”:
  - ❑ to encourage institutions to join MP;
  - ❑ to make contributions to the SMD advocacy of funds and sustain initiatives established during celebrations of the UN International Year of Mountains in 2002;
  - ❑ to celebrate International Mountain Day on December 11.





# As SMD Advocacy, UVU:

- ❑ Hosts International Women of the Mountain Conferences, now a major grassroots event in North America to promote UN gender and SMD agendas since 2007;
- ❑ Implements the student engaged model by establishing the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU since 2011;
- ❑ Hosted Permanent Representatives of more than 20 nations accredited to the UN to advocate for adoption of mountain targets among SDGs during 2013-2015;



*My best worker to the Utah International Mountain Forum  
in - so eBay - promoting the SDGs and the Post 2015 Development Agenda  
with my board members Hanken Lopez*



## As advocacy of the mountain targets during 2013-2015:

- ❑ Students participated at the UN Open Working Groups on SDGs in New York;



UVU student Jesler Molina makes a statement during the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the UN OWG on SDGs in New York on December 11, 2013

- ❑ Contributed to a social media campaign of the Mountain Partnership titled “Keep mountains in the SDGs”, contacting over two hundred-fifty NGOs globally, UN ambassadors, and governments with requests to support the mountain cause;
- ❑ Collected more than 2,000 signatures from 6,283 gathered by the MPS globally, to ensure that mountain issues were included to the agenda of UNFCCC COP21





# Utah International Mountain Forum

*A Coalition of Student clubs at UVU*

[www.utahimf.org](http://www.utahimf.org)



## Who we are -

We are a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University created in 2011.

We focus on advocacy of gender and sustainable mountain development agendas of the United Nations in State of Utah and North America through student experiential learning.

## Our Purpose -

- 1) Raise awareness of mountain sustainability topics.
- 2) Bring the public into contact with international guests and foreign dignitaries.
- 3) Bring communities together to recognize their shared mountainous heritage.
- 4) Offer students a chance to make connection that will benefit them as they move into their careers.



# International Women of the Mountains Conferences

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The main goals of the conferences are:

- to mobilize communities in North America to contribute to the promotion of gender and sustainable development among mountain communities worldwide;
- To continue traditions of the “Celebrating mountain women” conference in Thimphu, Bhutan, 2002



[WWW.WOMENOF THEMOUNTAINS.ORG](http://WWW.WOMENOF THEMOUNTAINS.ORG)



# International Women of the Mountains Conferences

United Nations

A/71/256



General Assembly

Distr.: General  
29 July 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session  
Item 19 (j) of the provisional agenda\*  
Sustainable development

## Sustainable mountain development Report of the Secretary-General

### Summary

Mountain and upland areas have a universal importance: they provide water and other global goods and services to humanity. However, mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to climate change, extreme weather events and land degradation and recover slowly from disasters and shocks. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States pledged to leave no one behind and stressed the importance of reaching those furthest behind first. Mountain communities in developing countries are particularly vulnerable and require special attention, given that one in three people in those areas is at risk of hunger and malnutrition.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets relating to mountains as well as to poverty, hunger, sustainable agriculture, climate change and gender equality, there is a need to prioritize mountain areas by focusing on the specific challenges they face and the opportunities they provide. Mountain-specific policies and the inclusion of mountain communities in decision-making processes and capacity development can improve the livelihoods of communities while also conserving and restoring mountain ecosystems. In particular, efforts should be made to increase scientific knowledge of mountains and collect disaggregated data for sound analysis, policy advice and, ultimately, for change.

39. The Utah International Mountain Forum hosted the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference at Utah Valley University in October 2015 to address the critical issues faced by women and children living in mountainous regions across the globe and provide a forum to discuss gender equality. The outcome document contained the following observations:<sup>3</sup>

- (a) Goal 5 could be achieved through strong support for improving women's rights and welfare, including women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;
- (b) Successful implementation of target 6.6 could be achieved by supporting the vital role that women play in the protection of the environment and water sources, particularly as custodians of traditional knowledge that builds resilience and allows for adaptation to climate change;
- (c) With respect to target 15.1, women play a critical role in joint planning as promoters of innovation, development and cooperation for common benefit.

\* A/71/150.

<sup>3</sup> "The final document of the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference". Available from [www.womenofthemountains.org/images/2015/16-03-31-WOMC-Finalized.pdf](http://www.womenofthemountains.org/images/2015/16-03-31-WOMC-Finalized.pdf).

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Please recycle



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- ❑ The fourth international Women of the Mountains conference was hosted for the first time by students as an engaged learning initiative.

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- ❑ The United Nations Secretary General's report on sustainable mountain development A/71/256 from July 29, 2016 featured the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs as a:

- ❑ Host of the event; and
- ❑ Contributor of recommendations for implementation of SDG#5, target #6.6 and targets# 15.1

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# As implementation of the UN Resolution “International Year of Mountains, 2002”, students:

- ❑ Raised from local sources and contributed to the SMD advocacy \$250,000 since 2007;
- ❑ Celebrate the International Mountain Day every year since 2010 to raise awareness about SMD among students and local communities

**HOST:**



UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM  
A COALITION OF STUDENT CLUBS AT  
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY  
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**Sponsors:**



For More Information about the UIMF and its mission,  
Visit: [WWW.UTAHIMF.ORG](http://WWW.UTAHIMF.ORG)  
Or contact: Tony Medina: [tony.h.medina@gmail.com](mailto:tony.h.medina@gmail.com)



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Mountain Partnership



11 December  
**International  
MOUNTAIN DAY**

*The Utah Valley University's  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration  
Of  
International Mountain Day*

*CB101C  
2-7:00 PM  
2 December 2016  
Orem, Utah*



*Daughter of Kalash*





# STUDENT ENGAGED LEARNING THROUGH ADVOCACY OF THE MOUNTAIN WOMEN AT THE UN



Tony Medina, President, UIMF at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 15, 2016



UIMF members at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 22, 2017



- ✘ Through a partnership with RANS and Utah China F.I.S.H.& D.& C., the UVU students participated at the 60<sup>th</sup> (2016) and 61<sup>st</sup> (2017) sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN headquarters, New York.



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- ✘ Main goals of the visits were to report about students contribution to the UN gender agenda by hosting WOMCs since 2007

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# Advocating mountain targets at the UN



- ✘ UVU and the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (RANS) collaborate on SDGs related to gender equality, health, education, poverty eradication, sustainable mountain development, among others, since 2008
- ✘ RANS is an NGO in general consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2002 – one of only 136





# UN Statements



- ✘ Major statements made by RANS at the UN which highlighted UVU model of student advocacy of mountain women during the:
  - + 2017 ECOSOC Integration Segment on May 8-10, 2017:  
<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/integration/2017/RANS.pdf>;
  - + 55th Commission for Social Development (CSocD55) on 7 February 2017 (jointly with the Mountain Institute) : <http://mountain.org/wp-content/uploads/Final-TMI-RANS-MP-statement-for-CSocD55.pdf>
  - + Fourth High-Level Political Forum at ECOSOC on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on 11-15 July 2016  
<http://womenofthemountains.org/docs/2016/the-russian-academy-natural-sciences.pdf>