

Mr. Maher Nasser from UN DPI lectures about multiculturalism at UVU



Mr. Maher Nasser speaks at Utah Valley University

On November 28, 2018, Utah Valley University had the privilege of hosting Mr. Maher Nasser for a lecture on “The Case for Multilateralism and Why Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a Collective Responsibility!”. Mr. Nasser is the Director of the Outreach Division in the United Nations Department of Public Information, and has held many other positions throughout his career. During his lecture he spoke on SDGs and the agenda for sustainable development, as well as their goals and what we can do to achieve them.

Mr. Nasser stated many times throughout his lecture the importance of protecting human rights and that they should not be attacked by terrorism. He mentioned many groups and organizations that are working to help those where their rights are currently being threatened. One example is the World Food Program and how they feed 80 million people a year. Another example is UNICEF and their efforts to provide vaccines to children. The United Nations intervention to stop famines as well as any other disasters that are happening in the world.

Mr. Nasser then spent time describing the Sustainable Development Goals and their three pillars and how are they working on developing human rights. The three pillars are Economic, Environmental, and Social. Or, more informally, they are spoken of as Profits, Planet, and People. Economically he said that it is important to provide help and assistance to countries in need, especially after disasters. 25 billion dollars in funds were donated for disaster relief. Environmentally, climate change is caused by human action- storms are going to be more frequent, sea levels will rise, and the coasts will be in danger. The ocean acidity is increasing because of too much Carbon Dioxide, and 25% of the coral reef is dying which in turn affects many aspects of the ocean. Finally social: many people's basic human rights are being infringed upon and it is our job to defend these.

Mr. Nasser concluded his lecture by advocating for the United Nations and stating that they are the only way to come together and protect all states- big or small. He stated that it is our future as young people at stake and we are responsible to bring awareness to others as well as promote action. We need to engage with civil society and inform them of the issues and what we can do to overcome them.

Paige Graves, UVU student