

Attending Side Events at CSW67 Helped Me Hone Collaboration Techniques



The picture features Panelists at the CSW67 Side Event: The Role of Parliaments in Advancing Gender Equality Through Technology

As a student interested in civic education, I was ecstatic to attend the side event featuring the role of parliaments in advancing gender equality. While I do not reside in a country that has a parliament, through work and classes at Utah Valley University (UVU) I have studied constitutional documents and the operations of legislative bodies

and was excited to learn from leaders representing their legislative systems across the globe.

Inter-Parliamentary Union President Pacheco gave opening remarks at this side event, which took place on March 7th, 2023. During his remarks, I paraphrased a few of his comments in my notes: “We are parliamentarians. [We have] the courage to be in politics to defend the people...Everyone should be free to pursue a career in politics. It is the first time in history at least 1 woman is represented in every parliament.”



Rachel Welker, UIMF Delegate Member Attending Side Event: The Role of Parliaments in Advancing Gender Equality through Technology

As part of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU I have learned about and advocated for women in mountain communities. Hearing that women were being heard at every parliament across the globe is an exciting statistic. My speech at our parallel event the day before had been about civic engagement. I relate to the statement that we all should be free to engage in politics, whether as lay citizens or as part of our careers.



Tristin Juarez-Smith, Alitha Thompson, Samantha Davis, Mckay Brooks, and Nikki Smith, members of the UIMF, collaborating on work for the Wednesday Side Event

Parliamentary procedure was used for the duration of the side event: The Role of Parliaments in Advancing Gender Equality Through Technology, to allow panelists to give their reports and nation-state representatives' interventions. The order and expectations set at this event would be used as a model as I helped prepare for other events. Working as a team, the UIMF delegation divided up tasks to complete last-minute changes to the following day's side event script.



Rachel Welker, Samantha Davis, and McKay Brooks utilizing social media to post about their work day at the United Nations, helping with a Side Event

Students worked most of the afternoon and late into the evening on side event final touches. One of the challenges in coordinating across multiple departments is incorporating all ideas into one cohesive product. Preparing for the side event required perseverance and diligence. Where one teammate (delegation member) stopped, the others picked up. I helped with the 11:00 pm editing shift. The professor who serves as a mentor for the UIMF at UVU was instrumental in helping us, students, fine-tune our editing efforts. The preparations helped shape the flow of the event, which contributed to its success.

Rachel Welker, UIMF Delegation Member