

## My Day 2 at CSW 67 on Tuesday, March 7, 2023

### Overview:

On March 7th, Utah Valley University (UVU) Rotaractors traveled to the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women to observe the events of the day. Rotaract is a student club that works with Rotary International to provide students service opportunities in their community. Rotaract gives opportunities to students to be involved in different activities through the Student Engaged Learning (SEL) model. SEL places focus on providing students hands-on experience in their field of study, and makes my education feel more practical since I can see how I may apply it after graduating.



6 students stop for breakfast before heading to CSW 67

Our second day attending CSW 67 started relatively cold. Despite the weather, we were still raring to go. The second part of our group not pictured above was running a bit later than expected so our group went ahead and entered UN headquarters.



**A relatively empty line early in the morning**

Thanks to our early arrival, we were able to easily move through the line that allowed us to obtain tickets to the general assembly hall. The hall was hosting the Ministerial Roundtable, where different country representatives would give a short address on the topic given. Since that first roundtable was at 10:00am we could attend another event first.

The first event I attended on this day was called “Rewiring the Network: Digital Education for Girls and Women's Empowerment.” This event ran from 8:15 AM-9:30 AM. The event was headed by Eugenia Rocella, the Minister of Family from Italy and Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková, the Czech Commissioner for Human Rights. The event discussed the importance of the internet and student engagement in empowering girls to go further in education. A more detailed recount of this event can be found below in the events section.



**Students attending the first side event of the day**

Following this side event, a number of us had the pleasure of meeting the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, Dame Barbara Woodward. She took quite an interest in the student delegation and was pleased to meet a delegation dedicated to empowering mountain women.



**Students meeting the Permanent Representative of the UK to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward**

A few of us also had the pleasure of meeting Zhu Jiani, member of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, who provided an intervention that detailed

some of China's efforts to empower women and girls, specifically rural women and girls through the use of technology.



**Chance Simons and Tristin Smith meet Zhu Jiani**

We then headed to the Ministerial Roundtable. The event was headed by Lindiwe Zulu, the Minister of Development from South Africa. The roundtable ran from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. The topic of discussion in this event was the gap in digital skills between men and women and the way it leads to greater inequality. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) was the most mentioned subject during this discussion. A more in-depth record of each country's address can be found in the events section.



**Students attend the Ministerial Roundtable**

Following the roundtable, I attended another side event with a few other members of the delegation. Running from 1:15 PM-2:30 PM this side event was called Small Islands, Smart Tech: Empowering Women and Girls In the Digital Age. The event hosted people from several Pacific island nations, including Tuvalu, Fiji, Micronesia, and Papua New Guinea. These panelists each spoke on challenges facing each of their island nations. More information can be found in the events section. Once the side event concluded, our group had the great opportunity to meet the Tuvalu Minister of Health Isaia Taape.



**Students meet Isaia Taape, Tuvaluan Minister of Health**

After the islander's side event, some of us had the time to attend the second Ministerial Roundtable event of the day that ran from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM. This roundtable was focused on group practices for empowering women and girls while considering the importance of technology usage in promoting education. I was unable to attend the entire event as we then had to prepare for our side event the next day, but the time we had was still very informative.

The rest of the day was spent preparing for the side event tomorrow at 10:00 AM-11:15 AM hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic and the Mountain Partnership called Advocating for Mountain Women and Girls' Education Through Student-Engaged Learning. This was a very productive day where many of the members of our delegation had the incredible opportunity to

meet representatives of different countries around the world. The subjects learned and the connections made today are simply invaluable, I am so grateful to have had this chance to attend CSW 67. The next few pages will detail the events attended today.

***Chance Simons, Rotaract Delegation Member at CSW67***



## **Events:**

### **Rewiring The Network: Digital Education and Skills For Girls' and Women's Empowerment**

Rewiring The Network: Digital Education and Skills For Girls' and Women's Empowerment is a side event that took place at CSW 67 on March 7th from 8:15 AM-9:30 AM. The event was headlined by Eugenia Rocella, Italian Minister of Family and Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková, the Czech Commissioner for Human Rights.

Eugenia Rocella began by identifying the ways in which technology can enhance motherhood. The usage of technology can help mothers stay organized and on top of important tasks to take care of for their newborn children. Eugenia Rocella proudly proclaimed that Italy also sees women participating in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) at 5% higher than the United Nations average.

Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková, the Czech Commissioner for Human Rights, said that Covid-19 led to a greater gap in women's education access. While many people were able to switch to online education, women and girls saw less access to technology and fell behind at a greater rate than men and boys. Her work as Commissioner for Human Rights has led her to put a special focus on increasing internet access for women and girls.

Tara Chklovski, an entrepreneur and CEO of her own tech company, said it is time for a higher bar in women's education. It is time to bring the most cutting edge tech to women and encourage them to go further beyond general education. It is important to make education fun and engaging. Simply providing access will not fix everything because people, especially children, cannot be expected to interact with everything handed to them.

Dame Woodward also attended the event. Barbara Woodward is the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations. She said the ability to realize potential is the key to an effective government. The United Kingdom used G7 connections to get 40 million girls to school and 20 million more reading regularly. It is imperative to have comprehensive but also contextualized policy.

## **General Assembly Hall CSW Ministerial Roundtable March 7, 2023 Session 1**

The first Ministerial Roundtable of the day was headed by Lindiwe Zulu, the Minister of Development from South Africa. The roundtable ran from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. The topic of discussion in this event was the gap in digital skills between men and women and the way it leads to greater inequality. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) was the most mentioned subject during this discussion. A key point of each country's address will be listed below:

- Slovenia: State intervention without belief of the people is fragile
- Serbia: Recognize the digital gender gap as the new face of gender inequality.
- Lichtenstein: Gender gaps are rooted in gender stereotypes. Working to increase involvement in STEM fields will promote collaboration and break down barriers.
- France: There is a lack of training women in technical fields today. France is working to achieve gender parity by 2027.
- Morocco: Morocco is working to build opportunities that do not have preconditions on gender.
- Luxembourg: Only 16% of women are in information technology careers. Fight stereotypes and their reproduction.
- Ireland: Advocated for increased access to reproductive education.
- United Kingdom: 259 million more men than women are online, while 89% of women report that they have faced discrimination online. Only when the digital age reaches equality can we reach the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Italy: New technology can eliminate stereotypes. European Union initiatives focus on digitization and innovation.
- Austria: Austrian artificial intelligence represents opportunities to promote women in STEM fields.



- Armenia: Work on employment promotion models that help women learn digital marketing.
- The Gambia: Advancements gave the Ministry of Economy a better idea of women's standing in the economy and technology has helped develop new programs.
- Sierra Leone: It is imperative to ensure that girls have higher retention rates in schools.
- Palestine: There have been great strides in the involvement of girls in education. 90% of girls participate in primary education.
- Rwanda: Implemented 2019 "Innovate For Women" initiative and many coding programs were launched.
- Indonesia: Strengthen commitments to integrate the regulations on development online.
- Zimbabwe: The national development strategy prioritized ICT systems and focuses on access for women and girls.
- Nepal: Women often use the digital marketplace as entrepreneurs. Nepal requests more international assistance to help build out infrastructure.
- Zambia: Gender based ICT strategies provide protections for women and girls.

The session concluded with an address from Katherine Russel from UNICEF. She said Women and girls are in a position to thrive so long as they can break into digital spaces. UNICEF is working with indigenous women in places like rural Vietnam to promote tech based solutions. The UNICEF-built period tracking app is widely available and has already helped many women and girls around the world.

## **Small Islands, Smart Tech: Empowering Women and Girls In the Digital Age**

This is a recounting of a side event that took place during CSW 67 called Small Islands, Smart Tech: Women and Girls In the Digital Age. It ran from 1:15-2:30 PM on Tuesday, March 7th. The panel was made up of pacific islanders from Tuvalu, Fiji, Micronesia, and Papua New Guinea. Each speaker spoke on technology improving the lives of women across these islands.

The first speaker was Isaia Taape, Minister of Health from Tuvalu. He said Tuvalu will soon have internet access across all reaches of the 8 islands. One of his focuses lately has been increasing the access of telehealth services across the nation. These services have helped many Tuvaluans access services in places that usually don't have access to highly-trained doctors. Tuvalu has also been able to make efforts to preserve language and history through technology.

The second speaker was from Fiji. She made a point that many of the spaces women occupy are not designed to be accommodating for them. She works to create spaces where women and girls can trust that they will be accommodated and listened to. Her efforts ensure that resources are made available to those who are victimized.

Two younger girls presented the ways that technology has benefited women in Micronesia. Being a small island nation often comes with a feeling of isolation and vulnerability. The internet has helped islands connect to the rest of the world and receive resources and assistance that would not have been available otherwise. Women entrepreneurs have been able to use mobile payment systems to make money. These transfers have allowed more capital to flow into smaller and more isolated villages.

Lastly, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls from Fiji spoke on women finding leadership positions through sharing traditional knowledge on disaster management. The government is often informed by women on safety. These systems have helped women create networks to support each other financially and emotionally.

***Chance Simons, Rotaract Delegation Member at CSW67***