



UPF EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER



WORLD SUMMIT 2022: PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Written by UPF International

The World Summit 2022 for Peace on the Korean Peninsula was held in Seoul, Korea, from 10 to 14 February. Some 160 nations were represented, including 157 nations with diplomatic ties to one or both of the Koreas. Hosted by UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the summit was co-chaired by H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia, and H.E. Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general (2007-2016) of the United Nations.

In response to South Korea's strict sanitary and travel restrictions caused by a sharp increase in COVID-19 infections, the summit combined in-person attendance and virtual participation. Eighty-five world leaders addressed more than 300 people attending in person, as well as a global virtual audience

participating through the world's largest 360-degree interactive broadcast. Eleven key political and civic leaders from around South Korea, including provincial governors and major city mayors, offered their congratulations.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen opened the summit at the Lotte Hotel World in Seoul. Then, virtual greetings were given live from the Korean National Assembly by Deputy Speaker Lim Jong-seong and former U.S. Speaker Newt Gingrich, and from the Japanese Diet by Hon. Yoshiaki Harada, former minister of the environment.

An official government statement at the Opening Plenary was sent by video from H.E. Macky Sall, the

African Union chair and Senegalese president. In person, former heads of state and government also gave their keynote addresses as follows: U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, Canadian Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, along with European Commission President Romano Prodi and Brazilian President Michel Temer by video.

The summit sessions featured heads of state, government ministers, parliamentarians, scholars, and media representatives from each region of the world. They addressed the many challenges to peace on the Korean Peninsula, such as resistance to denuclearization, strained Korea-Japan relations, tensions between





1 (L to R) H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and H.E. Ban Ki-moon at the presentation of the Seoul Resolution for Peace on the Korean Peninsula. 2 Prime Minister Hun Sen speaking in the opening session.

China and the United States, and core differences between North and South. At the same time, they offered a range of solutions, such as encouraging new friendships with the North Korean people through trade, tourism, sports, music, and cultural exchanges.

Current and former heads of state or government from Europe and Middle East who intervened by video included H.E. Ilir Meta, president, Albania; H.E. Albin Kurti, prime minister, Kosovo; H.E. Romano Prodi, prime minister (2006-2008), Italy, and EU Commission president (1999-2004); H.E. Dominique de Villepin, prime minister (2005-2007), France; H.E. José Maria Aznar, prime minister (1996-2004), Spain; H.E. Ahmet Davutoglu, prime minister (2014-2016), Turkey; H.E. Mohamed El Baradei, vice president (2013), Egypt; Nobel Peace Prize laureate, former director general, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); H.E. Filip Vujanovic, president (2003-2018), Montenegro; and H.E. Mladen Ivanic, president (2014-2018), Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 12 February the Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony was held (see page 5), and on 13 February the Global Summit concluded with a “One Million Rally of Hope” (see page 3).

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dr. Katsumi Otsuka
Chairman, UPF Europe & Middle East



Dear Readers,

The year 2022 began with a very significant UPF event that was held amid great challenges. The World Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula,

held in February, was hosted by UPF co-founder Dr Hak Ja Han Moon and co-chaired by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and the eighth UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Despite very strict restrictions of travel to South Korea due to the rising Covid pandemic, 85 major world leaders contributed to the event, either in person or through recorded speeches.

However, 10 days after the summit ended, the Russia-Ukraine war burst onto the world scene. It brought into perspective both the 70-year-old Korean conflict that initiated the Cold War and a new conflict that threatens to revive it.

This issue offers you an account of various programs we have held in the first half of this eventful year, from Ukraine refugee support to Middle East Peace Initiative webinars to high-level consultations on peace and security in the Balkans.

This time of heightened tension calls us to action around the world. Thank you for your support as Ambassadors for Peace!



H.E. Mike Pence
Vice President,
United States (2017-2021)



Hon. Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State,
United States (2018-2021)



Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister, Canada
(2006-2015)



H.E. José Manuel Barroso
Prime Minister, Portugal
(2002-2004); EU Commission
President (2004-2014)



H.E. Ehud Olmert
Prime minister, Israel
(2006-2008)



H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi
Minister of Women's Affairs,
Cambodia



Dr. Claude Bégli
Founder, President, Symbioswiss;
Former MP, Switzerland



Pastor Paula White
Televangelist; President,
Paula White Ministries

ONE MILLION RALLY OF HOPE

Written by UPF International



1-2 Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon speaking at the rally in the HJ Global Arts Center.

World Summit 2022 concluded on 13 February with a “One Million Rally of Hope” at the HJ Global Arts Centre near Seoul. It was broadcast simultaneously to 52 locations in South Korea as well as throughout the world.

Each continent was represented by prominent speakers who shared with the global audience their assessment

of the prospects for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, U.S. investor Jim Rogers and former European Commission President Dr José Manuel Barroso spoke in person. They were followed by video speeches from former U.S. President Donald Trump, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, and other

major leaders from around the world. Moreover, a message from former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was read by Dr. Yun Young Ho.

In closing, UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and summit Co-Chairs H.E. Samdech Hun Sen and H.E. Ban Ki-moon signed the Seoul Resolution 2022, “Toward Sustainable Peace and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula”.



H.E. Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister, Japan
(2006-2007; 2012-2020)



Hon. Leni Robredo
Vice President,
the Philippines



H.E. Macky Sall
Chairperson, the African
Union; President, Senegal



H.E. Muhammadu Buhari
President, Nigeria



H.E. Jimmy Morales
President, Guatemala
(2016-2020)

FOURTH THINK TANK 2022 FORUM

Hon. Mark Esper, U.S. secretary of defence (2019-2020), was the keynote speaker at the fourth Think Tank 2022 Forum on 26 February 2022, where he delivered a thoughtful analysis of the region's situation and emphasized the need for full cooperation between the United States, South Korea, and Japan in the face of challenges posed by North Korea and China. Livestreamed from

Korea, Secretary Esper also fielded questions from high-level panellists from Japan, Korea, and the United States. Topics for discussion were the reduction of the U.S. presence on the Korean Peninsula, transfer of military operational control from U.S. to South Korea, and the new U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy, which recently was released by the U.S. administration.



THINK TANK 2022 FORUM

WORLD SUMMIT 2022 SPEAKERS FROM EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST



H.E. Ilir Meta

President, Albania

I wish to share with you the words of the Albanian saint, Mother Teresa, who said: "What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family." If all leaders loved their people as their family, then humankind would be at peace without conflicts and divisions. Albania remains a model of peace and harmony between religious communities.

H.E. Albin Kurti

Prime Minister, Kosovo

The peoples of Kosovo and of South Korea share a similar path of suffering under occupation and the struggle for freedom. We are among the rare, peaceful peoples who were invaded, often fought continuously against invaders, but have never invaded others. Our two peoples are far from each other geographically, but substantially we're closer than we know.



H.E. Romano Prodi

Prime Minister, Italy (2006-2008); EC President (1999-2004)

The Korean case is absurd. It is the only divided country in the world after almost 70 years. More than 30 years ago German unification happened. Though we are halfway there in the effort to unify Europe, it is not easy. In Europe we are 27 countries with 22 languages, but Korea is one country, with one language, with one common history.

H.E. Dominique de Villepin

Prime Minister, France (2005-2007)

With determination, pragmatism and, of course, imagination, we might be able to take the lessons of the past and face the challenges of today's world, setting an example for the new generations. We have an opportunity today; we should seize it. The world has been waiting for too long; the people of both Koreas, as well as our people, count on us. We should not let them down.



H.E. Ahmet Davutoglu

Prime Minister, Turkey (2014-2016)

Today, the great nation of the Korean Peninsula, with which we as Turks have the same linguistic background, I want to address to them that it is now time for a new era on the Korean Peninsula. This new era will bring peace. It will not only bring peace on the Korean Peninsula, but that peace will be a call for all humanity, for an eternal peace everywhere in the world.

H.E. José Maria Aznar

Prime Minister, Spain (1996-2004)

My personal experience as a former prime minister of Spain has taught me that peace can be pursued not only through traditional Track I diplomacy, but also through a wide range of backchannel approaches to peace that may involve civil society, trade and commerce, humanitarian relief, interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange, tourism and so on.



H.E. Filip Vujanović

President, Montenegro (2003-2018)

Montenegro, a country situated in the Western Balkans, is proud of its history. But that history was not always peaceful. The best way to achieve the goal of bringing our societies to reconcile and build lasting peace is through continuous dialogue, through which we can understand more each other's way of thinking, culture, challenges, politics, and goals.

H.E. Mladen Ivanic

President, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014-18)

Our own experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina shows that an important precondition for peace is the consensus of the great powers. And the greatest effort of all of us who care about peace should be directed at putting pressure on the great powers to think not only of their own interests but also of the interests of the peoples in those conflict areas.



WORLD NEWS

FIFTH SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE

Written by Alan Sillitoe, UPF Europe and Middle East



FOUNDER'S SPECIAL HONORARY AWARD CEREMONY

The Founder's Special Honorary Award was given by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, recognizing his role in lifting his country from civil war and a murderous past into prosperity and peace. In his acceptance speech, Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed his appreciation to the Sunhak Peace Prize Committee and recognized the contributions of the many others

who supported his efforts to build peace in Cambodia, including the late King Father, Norodom Sihanouk.

The congratulatory address was given by Hon. Newt Gingrich, speaker of the House (1995-1999), United States, and a member of the SHPP committee. The ceremony concluded with a congratulatory performance by the musical team and the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea.



(Left to right) Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and H.E. Samdech Hun Sen



- 1 H.E. José Manuel Barroso, former President of the European Commission; Chair, Sunhak Peace Prize Selection Committee
- 2 The ceremony was held at the HJ Global Arts Center, near Seoul, South Korea.
- 3 Dame Sarah Catherine Gilbert, Professor of Vaccinology, University of Oxford
- 4 Hon. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House (1995-1999), USA
- 5 Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance

The fifth Sunhak Peace Prize award ceremony focused on the response to the global pandemic and was held on 12 February 2022 at the HJ Global Arts Centre and live-streamed to the Lotte Hotel World in Seoul. This year's ceremony honoured Professor Dame Sarah Catherine Gilbert of the University of Oxford for her role in developing the AstraZeneca vaccine and ensuring its availability at an affordable price, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for its achievement in dealing with the COVID pandemic throughout

the world as well as its ongoing work to provide vaccines to more than 800 million of the world's neediest children.

H.E. Dr. José Manuel Barroso, former EU Commission president and chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize Selection Committee, presented the award to Professor Gilbert, and Dr. Thomas Walsh, chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation, presented the award to Gavi, which was accepted by Dr. Claude Bégulé, founder and president of SymbioSwiss and a former

member of the Swiss Parliament, on behalf of Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, who could not be present in person.

A congratulatory address was given by H.E. Ehud Olmert, former prime minister of Israel (2006-2009), and the ceremony concluded with a congratulatory performance featuring a musical team led by South Korean actress Jung Young-ju and South Korean singer/songwriter Park Wan.



REGIONAL NEWS

THINK TANK 2022 FORUMS (1-3 FEBRUARY 2022) TOWARD PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

In a webinar on **Enlisting Global Cooperation on the Issue of the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula** on 1 February, current and former heads of state analysed the reasons for the failure to bring North Korea into the overall international community and, in particular, the failure to achieve peaceful reunification.



1 *Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, prime minister, Canada (2006-2015)*
2 *H.E. Kjell Magne Bondevik, prime minister, Norway (1997-2000; 2001-05)*

3 *H.E. Anthony Carmona, president, Trinidad and Tobago (2013-18)*
4 *Hon. Salvador Nasralla, vice president, Honduras*

On 1 February, panellists from the Europe-Middle East and Japanese branches of UPF's International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) discussed the issue of **Peace and Stability in East Asia and the Korean Peninsula** and gave their views on Korean reunification. They identified some of the causes of the current standoff and proposed ways of promoting dialogue.



1 *Dr. Beatrice Bischof, Foreign Affairs Association, Germany*
2 *Hon. Nina Nováková, member of Parliament, Czech Republic*

3 *Hon. Glyn Ford, former member, European Parliament*
4 *Hon. Yoshiaki Harada, president, IAPP Japan Forum*



*H.E. Elsie Christofia
First lady of Cyprus
(2008-2013)*

On 2 February, representatives of UPF's International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP), together with the Europe-Middle East branch of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), spoke on the theme **Co-Creating Spaces for Peace and Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. What Steps Are Women Taking toward Sustainable Peace?** They discussed the creation of a "women's peace zone" at Korea's Demilitarized Zone.



*Dr. Artur Victoria
Professor, specialist
on China's Belt and
Road Initiative*

Experts examined **The International Highway Project: A Global Peace Road-Northeast Asia - Europe - Africa**, and described how China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could fit into this vision. The panel concluded on the important role of international transportation infrastructure projects in bringing world peace and mutual prosperity.



*Amb. Warwick Morris
Former ambassador
of the United Kingdom
to South Korea*

The International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) assessed the **Prospects of the Upcoming Korean Presidential Election**. Ambassador Warwick Morris was sceptical about the prospects for reunification, because younger South Koreans have observed the enormous cost of reunifying East and West Germany. He described the upcoming election as unusual in that neither of the two leading candidates is a politician.

On 1 February, the first day of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, representatives of different faiths and faith-based organizations discussed the theme **Can Peace Be Achieved by Human Means Alone? - Ending 70 Years of Painful Division on the Korean Peninsula**. They looked at the role that religious people and people of faith could play in advancing the cause of Korean reunification.



*Ms. Lejla
Hasandedić-Dapo
Psychologist,
psychotherapist; URI
Europe CC liaison officer*

The webinar organized collaboratively between IAED-USA and IAED-EUME, discussed **Economic Proposals to Open and Facilitate the Relationship of North Korea and the World**. Dr Raghavan Seetharaman spoke about the need to build up the infrastructure in North Korea. "We have to open the international economy to North Korea, and reopening the Kaesong Industrial Complex is key to that," he said.



*Dr. Raghavan
Seetharaman
CEO of Doha Bank*

On February 3, UPF's International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace (IAACP) examined the theme **Overcoming Division on the Korean Peninsula through Cultural Diplomacy and the Arts**. Dr Mark Donfried offered three suggestions: indirect cultural diplomacy, including civil society, and the importance of listening rather than speaking.



*Dr. Mark Donfried
Director general,
Institute for Cultural
Diplomacy*

REGIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (6, 7, 12 APRIL) CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES TO THE WORLD ORDER: THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

The ILC's first session, "**Post-Election South Korea: Implications for the Wider Region,**" was held jointly on 6 April by the Europe-Middle East and Japanese branches of UPF and its International Media Association for Peace (IMAP). The session focused on the policy differences between the outgoing administration of incumbent President Moon Jae-in, on the one hand, and the potential future administrations of the two contenders, Yoon Suk-yeol (People Power Party) and Lee Jae-myung (Democratic Party).

- 1 **Rita Payne**, former Asia editor, BBC World News; president emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association
- 2 **Prof. Dr. Rovshan Ibrahimov**, professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, College of Oriental Studies, South Korea
- 3 **Michael Breen**, author and commentator based in South Korea
- 4 **Yoji Koda**, vice admiral (retired), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force



- 1 **Amb. Nobuyasu Abe**, former UN under-secretary-general for disarmament affairs; former commissioner, Japan Atomic Energy Commission
- 2 **Amb. Makarim Wibisono**, former permanent representative of Indonesia to the UN in Geneva and New York; former president of ECOSOC

The second webinar, "**How Can the United Nations Be Re-empowered to Fulfill Its Mission and Prevent Future Threats to World Peace?**" was held jointly on 6 April by the Europe-Middle East (EUME) and the Japanese branches of UPF. High-level experts examined the strengths and weaknesses of the UN system and proposed ways in which it could be rendered more effective, including the creation of an interreligious assembly within the UN.

- 3 **Amb. Dr. Jesus Domingo**, ambassador of the Philippines to New Zealand
- 4 **Bishop Munib Younan**, bishop emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

The third webinar of the ILC, which was held jointly on 7 April by the Europe and Middle East (EUME) and the Japanese branches of UPF and its International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP), focused on the theme "**Toward an Interconnected World: The Peace Road Initiative**". As well as presenting the International Peace Highway project, the group of experts discussed the European Union's Gateway Programme, the Channel Tunnel, the Marmaray Tunnel in Istanbul, Turkey, and the proposed Bering Strait bridge or tunnel.



Amina Acherkouk
Medical affairs principal scientist, GlaxoSmithKline plc (GSK), UK
- Session 3 -



Prof. Roger Vickerman
Emeritus professor of European Economics, University of Kent, UK
- Session 3 -



Masayoshi Kajikuri
Chairman, International Highway Construction Foundation; UPF-Japan
- Session 3 -

A final session, "**International Peace Highway Project and Transport Connectivity in Eurasia**", was organized on 12 April by UPF-Russia. Whereas the vision for an International Peace Highway goes beyond the materialistic pursuit of economic and political gain and seeks to break down the walls that historically have separated us, this webinar provided a pragmatic assessment of implementing the project, taking into account the large-scale Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and the need to develop transport infrastructure in Russia and Eurasia.



Dr. Vladimir Petrovsky
Chief researcher, Russia-China Center, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences
- Session 3 & 4 -



Maria Nazarova
President, UPF-Russia
- Session 4 -



Dr. Yulia Kharlamova
Associate professor, Russian University of Transport
- Session 4 -

REGIONAL NEWS

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES (MAY 15)

The UN International Day of Families is celebrated each May at the UN headquarters and around the world. The Universal Peace Federation joins in commemorating this day because it considers the family as a microcosm of the global community and because sustainable peace is grounded in the family as the most intimate social unit, the school of love.



Prague, Czech Republic — Hon. Nina Nováková gave a talk titled “Family in the Light of Today” at the UPF celebration on May 26 at the Peace Embassy, in which she explained the significance of the family in the society and state. She mentioned that the family is like an ecosystem, as a school of relationships.



Albania — Thousands of Albanians attended a festival called “The Family as the School of Love” in two cities, Vlora on May 11 and Fier on May 12. Close to 3,000 people attended the festival in each of the two cities. The event was well covered by the local media and had a great impact on the participants.



Kosovo — UPF Peace Council meetings were held in Ferizaj and Peja on May 16 and 17, respectively, with Dr. Saemira Pino, former Albanian deputy minister of education, Professor Dr. Agron Bajraktari, rector of the University of Applied Sciences, Ferizaj, and Professor Dr. Edmond Beqiri, vice rector of Haxhi Zeka University, Peja.



Vienna, Austria — A meeting was held on May 14 in the Vienna Peace Embassy. The speakers included Elisabeth Cook, president, FFWPU-Austria; Dr. Jan Ledóchowski, president, Christian Democracy platform; Professor Ismail Yasin, scholar of Islamic studies from Syria; and Dr. Melinda Fabian-Herzog, “Parents’ Workshop”.



(1) **Paris, France** — Dialogue & Alliance organized an interfaith meeting on May 29 on the theme “The Family: School of Love and Peace” at the Paris Education Center with additional online viewers from 13 countries. Speakers included Rev. Joseph Binguimale and Sheikh Abdelkader Achour, imam of the Omar Mosque in Paris 11e.



(2) **Ryazan, Russia** — “Family is the school of love” was the main message at the UPF celebration on May 13 at Library No. 5. The participants were 30 students at school No. 21. Through games, songs and poems the young participants came to understand the unique and important role of each generation in the family.



(3) **Almè, Italy** — UPF and an affiliated organization held an event on June 16 called “How to Build a Happy Family.” The opening greeting was offered by youth policy councilor Michele Milesi, representing the mayor. The central theme of the meeting was entrusted to Dr. Onorina Gibi, a family psychologist and psychotherapist.



(4) **Bratislava, Slovakia** — A lecture titled “The Relationship between Family and Politics” was held on May 16 at the Peace Embassy with about 25 participants. The guest speaker was Dr. Roman Joch, a well-known advocate for traditional family values and an accomplished conservative writer. Currently he is the director of the Research Institute for Labour and Family.

FOUNDERS' MESSAGE

For more information visit www.eume.upf.org

THE FAMILY IS THE SCHOOL OF LOVE

Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the founders of UPF, have always placed great importance on the family as the school of love and, as such, also inaugurated the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in 1996. In commemoration of the United Nations' International Day of Families, which we celebrated on May 15, we present excerpts from their autobiographies on the topic of the family.



Excerpt from *Mother of Peace*, Dr. Hak Ja Han's memoir, pp. 243-244

Discord between husbands and wives is one of the main reasons our world cannot be at peace. There are 7.7 billion people on the earth today, but the creation of peace really depends upon two people—one man and one woman, that is, a husband and wife. People enter into various types of relationships and encounter different kinds of problems, but the root of all these problems is the same—the flawed relationship between man and woman. Peace will come when two people, a man and a woman, trust and love each other. If men and women can fulfil their mutual responsibility to trust and love each other, the world will become the happy place we all wish it to be.

I'm saying that each person's happiness depends on his or her ability to achieve peace in their marriage and family. When true parents, true spouses and true children form a peaceful family, happiness follows naturally. Harmony is created when parents, children and grandchildren unite in heart. No matter what difficulties come, the parents' heart of love for their sons and daughters and the grandparents' heart of love for their grandchildren should never change. Grandchildren, also, need to respect and love their grandparents. The greatest happiness is generated within the family where three generations live together in love.

Excerpt from *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, Dr. Sun Myung Moon's autobiography, pp. 224, 229-230

World peace is not such a huge undertaking. It takes peaceful families to create peaceful societies and eliminate conflict among countries. This will lead to world peace. The family is the school where love for humanity is taught and learned. When children who are raised in the warm love of their parents go out into the world, they will care for people in difficulty in the manner they learned in their home. People raised in loving relationships with their own brothers and sisters will go into society and share their caring hearts with their neighbours.

People raised in love will look upon each person they meet in the world as a member of their own family. The starting point toward a true family is the heart of love that treats strangers as family and shares with them. Another reason the family is important is that it expands to become the world. A true family is the basis for forming a true society, true nation, and true world. It is the starting point toward a world of peace that is God's Kingdom. Parents will work for their children until their bones melt away. They are not working just to feed their own children, however. A person whose heart overflows with love is capable of working for the sake of others and God.



The Inaugural World Convention of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification was held in Washington, DC, USA, from 30 July to 1 August 1996, in the presence of 4,000 dignitaries from more than 80 countries, including: Óscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former president of Costa Rica; Betty Williams, Nobel Peace Prize laureate; former US Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush; Coretta Scott-King, widow of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; Rev. Robert H. Schuller, founder of Crystal Cathedral Ministries; former British Prime Minister Edward Heath; former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda; and former Governor General of Canada Edward Schreyer.

Reverend and Mrs. Moon's intention in founding this federation was to strengthen each family as the basic unit of society to encourage the establishment of lasting peace in the world across cultural, national, religious and ethnic barriers.

REGIONAL NEWS

MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE FORUM

Written by David Fraser Harris, secretary general, UPF Middle East

The Middle East Peace Initiative Forum started in January 2021 as a series of webinars hosted by UPF with the theme of "Toward Peace in the Middle East", focusing initially on the Abraham Accords. Subsequent webinars in 2021 dealt with the role of religious leaders in track-two peace processes, the health of Palestinian as well as Israeli citizens, the potential for economic cooperation between Israel and Palestine to bring peace in the region, the role of culture and art. In December, a Sudanese scholar and political leader talked about the state of affairs in his country.

So far in 2022, innovative economic approaches to the

Middle East were discussed. Three visionary projects— Soccer for Peace, Champions in Life, and Children of Abraham—were presented. The March webinar looked at "The Abraham Accords: One Year and a Half Later". The May event, titled "Pushing Back the Desert: Approaches from the Middle East", focused on the environment.



UPF CO-SPONSORS WEBINAR ON FREEDOM OF BELIEF

Written by David Fraser Harris, secretary general, UPF Middle East



(Top L to R) Dr. Yousef Zaknoun; Dr. Thomas G. Walsh; Bishop Emeritus Munib Younan
 (Middle L to R) Dr. Raed Abd Al-Masih; Bishop William Al-Shomali; Dr. Iyad Al-Barghouti
 (Bottom L to R) Dr. Omar Abed Rabo; Ms. Bernadette Mourra; Dr. Ján Figel'

The Middle East—UPF EUME and the Al Liqa' Center for Religious, Heritage, and Cultural Studies in the Holy Land organized a webinar titled "Freedom of Thought and Belief: Theological, Philosophical, Political and Sociological Perspectives" on 25 February.

The panelists were Bishop Emeritus Munib Younan from Palestine, the president of the Lutheran World Federation

(2010-2017); Dr. Yousef Zaknoun, director of the Al-Liqa' Center; Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, chairman of UPF International; Dr. Raed Abd Al-Masih, professor of philosophy and medical ethics at Bethlehem University; Dr. Ján Figel' from Slovakia, a member of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology; Dr. Iyad Al-Barghouti, professor of political sociology and philosophy; Bishop William Al-Shomali, general vicar and patriarchal vicar for Jerusalem and Palestine; Ziad El Sayegh from Lebanon, executive director of Civic Influence Hub; Dr. Omar Abed Rabo, head of the Humanities Department, Bethlehem University; and Bernadette Mourra of the Al Liqa' Center, who hosted a short discussion.

REGIONAL NEWS

RELIGIONS' PEACEMAKING ROLE IN UKRAINE DISCUSSED

Written by Peter Haider, president, UPF-Austria



Vienna, Austria – Representatives of religious communities attended a Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations (CFBO) conference titled “A Peace Order for Ukraine? – The Religions Must Act!” in the Stephaniesaal, a hall of the Catholic Church, on 3 May 2022. Dr. Elmar Kuhn of CFBO lamented that the Russian Orthodox Church did not respond to the invitation. Meanwhile, the bishop of the Serbian Orthodox diocese of Austria-Switzerland-Italy, Andrej Cilerdzic, reported on five personal meetings with the Russian Orthodox bishop in Vienna, Aleksij von Kafa.

Gudrun Kugler, a spokesperson for human rights in the Austrian parliament, said she saw a chance for a meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill. However, the Ukrainian priest of the Greek Catholic Church, Taras Chagala, was sceptical in this regard. Also on the panel were UN expert Afsar Rathor and Imam Dzemaal Sibljakovic of the Islamic Faith Community in Austria. UPF supports the activities of the Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations, whose co-founder is Dr. Thomas Walsh, chairman of UPF International.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERRELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

Written by Jean-François Moulinet, coordinator, Dialogue & Alliance



Dialogue & Alliance session in Paris.



Since the 1960s, UPF founders Dr. and Mrs. Moon have launched numerous initiatives to promote world peace through interreligious dialogue and cooperation. During the Assembly of the World's Religions, convened in 1985 in the United States, they commissioned the “World Scripture project”, culminating in the publication in 1991 of World Scripture, A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts, which recently was translated into French.

Beginning in February 2021, UPF-France launched Dialogue & Alliance, an interfaith meeting for scriptural reading and dialogue. The meetings are held on different themes, linked to UN days or major religious holidays, and include readings from scriptures taken from the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Koran or other religious books. Leaders who have presented their religion's point of view include His Eminence Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, Orthodox Patriarch Nicolas, Rabbi Philippe Haddad, Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, and Venerable Michel Thao-Chan.

REGIONAL NEWS

UPF CO-SPONSORS BALKAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Written by Jacques Marion, co-chair, UPF Europe and the Middle East



(L to R) H.E. Stjepan Mesić, president of Croatia (2000-2010); Hon. Mimi Kodheli, vice president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly; H.E. Filip Vujanović, president of Montenegro (2003-2018), president of the Podgorica Club; H.E. Alfred Moisiu, president of Albania (2002-2007); Hon. Vasilika Hysi, deputy chairwoman of the Albanian Parliament (2017-2021); H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu, president of Kosovo (2006-2010); Mr. Jacques Marion, Co-Chair, UPF Europe and Middle East; H.E. Nataša Mičić, president of Serbia (2002-2004); H.E. Mladen Ivanić, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina (2015-2017)

Tirana, Albania—In the context of the war in Ukraine, the first joint conference of UPF Europe and Middle East and the Podgorica Club, held on April 2, 2022, focused on the theme of “Peace, Security and Economic Development in the Western Balkans.” With the sharp turn taken by the confrontation between Russia and NATO countries, possible consequences in the Balkans are becoming a concern, as post-Cold War conflicts among and within former Yugoslavia nations are still to be resolved.

The first panel, on the theme “The Importance of Peace and Security in the Western Balkans in Light of Current Developments”, included former heads of state and members of the Podgorica Club from Albania,

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as the NATO Parliamentary Assembly’s Albanian vice president. The panellists analysed the political and economic impact that the conflict may have on Western Balkan nations, their integration process into the European Union, and their cooperation within the region. Unable to attend in person, former North Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski gave his speech on video.

In the second session, with the theme “Economic Cooperation as a Sustainable Precondition for Reconciliation in the Region”, speakers discussed the current state of economic exchanges in the Western Balkans, compared the merits of various projects for economic

development and cooperation in the region, and pointed to specific challenges, such as the exodus of young people toward European Union countries.

The afternoon session was dedicated to the theme “The Future of Youth in the Balkans.” Tirana, the capital of Albania, was elected as European Youth Capital for 2022 by the European Youth Forum, a platform of youth organizations in Europe supported by the Council of Europe. Speakers included Erion Veliaj, the mayor of Tirana; Dafina Peci, executive director of the National Youth Congress of Albania; and Erëza Mehmeti, coordinator of the International Office at Kosovo’s University of Business and Technology (UBT).



1 (L to R) H.E. Vilson Ahmeti, prime minister of Albania (1991-1992); Mrs. Manjola Vasmatics, president, FFWPU Albania; H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco, head of OSCE Presence in Albania; Hon. Talat Xhaferi, president, National Assembly, North Macedonia; Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, president, UN Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women; Prof. Dr. Selami Xhepa, president, European University of Tirana; Dr. Michael Balcomb, president, FFWPU Europe and Middle East

2 Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana, speaking in session 3



REGIONAL NEWS

BALKAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HELD IN KOSOVO

Written by Jacques Marion, co-chair, UPF Europe and the Middle East



1 Session 1 panel (L to R) Mr. Binak Ulaj, Chairman of UPF Kosovo; Dr. Werner Fasslabend, President, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy; H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu, President of Kosovo (2006 – 2010); H.E. Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania (2002 – 2007); Chairman of ISCP Balkans; H.E. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo; H.E. Stjepan Mesić, President of Croatia (2000 – 2010); Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, Chairman, UPF Europe & Middle East; H.E. Senida Mesji, Deputy Prime Minister of Albania (2017 – 2019)



2 H.E. Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo

3 Mr. Tom McDevitt, Chairman of the Washington Times, speaking in session 2B

4 The panelists and participants of the youth session



On June 11, 2022, UPF's Europe and Middle East chapter held a Balkans Leadership conference on “Peace, Security and Development in the Western Balkans” in Pristina, Kosovo, under the auspices of the Government of Kosovo. The conference was held in partnership with the KosovaPress Agency, the Washington Times Foundation, the International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) and the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP).

Attended by 250 participants representing 14 nations, the conference was honoured by the presence of Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti and three members of his government, as well as three

respected former presidents from Albania, Croatia, and Kosovo. Other participants included current and former members of parliament, rectors and professors from various Kosovo universities, and media agencies from throughout the Balkans.

In the context of heightening East-West tensions, the conference addressed the impact of the Ukraine conflict on the Western Balkans.

The opening plenary session focused on the destabilizing trends in the region, outlining the role of Serbia and the influence of Russia. In the second session, addressing the political and economic situation in the region,

the panellists pointed to the need for rebuilding trust and discussed the merits of the Open Balkans initiative proposed by Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia.

Two panels on the media, attended by representatives from 15 Balkan news agencies, discussed the theme “Ethical Reporting in Conflict Situations - Raising the Credibility of Journalism in the Balkans”.

One session on “Youth Interaction and the Future of the Balkans” brought together youth leaders from the region and addressed the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks that ensure young people’s representation in policy cycles. The conference concluded with an Assembly of the Ambassadors for Peace from Kosovo and the election of the new National Peace Council of UPF-Kosovo.

REGIONAL NEWS

UPF-ITALY HOLDS PEACE EVENT AT TURIN BOOK FAIR

Written by Maria Gabriella Mieli, coordinator, UPF-Southern Europe



(L to R) Dr. Vincenzo Andrea Camarda; Carlo Zonato, president of UPF-Italy; Agostino Formichella, editor of the newspaper Eco Dai Palazzi; Sergio Coscia, UPF-Turin; Maria Gabriella Mieli, UPF South Europe Coordinator

At the invitation of Dr. Vincenzo Andrea Camarda, president of the IV Council Commission of the Municipality and the newly elected vice president of the Piedmont region branch of the National Association of Italian Municipalities, UPF-Italy held an event at the Turin International Book Fair titled "Paths for a Culture of Peace." At the initiative of Deputy Mayor Michela Favaro, in response to the situation in Ukraine, UPF was invited to describe its projects for peace in an open space area called the "House of Peace".

Human rights expert Dr. Antonio Stango introduced the Italian Federation of Human Rights, while Agostino Formichella, editor of Eco Dai Palazzi, presented a humanitarian project. In conclusion, a message from Councillor Lucia Anita Nucera was read to invite Piedmont region municipalities, and other cities positioned on the 38th parallel, to organize programs linked with the Peace Road projects.

UPF UNITED KINGDOM LAUNCHES YOUTH FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (YPAD)

Written by Robin Marsh, secretary general, UPF United Kingdom

UPF United Kingdom recently initiated a series of youth service projects under the banner of Youth for Peace and Development (YPAD), which will enable 18- to 30-year-olds to collaborate with their peers from a variety of ethnic, religious and social backgrounds while developing altruism, friendship beyond differences, and learning associated with effective community service.

On Saturday, 23 April, the first one-day service project was organized in partnership with the STORM Family Centre in Battersea, south London, to work on their garden. Marie Hanson MBE and her family provided support, and two very friendly professional gardeners, Lou and Melissa,



provided guidance during the day. Some of UPF-UK's Young Achievers from several years back attended together with UPF members and new friends.

UPF-FINLAND OBSERVES AFRICA DAY

Written by Keijo Mikkanen, secretary general, UPF-Finland; secretary, AFAES



Helsinki, Finland—UPF co-sponsored the 11th celebration of Africa Day in Finland on 25 May, at the new offices of the registered organization Africans and African-Europeans Association (AFAES). Other celebrations in which UPF participated were organized by the Moniheli umbrella organization of some 140 NGOs, and in the cities of Jyväskylä and Joensuu.

Hon. Suldaan Said Ahmed, MP in Finland, is awarded an Ambassador for Peace certificate.

REGIONAL NEWS

UPF-SWITZERLAND HOLDS PEACE CUP CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Written by Seraina Termine, UPF-Switzerland



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2



3

- 1 The team that won the Peace Cup trophy.
- 2 The Peace Cup trophy, the main award given at the tournament.
- 3 Two teams play a match.

Novazzano, Switzerland – The UPF branch in the canton of Ticino, in partnership with the local football club, held the ninth edition of the Peace Cup children's football tournament. Twelve teams of category E from the Swiss canton of Ticino and the Italian region close to the border, including one female team, participated in the event, which aims to promote fair play.

The Peace Cup gives awards not only for winning scores but also for demonstrating support and fairness on the field. The largest and most desired of all, called the "Peace Cup," is the main prize, given to the team that best demonstrates fair play!

Participants and the public were very motivated, making this event enjoyable for all, especially for the three Ukrainian players, refugees from the war. The Peace Cup was won by the team from the town of Stabio, partly in recognition of their integration work, while the Lario Intelvi won the first rank of the tournament.

MOSCOW CHILDREN PLAY CHESS FOR FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE

Written by Dmitry Samko, president, UPF Moscow

On 28 May, the "Joy of Childhood" children's centre in Moscow hosted the finals of a chess tournament for children, organized by Dmitry Samko, chairman of the Universal Peace Federation of Moscow.

Children from different regions of Moscow gathered to compete in an exciting tournament in three age categories from 4 to 12 years old. Many of the children who participated in the tournament did not know the names and moves of the chess pieces at the beginning of the school year, but by the end of May they were seriously competing at an advanced level.

In the tournament, of course, someone won, someone lost, but all participants received commemorative medals and certificates. For some, this is indeed a reward; for others it is also an incentive to play better. For parents and grandparents who came to cheer on the young chess players, such events are another important confirmation that their children are in good hands and are acquiring the skills of friendly communication, fair play and noble rivalry.



REGIONAL NEWS

UKRAINE CRISIS INSPIRES INTERFAITH PRAYER, MOLDOVA VOLUNTEERISM

From a report by UPF Moldova



1 Children of the Sunflower Project class with UPF staff and teachers.
 2 Sunflower Project supporters and donors in front of the UPF Peace Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova.
 3 Meredith Wiedemer (center) with her Ambassador for Peace Certificate, with Sabina Nadejdin (right), president of FFWPU Moldova.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, UPF has engaged in a series of online interfaith prayers for peace featuring spiritual leaders from around the region, as part of their ongoing efforts to promote dialogue and reconciliation.

At the outset of the conflict, Pope Francis called all believers around the world to a Day of Fasting and Prayer on 2 March, which is Ash Wednesday in the Christian tradition. In this spirit, on that day UPF and the Women's

Federation for World Peace held their first online prayer meeting, which led to a series of six weekly events from 17 March to 21 April.

As part of the efforts to help Ukrainian refugees, the Sunflower Centre was established at the UPF Peace Embassy in Chisinau, Moldova, as a joint project between the local chapter of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, an organization that is affiliated with UPF, and Meredith Wiedemer, a US citizen, to provide education and support to both Ukrainian children and parents who suddenly found themselves uprooted

and in a strange environment.

The UPF Peace Embassy in Chisinau also is playing a central role in humanitarian aid, as approximately 20 tonnes of products, including food, clothing, hygiene products, and children's toys, have been distributed so far through its premises.

As the Sunflower Centre was featured in the media and praised for its quality care for refugees, the president of Moldova, H.E. Maia Sandu, sent an official letter of gratitude to the Moldovan chapter of FFWPU, thanking them for their achievements.

UPF Europe & Middle East Newsletter

Visit www.eume.upf.org/n11 for the complete reports.

Published by Universal Peace Federation Europe and Middle East, 43 Lancaster Gate, London, England, W2 3NA, United Kingdom.

Printed by Flyeralarm GmbH, Alfred-Nobel-Str. 18, 97080 Würzburg, Germany.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|--------------------|---|
| July 26-28, 2022 | Conference and Peace Road in Berlin |
| August 4-5, 2022 | International Leadership Conference in Europe and Middle East |
| August 11-14, 2022 | International Leadership Conference in Korea |
| August 15, 2022 | 5th Think Tank 2022 Forum |
| September 21, 2022 | UN International Day of Peace |

See the calendar of events at www.eume.upf.org/agenda/events