



International Mountain Day Observation at Utah Valley University  
December 6, 2022

# Gender and SMD Advocacy through Education in the State of Utah and at the United Nations

Dr. Rusty Butler, Main Representative to the United Nations,  
Russian Academy of Natural Sciences,  
An NGO on General Consultative Status with ECOSOC

# SEL Model

- ▶ Since 2011, an inclusive, co-curricular, student-engaged learning (SEL) model at Utah Valley University encourages both non-traditional and traditional students to work as a group to advocate for mountain regions with faculty serving as mentors.
- ▶ Non-traditional students are usually over 25 years of age, balancing their education with work and family responsibilities.
- ▶ Many are women and mothers who contribute experiences based on their knowledge as local representatives of mountain communities.



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

- ▶ Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs was created at UVU to advocate for SMD in the State of Utah and elsewhere.
  - ▶ [www.uvu.edu/utahimf/](http://www.uvu.edu/utahimf/);

# SEL Model

- ▶ The Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University, serves as an extracurricular core of this model.
- ▶ Foreign Affairs, Sustainable Mountain Development, Model United Nations, and Rotaract are leading clubs within the coalition.
- ▶ The curricular part of the model encourages students to participate in club activities and build professional connections between students and mentors.



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- ▶ Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs was created at UVU to advocate for SMD in the State of Utah and elsewhere.
- ▶ [Utah International Mountain Forum Blog](#) | [Utah International Mountain Forum](#) | [Utah Valley University \(uvu.edu\)](#)

# The Mountain Partnership

- Through the model, students contribute their own skills, experiences, initiatives/projects, and funds to implement sustainable mountain development while gaining professional skills and recognition from the Mountain Partnership under the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- The Mountain Partnership coordinates Sustainable Mountain Development activities globally through more than 450 members, including Utah Valley University and RANS.



[Mountain Partnership: Home \(fao.org\)](http://fao.org)

# Advocating for Adoption on Mountain Targets among SDGs

- ▶ Through the model, from 2012 to 2022, student coalition members have advocated for adopting and implementing as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
  - ▶ 1) Target 6.6,
  - ▶ 2) Target 15.1, and
  - ▶ 3) Target 15.4
- ▶ to ensure sustainable development for mountain communities within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development .



- ▶ UIMF President Jesler Molina advocated for inclusion of three mountain targets among SDGs during the session of the United Nations Open Working Group on SDGs in New York during December 11, 2013

# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

- ▶ As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



Current President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations, His Excellency Csaba Korösi on 2 April 2012;



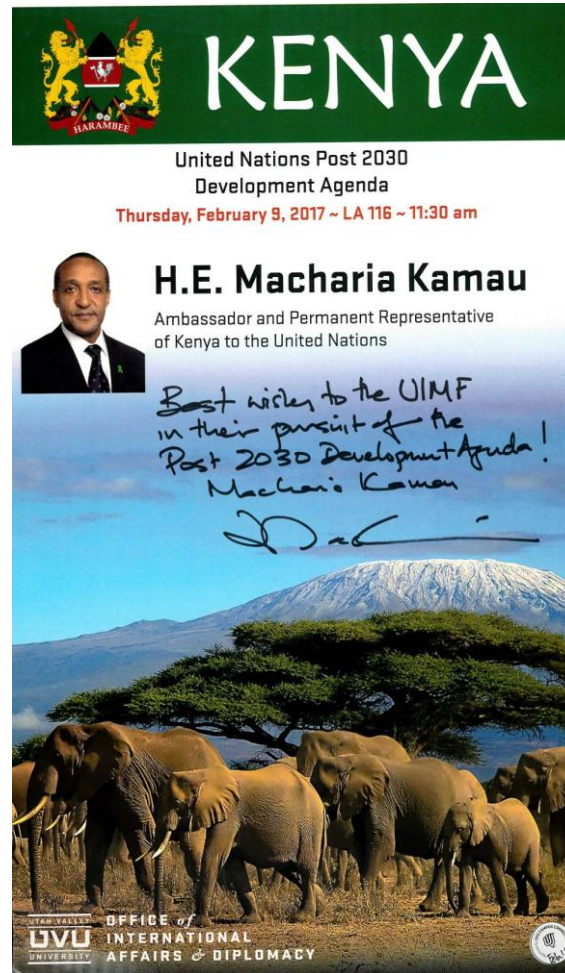
President of the Economic and Social Council, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, His Excellency, Martin Sajdik on 12 February 2015;

# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

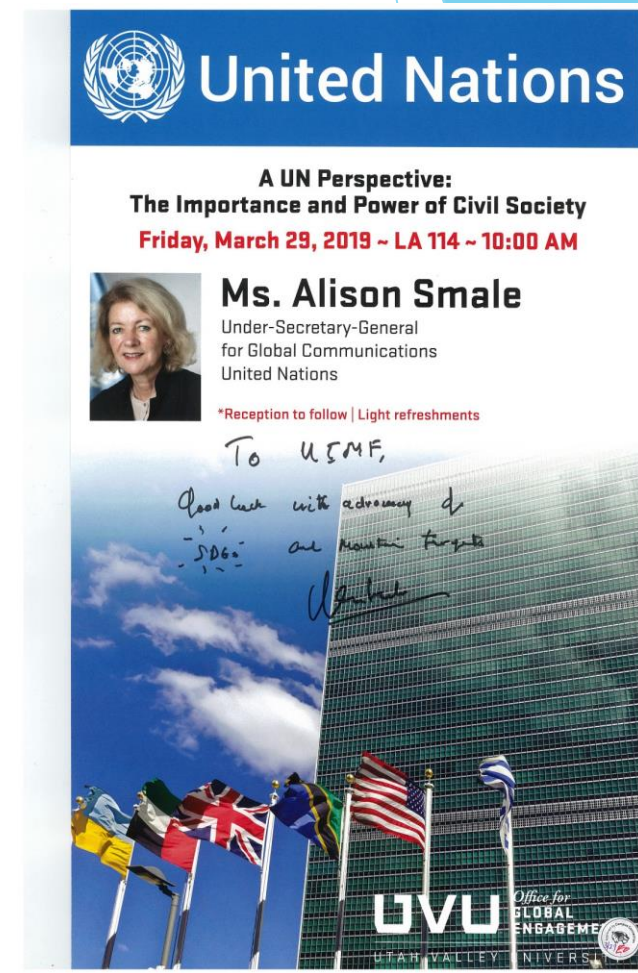
- ▶ As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations, His Excellency Peter Thomson on 7 December 2015;



Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, His Excellency, Macharia Kamau on 9 February 2017, and;



Under Secretary General for Global Communications, United Nations, Ms. Alison Smale on 29 March 2019.

# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

- ▶ As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



Permanent Representatives of Romania to the United Nations, Her Excellency Simona Mirela Miculescu on 26 March 2012;



Permanent Representatives of India to the United Nations, His Excellency Hardeep Singh Puri on 15 February 2013;



Permanent Representatives of Macedonia to the United Nations, His Excellency, Pajo Avirovikj on 18 March 2013;



# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

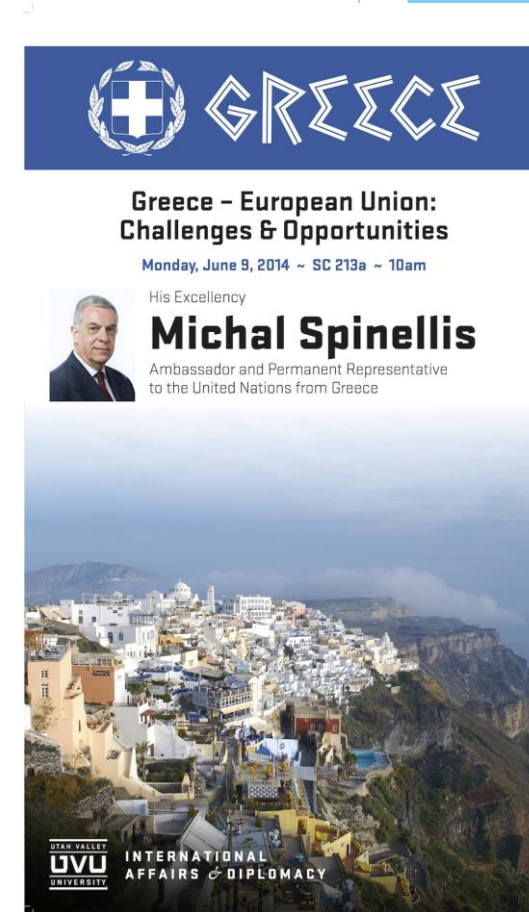
- ▶ As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



Permanent Representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, His Excellency, Talaibek Kydyrov on 22 March 2013;



Permanent Representatives of Switzerland to the United Nations, His Excellency, Paul Seger on 25 March, 2013;



Permanent Representatives of Greece to the United Nations, His Excellency, Michel Spinellis on 9 June 2014;

# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

- ▶ As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



Permanent Representatives of Romania to the United Nations, His Excellency, Dr. Ion Jinga on 7 October 2015;



Permanent Representatives of Georgia to the United Nations, His Excellency, Kaha Imnadze on 15 September 2016;

# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



Permanent Representatives of Germany to the United Nations, His Excellency, Harald Braun on 31 October 2016;



Permanent Representatives of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, His Excellency, Bakhtiyor Ibragimov on 5 February 2018;

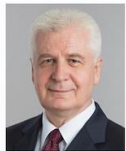
# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

- ▶ As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



## Bosnia and Herzegovina at the UN

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 ~ LA 116 ~ 10:00 AM



### Mr. Milos Vukasinovic

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations

*Best wishes to the UIMF members in empowering mountain women and in park codes, during our joint side event at the CSW62*

*Milos Vukasinovic*



Permanent Representatives of Bosnia & Herzegovina to the United Nations, His Excellency, Milos Vukasinovic on 6 March 2018



## Tajikistan and the Sustainable Development Goals

Friday, October 5, 2018 ~ LA 116 ~ 11:00 AM

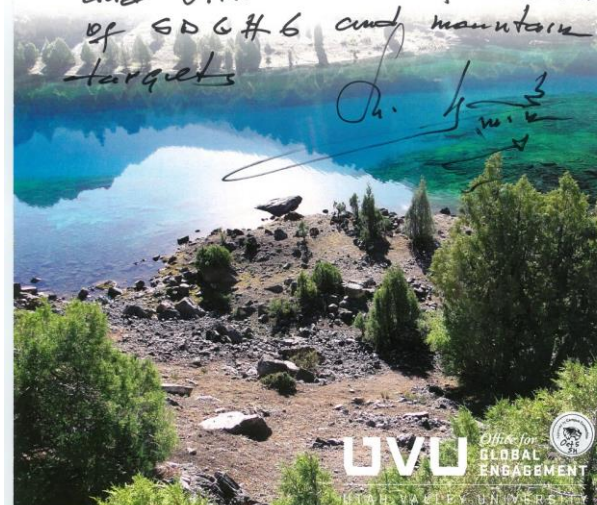


### H.E. Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations

*Looking forward to continue working with Sam Elzinga and UIMF on the implementation of SDG #6 and maintain targets*

*Jan Kickert*



Permanent Representatives of Tajikistan to the United Nations, His Excellency, Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov on 5 October 2018;



## What foreign policy for a small country? The Case of Austria

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 ~ SC 213B ~ 2:30 PM

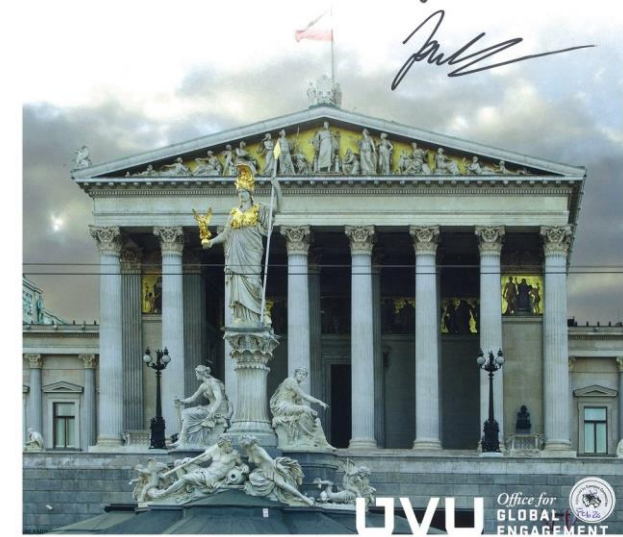


### H.E. Jan Kickert

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

*To UIMF,  
Best wishes on advocacy mountain targets!*

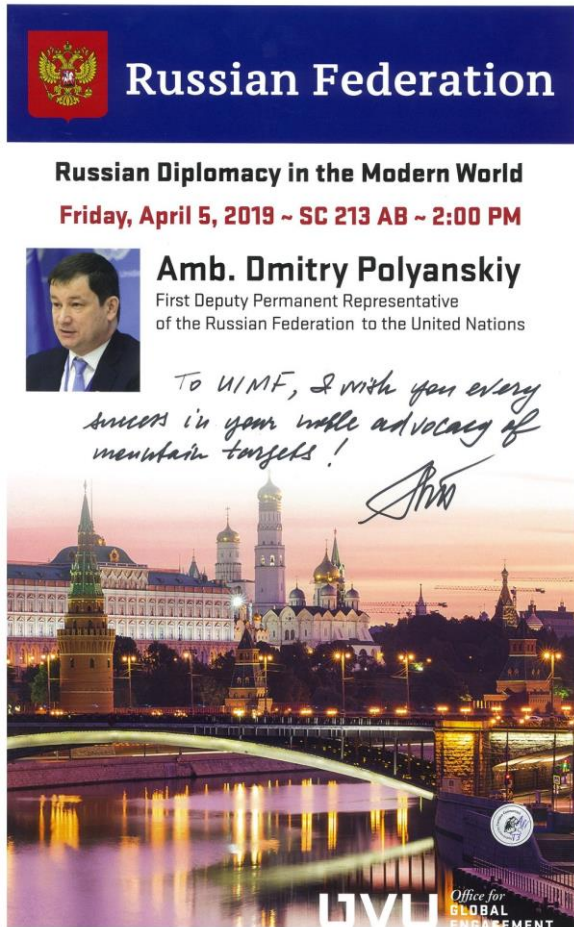
*Jan Kickert*



Permanent Representatives of Austria to the United Nations, His Excellency, Jan Kickert on 19 February 2019,

# Advocating SMD by Hosting Foreign Dignitaries through SEL

- ▶ As advocacy efforts, during 2012-2022, they have hosted through the SEL model at Utah Valley University:



**Russian Federation**

**Russian Diplomacy in the Modern World**  
Friday, April 5, 2019 ~ SC 213 AB ~ 2:00 PM

**Amb. Dmitry Polyanskiy**  
First Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

*To UMF, I wish you every success in your noble advocacy of maintain targets!*

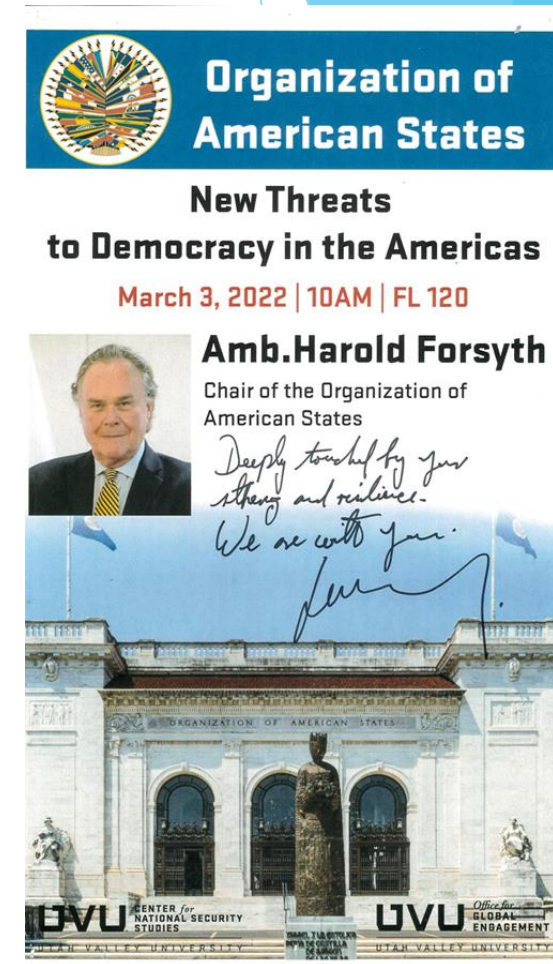
**Office for GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

The poster features the Russian coat of arms, a portrait of Amb. Dmitry Polyanskiy, a handwritten note, and a night view of the Moscow Kremlin.

Permanent Representatives of Russian Federation to the United Nations, His Excellency, Dmitry Polyanskiy on 5 April 2019.



Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States, His Excellency Muktar Djumaliev, on 3 June 2013



**Organization of American States**

**New Threats to Democracy in the Americas**  
March 3, 2022 | 10AM | FL 120

**Amb. Harold Forsyth**  
Chair of the Organization of American States

*Deeply touched by your strength and resilience. We are with you.*

**Office for GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

The poster includes the OAS logo, a portrait of Amb. Harold Forsyth, a handwritten note, and a photograph of the OAS building in Washington, D.C.

Permanent Representative of Peru to the Organization of American States, His Excellency, Harold Forsyth on 3 March 2022.

# Women of the Mountains conferences at UVU

- Women of the Mountains conferences are:
- 1) UVU's major initiatives to contribute to the SMD advocacy in North America from 2007 to 2015;
- 2) Major forums to promote gender and SMD under MP in North America.
- 3) Regional initiative to promote SMD by MP members in North America
- 4) Held four times and brought international guests to the conference and recognition for UVU and UIMF at UN level.
- 5) Forums to continue traditions of the "Celebrating Mountain Women" conference hosted in Bhutan during International Year of Mountains in 2002.



# Women of the Mountains - 2007 Conference



- ▶ Conference hosted more than 120 participants from all over the world.
- ▶ UVU was featured for the first time in the UN Secretary General's report on Sustainable Mountain Development A/62/292 from 23 August 2007, the only academic institution from North America for hosting the conference as a forum for improving mountain women's status globally.
- ▶ The Secretary General's Report on Sustainable Mountain Development A/64/222 from 3 August 2009, highlighted its role to establish a regional network on sustainable mountain development and gender issues.

United Nations

A/62/292



General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 August 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session  
Item 56 (h) of the provisional agenda\*  
Sustainable development

**Sustainable mountain development\*\***

**Report of the Secretary-General**

#### Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 60/198, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-second session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions. The report describes the status of sustainable mountain development at the national, regional and international levels, including an overall analysis of the challenges ahead, and provides suggestions for consideration by the Assembly as to how to continue to promote effectively sustainable development in mountain regions around the world within the existing policy context, including chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.

#### C. Gender

40. The Women of the Mountains Conference, held in Orem, Utah, United States, in March 2007, organized by Utah State University and the Utah-Russia Institute, built on this momentum and emphasized practical steps to ensure an improvement of women's status in mountain communities around the world. The adopted Orem Declaration of Mountain Women, underlines, inter alia, the need for collaboration with Brigham Young University (United States) in the collection and compilation of data on women in mountainous areas, through further development of the WomanStats database, which will allow for improved analysis and understanding of the condition of women in mountains around the world and the development of interventions tailored to their specific needs.

\* A/62/150.

\*\* Submission of the report was delayed to incorporate latest information on activities in support of sustainable mountain development.





# Women of the Mountains: 2007 Outcome

In the 2007 conference of Women of the Mountains, the Orem Declaration was adopted, affirming that:

1. Women play a crucial role in achieving sustainable mountain development worldwide.
2. The best practices and indigenous knowledge of women in sustainable mountain development needs to be encouraged and documented.
3. Economic justice needs to be promoted for empowerment of mountain women.
4. Women in mountain regions will not achieve sustainable and equitable development unless local and national governments create mechanisms to reduce the isolation and the impoverishment of rural women.
5. It is recognized that mountain women play a key role in forest and environmental conservation.
6. Policies should promote mountain women's increased access to services.
7. Discriminatory traditions and cultural practices experienced by mountain women should be abolished.
8. It is critical for the improvement of mountain societies that women participate in decision-making processes and play a leadership role.
9. The unique contribution of mountain women as mothers who face particular challenges needs to be acknowledged.
10. Greater attention should be paid to the development of female youth.
11. We recognize that in order to promote a peaceful and prosperous society, men and women need to cooperate one with another in mutual respect and on equal terms.
12. Networking and creation of alliances among mountain women needs to be encouraged.

United Nations

A/62/292



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UVU was highlighted again for promoting gender through a regional network in North America in the United Nations Secretary General's Report on SMD in 2009





# Women of the Mountains - 2011

- Goals of the conference included:
- To continue the coordinated efforts begun at the first Women of the Mountains International Conference (Orem, 2007), as expressed in the Orem Declaration of Mountain Women;
- To share knowledge about the global status of mountain women, with a strong focus on women in leadership roles around the world working to advance sustainable development in various sectors of activity;
- To mobilize the Rocky Mountain members of the Mountain Partnership and grass-roots level entities, including high-schools and universities to work together toward specific goals to improve the status of women and increase opportunities for leadership;
- To provide recommendations for the Mountain Partnership and Mountain Forum members around the world regarding actions to improve the status of women and to increase opportunities for leadership over the next two years.
- To encourage the next generation to support gender issues and sustainable mountain development (high-school and college students throughout state of Utah participated in all stages of this Conference).

# WOMC 2011 Outcomes

- ➔ Gathered more than 100 participants from 20 mountain countries and international organizations, including the UN;
- ➔ Continued WOMC 2007 efforts to create a North American network of institutions to advocate for SMD.
- ➔ For the first time was hosted through student engaged learning by creating a students organizing committee comprised from 65 UVU students.
- ➔ *Sustainable Mountain Development in North America: Regional Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in January 2012* highlighted the forum as strengthening the regional approach for advancing Sustainable Mountain Development and gender agendas.



# Women of the Mountains - 2012



- ➔ Women of the Mountains was held for the first time as a student engaged learning outside of the United States in Puno, Peru during June 12-14, 2012.
  - ➔ The conference:
- ➔ Discussed pressing issues concerning mountain communities in the Andean regions of Peru and surrounding countries;
- ➔ Strengthened regional alliances to promote gender issues;

The Secretary General's Report on Sustainable Mountain Development A/68/307 on 5 August 2013, highlighted academic institutions from Utah and the Kyrgyz Republic for gathering gender forum with a focus on mountain communities in the Andean region.



UVU was highlighted for promoting gender in the United Nations Secretary General's Report on SMD in 2013. It was again the only university from North America featured in this UN document

# Women of the Mountains - 2015



- ▶ WOMC for the first time was hosted as a SEL at UVU in October 2015.
- ▶ UIMF members made its preparations during four semesters and then hosted it at UVU campus.
- ▶ The organizing committee included 79 students from UVU, UofU, and BYU.

WOMC gathered more than 100 participants, UN officials, diplomats and experts on gender issues.

The Secretary General's Report on Sustainable Mountain Development A/71/256 on 29 July 2016 featured the UIMF as a host of the conference.

It highlighted the outcome document of the conference observing that:

- 1) Sustainable Development Goal 5 could be achieved by providing women full participation and equal leadership opportunities;
- 2) Implementation of Target 6.6 could be obtained by supporting women's role in the protection of the environment and water sources, and
- 3) Target 15.1 could be accomplished through the critical role of women in promoting innovation and development.



**UIMF was highlighted for the first time for promoting gender in the United Nations Secretary General's Report on SMD in 2016, the only student club coalition globally**

# Advocacy for Women of the Mountains at the United Nations

- ▶ Since 2016, UVU and RANS involved students through the SEL model at different forums of the Economic and Social Council on Sustainable Development.
- ▶ Through participation in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, they both advocated for mountain women, and reported on the results of the hosted four International Women of the Mountain conferences.



UIMF delegation with members of UVU's Office of Global Engagement outside UN Headquarters, March 2019

# CONCLUSION:

Since 2006 UVU and UIMF contributed important initiatives which advocated for Gender within SMD in the State of Utah and at the UN:

1. Hosted regularly the international Women of the Mountains conferences, which became a major regional forums in this hemisphere to advocate for gender as part of SMD agenda;
2. Since 2011, advocated for gender and SMD mainly through an inclusive student engaged learning model.
3. Advocated for mountain targets adoption and implementation since 2013;
4. Annually observed the International Mountain Days declared by UN on December 11 to promote SMD in the State of Utah and elsewhere.

As a recognition of UVU and UIMF gender and SMD activities, United Nations Secretary General's Reports on SMD highlighted them 6 times since 2007, the only academic institution in the North America.