

Thank you for inviting me to address you today.

As Mayor of Salt Lake City, it is my honor to be representing the people of Utah's Capital City as the United Nation's announces our City as the site of the 2019 UN-DPI/NGO Conference.

Today, I am joined by a delegation of individuals representing some of Utah's most engaged, and influential non-profits, philanthropists, faith communities, institutions of higher learning, and business leaders.

Just as each of you furthers the critical mission of the United Nations through the work and advocacy of your organizations worldwide—these individuals, and thousands of others from Salt Lake City and across Utah, partner with city and state government to help solve some of our community's most pressing issues.

The concerns cities like Salt Lake face are well known to each of you here today.

The global issues of climate change, immigration and resettlement, food security, and income inequality are felt by cities like mine in a unique and challenging way.

And the desire of local leaders to find solutions to these problems, is magnified by the face of humanity lying behind these issues—a face we see each day as the decisions we make impact our constituencies.

As the 11th United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal reads:

“Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development, and much more. At their best, cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically.”

Never have we lived in an age as we do now, when there is such clarity regarding the consequence of our individual actions on one another and this earth/

Facing these challenges on a global scale starts at the local level.

I am proud to represent a city committed to a better world, one that is: inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable—and to be a City which, not only achieves these goals through concrete action, but works to help other cities follow our example.

Nowhere is this better seen than in Salt Lake City's Climate Positive Initiative.

A plan which charts a course for Salt Lake City to be powered by 100% clean energy by 2032 and to reduce our carbon output 80% by 2040.

When Salt Lake City affirmed these goals in 2016, we were the 16th city in the United States to do so.

Today, there are more than 85 cities and counties which have resolved to achieve this 100% goal, including 3 others in my state of Utah—a testament to the power of partnerships, with NGO's like the Sierra Club, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and Path to Positive.

And it is proof positive of the ability to create global change—and maintain global consensus—by thinking AND acting locally.

I want to acknowledge the significance of the United Nation's partnering with Salt Lake City to host next year's conference.

I am confident that by bringing the 68th UN-DPI/NGO Conference to Salt Lake City, with a focus on Goal 11, we will not only expand awareness around the country of this principle, but further the actual outcomes.

Salt Lake City will be the first U.S. city outside of New York to welcome the world's NGOs through this conference.

I can think of no better time, and no better place than Salt Lake City, for the United Nations to re-emphasize and reintroduce its vision, mission, and values to the American people.

Values of peace, collaboration, human rights, respect, freedom, and empowerment; all of which help us create a better world.

Only a few generations ago, Mormon refugees fled religious persecution from this nation to what was then Mexican territory, to established a new home—a place to live in peace and safety—a place they called Salt Lake City.

Salt Lake City and Utah continue to be places of sanctuary and hope as our residents welcome todays refugees with open arms—in a spirit which has been passed down through generations and adopted by those new to the area.

As the site of the completion of the trans-continental railroad—a moment which united our nation in a spirit that anything is possible.

Salt Lake City continues to take seriously our place as the Crossroads of the West.

We are a City of possibility, youthful energy, and enduring hope in the promise of a better tomorrow for everyone.

And, it was in Salt Lake City, where the world gathered under a banner of peace for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, only a few months after 9-11, one of our nations and worlds great tragedies.

These Games not only focused on competition but also on healing and coming together as one.

Now, we stand ready to welcome each of you to our beautiful mountain home.

To once again unite in peace and possibility.

And to exemplify, as Eleanor Roosevelt—a great American, and “First Lady of the World” said:

“The world of the future is in our making. Tomorrow is now.”

Thank you and I look forward to seeing all of you in 2019!