



WOMEN'S DEMOCRACY NETWORK

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Dear Participants in "Women of the Mountains" Conference:

I send you my congratulations as you convene today in the beautiful state of Utah to discuss women's issues in developing mountain nations. The history of the United States is rich with the sacrifice and heroism of women who first settled in our western, mountainous states, and it is my hope that this legacy will provide a framework for conference participants to share and exchange ideas and information.

Finding long-term solutions to empowering women socially and economically is of vital importance in the United States as well as overseas to ensure a brighter future for all people. The challenges facing women in mountainous regions are numerous, but it is conferences such as these that will help shed a light on areas where progress can be made. It is inspiring to see a gathering of women from so many different countries. You are each others' best resources, and working together I am confident that you will meet the challenges before you.

It is appropriate that you gather today on International Women's Day, and I send you a special greeting on this day in appreciation of your dedication and commitment to improving the lives of women around the world. You are an inspiration to all of us!

I wish you the very best success at this vital conference.

Sincerely,

Lorne W. Craner
President