



11 December

International MOUNTAIN DAY

December 11, 2019 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM
Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters



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

SMD Advocacy through a Student Engaged Learning Model at Utah Valley University

Samuel Elzinga, President, Utah International Mountain Forum



About Utah Valley University

- ▶ Utah Valley University is the largest University in the state of Utah
 - ▶ Over 42,000 students enrolled
 - ▶ Dual mission university - trade and university courses
 - ▶ Average family income of students is roughly \$30,000





Utah Valley University Empowering Youth Through:

Institutional Policies

- Emergency scholarships for those unable to pay rent;
- Appropriated scholarships for first generation students

Academic Programs

- New certificate in Sustainable Development under development;
- Student Engaged Learning



What is Student Engaged Learning (SEL)?



1) Students are given a problem to solve;



2) students work together as a group to learn how to solve the problem;



3) faculty serve them as mentors, and



4) students are responsible for their own learning during the process of problem solving.



UIMF as a core of the SEL co-curricular model for SMD advocacy



Jesler Molina, UIMF President speaks at Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals on December 11, 2013



Utah Valley University Chapter

UIMF is a UVU chapter of the UNA-USA



Utah International Mountain Forum is a coalition of student clubs such as Foreign Affairs club, Sustainable Mountain Development club, Model UN club, Rotaract, etc. UIMF was created in 2011. Website:



UIMF advocated for the adoption of mountain targets during 2013-2015.

UIMF advocates now for the implementation of mountain targets a local, national and UN levels



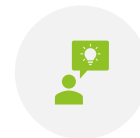
Michael Hinatsu, President, Foreign Affairs club

Lacey Meyer, President, Sustainable Mountain Development club

Kyle Warren, President, Rotaract

Andrew Jensen, President, Model UN Club

Advisors: Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, Dr. Rusty Butler, and Dr. Sara Ulloa




The model inclusively involves in SMD advocacy UVU students, especially non-traditional learners, who usually work full or part time, support families, and range from 25 to 75 years of age



UIMF at United Nations:

- ▶ Open Working Groups on Sustainable Development Goals (2013-2015)
- ▶ 52nd session of the Commission on Social Development, 2018
- ▶ 62nd session of the Commission on Status of Women, 2018
- ▶ High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 2018
- ▶ 63rd session of the Commission on Status of Women, 2019
- ▶ 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference, 2019
- ▶ UN Secretary General's Reports on Sustainable Mountain Development 2016, 2019

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:³


- (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.

3 "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.

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United Nations A/74/209

 **General Assembly** Distr.: General
22 July 2019
Original: English

Seventy-fourth session
Item 19 (l) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development



Sustainable mountain development
Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Covering 27 per cent of the world's surface, mountains are key ecosystems that provide humanity with essential goods and services such as water, food, biodiversity and energy. However, mountain ecosystems are vulnerable to natural disasters, climate-related events and unsustainable resource use. Mountains are home to about 1.1 billion people who are among the world's poorest; half of rural mountain dwellers face food insecurity. Access to services and infrastructure is lower in the highlands than in other areas. Mountain communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards because of their high dependence on agriculture (encompassing crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry) as their primary source of livelihood. Alone or in combination, these factors make living in mountain areas increasingly difficult and they are often adverse drivers that compel people to migrate. Identifying new and sustainable livelihood opportunities and adopting practices that build the resilience of people and environments in mountain areas is an urgent requirement for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The present report includes some recommendations on actions to accelerate progress towards sustainable mountain development.

42. The Utah International Mountain Forum helped to raise global awareness of issues affecting mountain women at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in March 2018. Also at that session, the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, the Mountain Institute and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce, all Mountain Partnership members, submitted a joint statement.

* A/74/150.

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Recommendations for Mountain Women Advocacy at CSW64:

- ▶ UIMF Will Do the Following at CSW64:
 - ▶ 1) request to include mountain women and girls in the final document of CSW 64 through stakeholder written requests
 - ▶ 2) host a parallel event at CSW 64 (pending approval)
 - ▶ 3) Make an oral statement and intervention from the floor
- ▶ **UIMF Will Ask Mountain Nations to:**
 - ▶ 1) Include language about mountain women and girls in the outcome document of CSW 64
 - ▶ 2) Urge members in VNRs to report on mountain women and girls
 - ▶ 3) Include UIMF in your side events



International Mountain Day 2019

Thank you very much for your attention

