

Mr. Maher Nasser, Director of Outreach Division, UN/DPI at UVU



Mr. Maher Nasser speaking to Utah Valley University Students

In the office of Global Engagement at Utah Valley University (UVU), sustainable development goals specifically focused towards, “The Case for Multilateralism and Why Achieving the SDGs is a Collective Responsibility!” were discussed by Mr. Maher Nasser on November 28, 2018. In the United Nations (UN) system, Mr. Maher Nasser has served for more than 29 years and has held positions in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo, Vienna and New York. This positions include, Director of the United Nations Information Service (UNIS), Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Chief of the New York Liaison Office for United Nations Relief and Works Agencies (UNRWA), the Director of Outreach Division,

Chairman of the Publications Board, and various others in non-governmental organizations and for the UNRWA system.

As Director of Outreach Division in the Department of Public Information, Mr. Maher Nasser expressed main concern about impact of climate change on achieving progress on the SDGs. He shared how these two issues cannot be addressed by any one country or organization alone and how all countries need to work together in order for any change to be impactful to the world. Mr. Maher shared thoughts on how climate change isn't just global warming; it includes super storms, melting ice caps at the poles, and rising sea-levels. These changes will have an impact on all large cities on the coasts as well as farms and food production.

While looking for new plans and actions on how to slow climate change, Mr. Maher Nasser briefly discussed how some crises in the past have been approached, for example, fighting against terrorists to strike, the Ebola crisis in Africa, and human rights in developing countries. He expressed the importance of every country working together, NGOs helping more countries in sustainability and students participating through involvement to strengthen the UN as a global forum for addressing global challenges.

The mission of the Outreach Division is to target the public to encourage support for the ideals and activities of the United Nations, also to increase participation and support of students, professors, civil society and entertainment industries in becoming involved in the work of the United Nations.

Laila Mitchell, UVU student.