

Statement

Almaz Atabekov and Tatiana Panfilenko

Osh Technological University

68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Side event

"Advocating for Mountain Women and Girls' Education through Student-Engaged Learning"

March 14, 2024

Hello everyone. It is a great honor for us to take part in this side event advocating for mountain women and girls through education. As representatives of Osh Technological University, located in the city of Osh, the Kyrgyz Republic, we would like to add our voices in support of this noble cause. Since 2012, we jointly advocate for the sustainable development of mountain communities with Utah Valley University.

Since the fall of 2021, our faculty and students jointly with UVU advocated for mountain families, women, and girls through the student-engaged learning educational initiative. This model encourages students to work together as one team to resolve a certain practical issue and the faculty assists them through mentorship. In our case, we focus our students' efforts on the promotion of sustainability for our local mountain communities. Due to this, such a student-centric approach makes them directly involved with the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

UVU has used the SEL model since 2011 and now we are using it at our own Osh Technological University. We implement the SEL model together with the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU, and its mentor, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev. We are glad that we will work further together also with Rotarians and Rotaractors from Bishkek. Together, we will be able to highlight the complex problems facing mountain communities.

This has been a great program where the interaction of our two cultures allows students and faculty to see different perspectives on the challenges in the lives of mountain women. With new knowledge and skills gained through this joint effort, we can empower first ourselves and then our local communities. This will be our contribution to the Five five-year Action for Sustainable Development of Mountain regions and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.