

UN Conference

“Cultural Exchange and Sustainable Development for Peace”

Vannes, Brittany, France, 27. September 2014



M. Nakpergou, First Secretary of the Togo Embassy in Paris - Mrs. Sonia Ramzi, Assistant to Former UN Secretary-General Dr Boutros-Ghali



Mrs. Eugenie Dossa Quenum, former President, International Women's League for Peace and Freedom - Visiting Vannes

The Brittany chapter of the Universal Peace Federation celebrated the International Day of Peace. A well-known touristic town located in Brittany, Vannes was a good environment to invite VIPs from Paris on a weekend. With representatives from local NGOs in the audience, the meeting was held on the theme of « Cultural Exchange and Sustainable Development for Peace » and introduced cooperation projects between Brittany and Africa.

After words of welcome by André BLEVIN, the UPF-Brittany representative, the first speaker, Mr. NAKPERGOU, First Secretary of the Embassy of Togo in Paris, on behalf of the Ambassador, praised the initiative of a Day of Peace promoting international projects with Africa. Jean-Luc BERLET, a philosopher, then gave an insightful perspective on peace in society based on human development.

They were followed by Mrs Sonia RAMZI, assistant to Dr BOUTROS-GHALI, the former UN Secretary General and currently Director of the UNESCO Committee on Democracy and Development, who spoke on the significance of heritage as wealth for the world.

Mrs. Eugenie DOSSA-QUENUM, a former president of the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, gave some insights on the role of women in conflict resolution throughout the world.

A few practical cooperation projects were then introduced: humanitarian projects for Togo organized for several years by Maguite LORCY, a UPF Peace Ambassador from the GAIA association, and supported by UPF-Brittany ; an interreligious peace initiative in Africa by Siangou KOUMPCHANE, from the association « Together », based in the nearby city of Rennes ; and a drinking water project set up in Madagascar, presented by a young engineer, Thierry MALDONADO.

The day ended with presentations on UPF activities by UPF France vice-president Patrick JOUAN, and WFPW activities by Brigitte WADA, WFPW-France president. Three participants received certificates as new ambassadors for peace.

The next day, before returning to Paris, some participants had the opportunity to visit the famous prehistoric site of Carnac, near Vannes, which provided a good opportunity for intellectual enrichment and casual sharing.