Sustainable Development Goals, Women and Non-traditional Students

ALITHA THOMPSON

United Nations Sustainable Development
Goals Class
Utah Valley University
April 12, 2024

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL





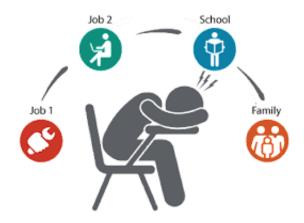
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES ARE RISING, BUT THE PACE IS SLOW AND UNEVEN COMPLETION RATES COMPLETION RATES FACE S100 AN FINAN TO RE EDUCAT

LOW- AND LOWER-MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES FACE A NEARLY S100 BILLION ANNUAL FINANCING GAP TO REACH THEIR EDUCATION TARGETS

SDG Goal 4

Target 4.7

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development



Non-Traditional Student

Usually older than 25 and balance their education with family and/or career responsibilities.

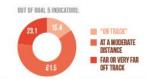
Reluctant to be involved in extracurricular activities

Have unique strengths, diverse experiences, maturity which they apply to their learning and teach their traditional-student peers.



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND **EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**

THE WORLD IS NOT ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE **GENDER EQUALITY** BY 2030



AT THE CURRENT RATE, IT WILL TAKE







LEGISLATED GENDER QUOTAS ARE **EFFECTIVE** TO ACHIEVE **EQUALITY IN POLITICS**

OMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT







30.9%



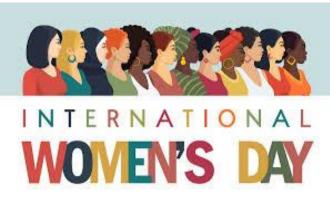


SDG Goal 5

Target 5.1

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

"Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world."



Utah and Elsewhere

In Rural Utah, young marriages and single parents are common.

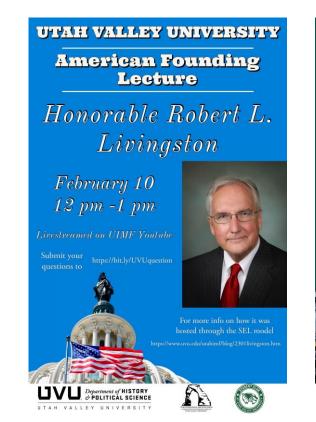
In 2005, in a graduating class of 82. 1 girl was married at 14, 4 at 16 and over 15 by 19.

Patriarchal society

Outsiders are often not accepted into the community and don't have a voice in community policies/affairs

Teaching Utah Model of Sustainability

As a non-traditional student, I helped teach other students how to organize and host dignitaries. This include within the Political Science department.





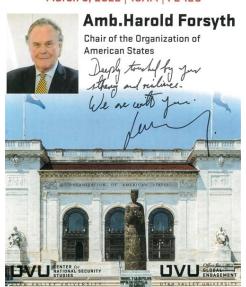
Teaching Utah Model of Sustainability

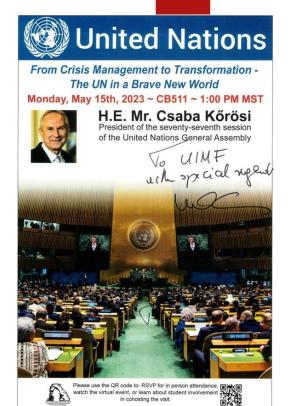
Amb. Forsyth and President Korosi are two dignitaries we made the strongest difference with.



New Threats to Democracy in the Americas

March 3, 2022 | 10AM | FL 120





Sustainable development peaks

While in Utah, Mr. Kőrösi also focused on sustainable development on mountains, which is a topic highlighted in a 2022 Secretary-General report on that topic and the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development.

One of the challenges highlighted by representatives from rural communities was the lack of social development and inclusion, heightened by shutdowns and cutoffs enforced during the COVID pandemic.

Everyone needs to be considered in policies," said Alitha Thompson, a 36-year-old non-traditional student at Utah Valley University, who lives in a rural community of Gunnison Valley, about 1.5 hours outside the University.

"Just because you're different doesn't make you wrong. Everyone's voice needs to be heard," said Ms. Thompson, who because she didn't have daycare that day, brought the youngest of her five children to the meeting with the President.

She said that about one-third of Utah's population lives in mountain areas; some of the communities suffer levels of poverty more commonly experienced in developing countries.

Serving Local Communities



L to R: Alitha Thompson, Callum Thompson, Penelope Thompson and Byan Alghanmi with Rotarians deliver coats at Sharon Elementary School, December 3rd, 2021



Oranges are unloaded by Orem-Lindon Rotarians and Rotaractors on February 22, 2022



(L to R): Alitha Thompson, UVU Rotaractor and her husband Scott Thompson volunteer during Orem Summerfest breakfast, June 11th, 2022



(L to R) Emily Hall and Alitha Thompson during the Club Rush, September 14-15, 2022



Tristin Smith, Alitha Thompson, and McKay Brooks fundraise for Hope4Orem, January 25th and 26th 2023



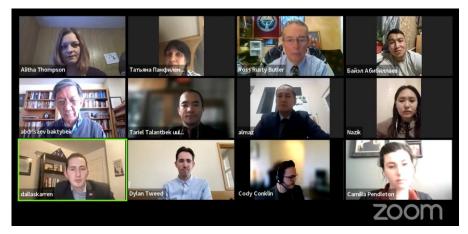
Alitha Thompson with Orem-Lindon Rotarian working together to gather leaves in Lindon,
October 23, 2021



Alitha Thompson discusses role of nontraditional students with Arthur Brooks, Harvard professor and Atlantic columnist, October 27th, 2022



UIMF contributed to the annual Club Rush on September 14 - 15, 2021



(From L to R, Top to Bottom) Alitha Thompson, Tatiana Panfilenko, Dr. Rusty Butler, Baiel Abibillaev, Prof. Abdrisaev, Tariel Talantbek uulu. Dr. Almaz. Nazik Erkinbek kyzy. Dallas Karren, Dylan Tweed, Cody Conklin, Camilla Pendleton.



Alitha Thompson, UIMF President addresses the audience during 13th IMD observation at UVU on December 6th, 2022

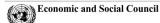
December 1st, 2021

Observing International Mountain Day

UN Written Statement Highlighting SEL and UIME

United Nations

E/cn.6/2022/NGO/141



Distr.: General 13 December 2021

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

peace for the twenty-first century"

Sixty-sixth session

14-25 March 2022
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and

Statement submitted by Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council¹

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.





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E/CN 6/2022/NGO/141

Statement

Mountain women and girls must be in the focus of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

We urge the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to cross usual middle development for families, women, and girls who live in the mountain areas of the world. The Commission has as a priority theme: the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and dissater risk reduction.

Since 2007, the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences has initiated and led a partnership with faculty and students at Und Valley University, the International University of Kyrgyzstan, and Osh Technological University, to jointly advocate for less sustainable development for mountain communities globally. In 2015, Und China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce joined the arterneship. Within this partnership, we further the detactional initiatives which, in the Russian Federation, People's Republic of China, Rocky Mountain States in the United States including Units, and the Kyrgyz Republic among others.

In 2019, the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences facilitated the educational exchanges between the Moscow State University, Russian State Agrarian University — Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, and Utah Valley University during the visit of its facily and students to Moscow. The purpose of the visit was the joint advocacy of sustainable development for mountain communities in Russia and the United States. As a part of the visit, the Utah Valley Guirewity delegation affocuses of these issues with Osh Technological University in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Guicessed these issues with Osh Technological University in Bishkek, Kyrgyz

As part of that plan of advocacy in the state of Utah and the Kyrgyz Republic, our members will lead the efforts of students from Utah Valley University, and Osh Technological University during this session to present our joint case of the significant impact of climate change on the livelihood of mountain communities, families, and women, and how the educational program, which we developed jointly, recovarges students to contribute to its mitigation among their own mountain

Climate change has brought devastating wildfires and extreme drought conditions to the mountains of Ulan Utah Governor Cox and Lieutenant Governor Henderson, the second woman to hold this position in Utah history, urgently focus on practical measures to mitigate climate change impact on rural areas, women, and families through the One Utah Roadmapa, a plan for their first 500 days in office. They are supported in those efforts by Utah members of the United States House of Representatives: Congressman John Curtis, who recently established a caucus on climate change in the United States House of Representatives; as well as Stewart, who also joined this caucus. Senator Mitt Rommey, who represents Utah in the United States Senate, provides similar support, in particular through a bipartisan group at the United States States thouse of fight against climate change.

The Kyrgyz Republic is one of the most vulnerable countries in Central Asia to Cilmate change impacts, in particular on women, their families, and households. More related has 20 types of environment and climate-related hazards and processes can be observed in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz Republic intified the Paris Agreement in 2019. In April 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic launched the National Climate Change (Learning Strategy with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. With

E/CN.6/2022/NGO/14

the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, they implemented policies including the Energy Efficiency in Buildings Project. The Kyrgys Republic, as the leader of the Group of Friends of Mountain Countries at the United Nations, strongly advocates for active involvement of rural and mountain women, including in the Kyrgyz Republic in mitigating the impact of climate change on communities and their

Since 2011, our two organizations have facilitated Utah Valley University efforts to create the co-curricular student-engaged learning model which encourages students to contribute their experiences, knowledge, and funds towards the advocacy of mountain development. The Utah International Mountain Forum, a coulition of student clubs at Luba Valley University serves as a core of the model. It includes the Foreign Affairs, Sustainable Mountain Development, and Rotaract as the leading clubs in the coalition.

Unh Valley University is the largest academic institution in the state of Utah, currently enrolling almost 40,000 students. Over 30 percent of the student body are non-traditional learners who, in addition to their education, must work full or partime in support of a spouse or family and can range between 25 to 37 years of age. Established as a vocational training school in 1941, Utah Valley University today addresses the needs of local communities along the Wasstch Mountain range of the Rocky Mountain Region through a dual mission as a community college, combined with the rigor and serioussess of a four-year teaching institution.

The model involves, in inclusive ways, students across campus, both traditional and non-traditional, in the implementation of sustainable development in the mountainous state of Utah and globally. It consists of four parts:

- Students are given a problem to solve (which is the advocacy of the sustainable development for mountain communities);
- · Students must work together as a group to learn how to solve the problem;
- · Faculty serves them as mentors; and
- Students are responsible for their own learning during the process of solving a problem.

As part of the advocacy campaign, students learn and share experiences about major achievements and challenges in sustainable development in Utah along with mountain communities elsewhere including in Russian Federation, People's Republic of China and the Kyrgyz Republic and under this model, students learn, as a group, how to accomplish projects empowering mountain communities by managing them by themselves through all stages starting from the initial design until their full

In December 2012, students from Utah Valley University and International University of Ryzyzstan contributed to the international conference on Mountains and Climate held in Bishkek, the Kyrgz Republic. During a round table at the same time, they jointly adopted a resolution, highlighting problems, which worsen women situation in the mountain areas, such as traditional views of their low status in the communities; poor infrastructure with deterioration of conditions for economic the active participation of women and girls in solving the issues of preserving the mountain ecosystems where they live.

In December 2015, we contributed to the efforts of students from Utah Valley University, International University of Kyrgyzstan, Osh Technological University, and Kyrgyz Technical University to collect more than 1,600 signatures from the required 5,000 for the petition requesting the issues of the impact of climate change

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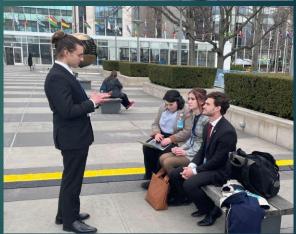
PREPARATIONS AND HOSTING PARALLEL EVENT, 66th and 67th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATU<mark>S OF WOMEN, MARCH 21, 2022, MARCH 6-8, 2023</mark>





Rotaractors attend the opening ceremonies for the UN 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on March 6th, 2023





Rotaractors ensured videos were loaded, speeches were perfected and re-read, and equipment was ready for the Parallel Event on March 6th, 2023



Poster of the parallel event, co-hosted by UIMF with RANS on March 6th, 2023 The Parallel Event on March 6th, 2023 was well attended with people from China, India, Pakistan and other non-government organizations who were interested in how Rotary and students can work in sustainable development advocacy efforts.

Official Side Event hosted by Kyrgyz Republic and Mountain Partnership

67th Session United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

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

> March 8, 2023 10:00 AM EST

UNHQ Conference room .



10:00 - 11:15 am Conference Room 1 UNHQ

The Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz
Republic to the UN and the Mountain
Partnership are pleased to invite all
stakeholders to participate in their
official side event for the 67th session of
the United Nations Commission on the
Status of Women with the theme
"Advocating for mountain women and
girls' education through student-engaged
learning."

The event will be focused on the right of mountain girls and boys to education and can be full-fledged contributors to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It demonstrates the Student-Engaged Learning initiative which can be implemented worldwide as a simple, inexpensive education tool that allows students to learn how to implement UN initiatives as a group with minimal faculty involvement while gaining new skills, experiences, and recognition from the UN.

PREPARATIONS AND HOSTING SIDE EVENT ON MARCH 8TH, 2023



Rotaract President Tristin Juarez-Smith, UIMF President Alitha Thompson, and Rotaractors Nikki Smith, Sami Davis, Rachel Welker prepare scripts and presentations for the side event on March 8th, 2023



Rotaractors test the sound and visual in preparation of the side event.

Successful people are not gifted; they just work hard, then succeed on purpose.

-GK Nielson



Rotaractor Hendrix Bailey is ready to assist with video and sound during the side event on March 8th, 2023



Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Moderator: Alitha Thompson, President, Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), Utah, United States.

Opening Remarks:

- 1. Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN.
- Mrs. Sharapat Mazhitova, Member of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Andorra to the United Nations.
- Mr. Jochen Hans-Joachim Almoslechner, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations.

Presenters:

- 1. Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, UNEP
- Ms. Rosalaura Romeo, Coordinator a.i. and FAO Officer, Mountain Partnership Secretariat
- 3. Dr. Baldomero Lago, Vice-Rector for Global Engagement, UVU
- Dr. Rusty Butler, Mountain Partnership focal point at UVU (2006-2016), The Honorary Professor of the Kyrgyz National State University
- 5. Dr. Jay DeSart, Chair, History and Political Science, UVU
- Tristin Juarez-Smith, President of the UVU Rotaract club, a student club of Rotary International, an NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
- 7. Gulnura Amatova, Osh Technological Institute
- 8. Nazik Erkinbek kyzy, Osh Technological Institute
- 9. Baivel Abibilaev Osh Technological Institute
- 10. Tatiana Panfilenko, Osh Technological Institute
- Qian Li, Mountain Futures Research Center, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
- 12. Jokudu Winnie Jada, UVU Rotaractor, International Student from South Sudan
- Priyanka Prem Kumar, Independent Researcher and Data Analyst, India

Closing Remarks:

14. Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN

Provisional Programme of the side event featured Alitha Thompson, UIMF Presidents as its moderator.



(L to R) Rotaract President Tristin Juarez-Smith, Deputy PR of Austria, Mr. Jochen Hans-Joachim Almoslechner, Dr. Rusty Butler, RANS, Mrs. Sharapat Mazhitova, Member of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, PR of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva, UIMF President Alitha Thompson, Jamil Ahmad, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, UNEP, and Dr. Jay DeSart Chair, UVU History and Political Science Department



(R to L): UIMF President Alitha Thompson, as a moderator of the side event, PR of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN, Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva and the Honorable Sharapat Mazhitova, deputy of the Kyrgyz Parliament



(L to R): Dr. Baldomero Lago, UVU VP for Global Engagement, PR of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN, Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva, UIMF President Alitha Thompson and PR of Uzbekistan to the UN, Mr. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov after the side event



UIMF President Alitha Thompson with PR of Andorra to the UN, Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña



UVU Rotaractors meet with the President of the United Nations General Assembly. (L to R): McKay Brooks, Stephan Atkinson, Alitha Thompson, Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi, Tristin Smith and Rachel Welker



UVU Rotaractors highlight student initiatives during the meeting with the Honorable Richard Mills, United Stated deputy ambassador to the UN, and Ngoyi Ngoyi, Political Advisor at the Permanent Mission of the United States to the UN.

MP 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports Featuring UIMF and SEL

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Utah Valley

peers from Osh Technological University, students

organized the 12th annual observance of International

Mountain Day at UVU. In addition, students advocated

for mountain women by co-hosting a parallel event

and co-sponsoring a written statement during the 65th

session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

in conjunction with fellow MP members the Russian

Academy of Natural Sciences and Utah China Friendship

University



More than 100 young people between the ages of 16 and 29 from 28 countries came together to discuss the main issues that characterize sustainability and life in mountain areas. The final manifesto was presented during the event "Connecting youth and mountains, creating a lively future", hosted in the Italian Pavilion on 8

the state of Utah and globally.

October at Expo 2020 Dubai. Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce. 66 UVU is proud to have been the first academic institution

Utah Valley University

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Learning by doing - Utah students advocate for mountains

In celebration of IYM2022, the Utah International Mountain Forum - a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) - encouraged students to advocate for sustainable mountain development through the inclusive Student-Engaged Learning model. Through this model, students (in particular non-traditional learners, many of whom are women representing local communities) contribute to initiatives as a group, with faculty mentorship. As a result, the Utah International Mountain Forum advocated for mountain women at UVU's 13th International Mountain Day observation and during a parallel event hosted at the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, together with peers from Snow College, Utah: Osh Technological University, Kyrgyzstan; and fellow MP members such as the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce.

Education for sustainable development in the Carpathians

The Carpathian Convention promotes implementation of the UNESCO programme Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which places emphasis on education's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. The Convention strongly supports the integration of ESD into its activities and long-term vision for the Carpathians. To this end, it is establishing a Carpathian



Right: UVU side event at CSW66







2022 United Nations Secretary General's report on SMD About SEL

United Nations

A/77/217



General Assembly

Distr.: General 22 July 2022

Original: English

Seventy-seventh session

Item 18 (k) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development

Sustainable mountain development

Report of the Secretary-General

66. An inclusive co-curricular student-engaged learning model developed at Utah Valley University in the United States of America involved students, especially non-traditional learners, in promoting sustainable mountain development in the State of Utah and at the United Nations.

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LESSONS FROM SEL AND UIMF

- Purpose of the SDGS
 - No one is left behind
 - No one fights alone
 - Everyone Matters



"This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity...All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan...As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind."

-Preamble, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

LESSONS FROM SEL AND UIMF

- We're all in this world together, fighting for the same thing. We want to graduate, get a good job that provides for a family, and to live.
- Mom's everywhere are the same
 - Amb. Of Kyrgyzstan to the UN
 - Aida Kasymalieva
 - Amb. of Andorra to the UN
 - Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña
 - Chuxiong Normal University

While in Utah, the President gave a lecture at Utah Valley University, and he also had a number of conversations with students, many of them non-traditional students, about sustainability and the UN's work. He also had conversations about social inclusion, particularly with communities that are in rural mountain communities.

One of those students is Alitha Thompson, the President of the Utah International Mountain Forum.

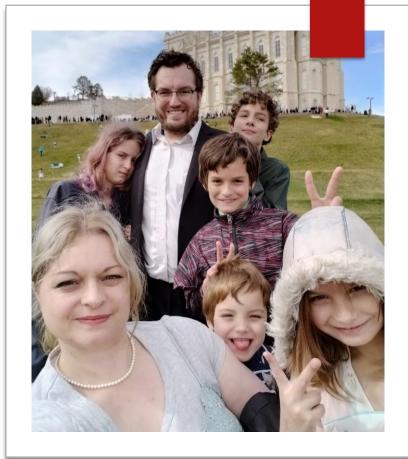
Alitha wrote the President a letter before he left.

And I wanted to read this section, with her permission:

"I have a lot of hope in our rising/future leaders. There is a lot of heart in the leaders of the UN, in our current students + in our children. I believe + hope that one day, everyone will feel heard + will work, hand-in-hand to make the philosophy behind the SDGs a reality."

LESSONS FROM SEL AND UIMF

- Stand for and Speak your truth. If you are willing to work hard for your dreams, to make a difference, it is possible. But it requires hard work, sacrifice and lots of tears.
- Don't lose sight of what matters.



FUTURE PLANS

- MOM and PARTNER!
- ► ASU Masters of Liberal Arts
 - Cultural Communication
- Research paper
 - Non-traditional students
 - ▶ PhD
 - Similarities in Cultures
- Teaching in China
- United Nations
 - Promote the spirit of the SDG's for equality and respect for all.
 - China and the United States





Questions, please?