

9 March 2011

Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), I'm pleased to extend my warm greetings to all of you participating in the 2nd International Women of the Mountains Conference in Orem, Utah.

I offer my congratulations to Ambassador Abdrisaev and Dr. Butler for this follow-up to the successful first conference in 2007, and regret that I am unable to attend.

I am glad that the Conference is addressing the specific and urgent challenges of women living in mountainous regions. I am especially pleased by the Conference's focus on women's leadership and participation, a priority area for us at UN Women. My vision is for UN Women to be a catalyst for change - offering new energy, drawing on core ideas and values, and bringing together countries and communities in a shared endeavor.

I hope the Conference will prove a powerful platform to stimulate dialogue on the sustainable and gender-just development of mountain states, generating innovative ideas and mobilizing support through the creation of energetic partnerships.

Conference Participants
International Conference
Women of the Mountains
Utah

I wish you positive discussions during the Conference, and successful cooperation on advancing empowerment for mountain women and, thereby, the broader cause of gender equality for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle Bachelet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michelle Bachelet
Executive Director