

## **Mr. Maher Nasser from the UN spoke about Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateralism at UVU**



Mr. Nasser from the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN/DPI) visited Utah Valley University (UVU) on Wednesday, November 28, 2018. During visit, he spoke before UVU faculty and students about why the UN matters in our everyday lives, about multilateralism, and what the UN does in the and for the world. He spoke about how the UN was established as a system of organizations, many of which are the largest in the world, including refugee programs and world hunger organizations. He described, how our everyday lives are affected, for example, through vaccinations for children, plane routes in air traffic, and weather forecasts. A main function of the UN, and what it was originally designed for, is peace and security in the world; to work together to create prosperous and harmonious relations between countries. Nowadays, globalization has become the system of the world and problems have no borders, so they are defined in the global nature.

When speaking about multilateralism, Mr. Nasser explained that we no longer live in a world where “going it alone” is a functional resolution for global problems, but that they must be dealt with international coordination and law. For example, the UN provides a coordination mechanism for when natural disasters strike, because all countries want to participate and help, but if all bring blankets, or water, or one kind of medicine, the affected country would be lacking much, so that coordination is key for effective aid. The only place for people of the world to come together to talk about global issues, such as climate change, global warming, or ocean acidity, is the United Nations. There are many other international groups, but none so inclusive as the UN. The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted through the UN by world leaders are a major positive force in the world we live in today, not only for our current lives, but our futures, and the futures of our children.

***Cassandra Klindt, UVU student***