



UPF EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER



PEACE SUMMIT 2023: TOWARD A WORLD CULTURE OF PEACE

From reports by UPF International

Peace Summit 2023 gathered global leaders in Seoul, South Korea, from 2 to 6 May to discuss the many crises facing the global village and a pathway to peace. The conference theme, “Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace,” called on the more than 700 participants from 68 nations to consider innovative approaches to leadership and action based on the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values.

The Summit was inaugurated with a beautiful choral performance by the Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet of Korea, followed by a water ceremony conducted by religious leaders from across the world. By video, H.E. Donald Trump (USA), H.E.

Hun Sen (Cambodia), and H.E. Macky Sall (Senegal) sent congratulatory remarks. In person, congratulatory speakers included Hon. Newt Gingrich, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and H.E. Aziz Rajapaksa, the deputy speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament. Keynote speeches were delivered by H.E. Brigi Rafini, secretary general of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, the former president of Sri Lanka; and Mr. Jim Rogers, an advisor to UPF.

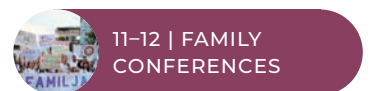
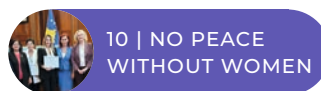
Hon. Mike Pompeo, a former U.S. secretary of state, said: “I had the privilege to serve for 1,000 days as America’s most senior diplomat. I saw that organizations like UPF, the work of Mother Moon matters. We should

not lose hope. We should not stop the climb. We will reach the summit, and God will be with us.”

H.E. Yves Leterme, the former prime minister of Belgium, said, “Countries that are interconnected, with economic openness and interfaith openness, don’t go to war.”

In the Founder’s Address, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon said: “All of you gathered here today are righteous people whom Heaven has blessed. I pray that we will all join hands together in the historic and providential ranks of those who are blessed and realize the dream of one family of humankind under the Heavenly Parent of Peace.”

Following the inauguration of the



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Elders' Roundtable, designed to tap into the wisdom and experience of society's elders, the opening plenary concluded with a presentation of plaques of appreciation and a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dr. Moon.

Concurrent sessions followed, offering perspectives from the major regions of the world, in which expert panelists offered their recommendations for a way forward beyond conflict and division and toward harmony and cooperation. The Europe and Middle East session focused on the Balkans, featuring Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti and five former heads of state or government from Balkan nations. Another series of sessions featured insights and recommendations from each of UPF's associations.

The 6th Think Tank 2022 Forum took place in the morning of 4 May under the theme "Toward Peace in the Indo-Pacific." The main speaker was Dr. Michael Pillsbury, senior fellow for China Strategy at the Hudson Institute, a conservative American think tank based in Washington, D.C. To conclude the summit, UPF Chair Dr. Thomas G. Walsh reiterated the impact of UPF and its track record and reputation as a serious discussion platform for global intellectuals to brainstorm, exploring the direction humanity should take and put into practice.

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER



Dr. Katsumi Otsuka
Chairman, UPF Europe
& Middle East

Dear Readers,

One year after the beginning of the war in Ukraine, we are dealing with a crisis with multiple global consequences. This June edition features some of the events UPF has been holding to address these conflicts in Europe and the Middle East.

Peace Summit 2023 on "Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace," held on May 2 to 6 in Seoul, South Korea, gathered participants from 68 nations. Our regional chapter invited 30 participants to the Summit, including a high-level delegation of former heads of state from the Balkan Peninsula.

To address the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the Balkans, UPF has been holding a series of events on peace and security, in partnership with the Podgorica Club of former Balkan heads of state. On 13 June in the Parliament of Kosovo, UPF co-sponsored a conference, with Women's Federation for World Peace, titled "No Peace Without Women" which promoted women's role in the peacebuilding process.

In every nation many other projects have been organized this year. This newsletter can report on only a fraction of these events, yet let me express my gratitude to all UPF volunteers and Ambassadors for Peace for their dedication and support.



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1 UPF founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon addresses the participants of the Elders' Roundtable.

2 Dr. Yun Young-ho, the director general of UPF International, welcomes the participants.

3 The Summit began with an interfaith water ceremony conducted by religious leaders from across the world.



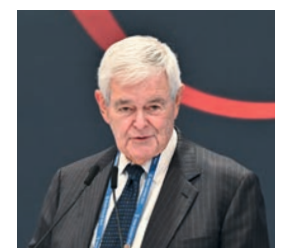
H.E. Yves Leterme
Prime Minister, Belgium
(2008; 2009-2011)



H.E. Rosalía Arteaga
Serranov
President, Ecuador (1997)



H.E. Brigi Rafini
Secretary General,
CEN-SAD



Hon. Newt Gingrich
Speaker, U.S. House of
Representatives (1995-1999)

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6TH THINK TANK 2022 FORUM

Roger Wetherall, IAED-USA coordinator

The 6th Think Tank 2022 Forum was co-hosted with The Washington Times and Segye Ilbo under the theme “Toward Peace in the Indo-Pacific.” After welcoming remarks and a brief historical background on the origins of Think Tank 2022 by Dr. Yun Young-Ho, UPF director general, H.E. Albin Kurti, prime minister of Kosovo, offered welcoming remarks in which he pleaded for respect for territorial integrity, be it in the Indo-Pacific region or in Southeast Europe, where his own country is not yet recognized by all countries.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Pillsbury, senior fellow for China strategy at the Hudson Institute, a conservative American think tank based in Washington, D.C., who

referred to his best-selling book Hundred Year Marathon and gave a very insightful and alarming view of China and the threat that it poses to the West.

The Keynote Address was followed by two commentaries: from Kim Geun Sik, chair of the Unification Committee of the People Power Party; and Hon. Mike Pompeo, secretary of state (2018-2021), USA. The program concluded with a panel discussion with, among others, H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni, president (2006 to 2016), Benin; Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend, minister of defense (1990-2000), Austria; and Dr. Chheng Kimlong, executive vice president, Asian Vision Institute, Cambodia.

SPEECH EXCERPTS

Dr. Michael Pillsbury

Senior fellow for China Strategy at the Hudson Institute, USA



I show in [my book] that Beijing is serious, cautious, and risk-averse. China has a 3,000-year history of rising powers that toppled the old hegemon to create a new global dynasty. Xi Jinping often quotes ancient authors like Han Fei to illustrate how the greatest dynasties were established by creating complacency and confusion in the mind of the old global leader.

H.E. Albin Kurti

Prime Minister of Kosovo



The time we are going through represents a historical turning point. Two trends are sweeping through the world today: freedom, peace and democracy on the one hand; and invasion, war and autocracy on the other. We find that these two trends are present all over the world, so also in the Indo-Pacific.

Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend

Minister of defense (1990-2000), Austria



From the position of a medium-sized, landlocked country in Europe, why is the situation east of the Asian continent, Western Pacific, so important even for Europeans? For me, the most important reason is because in this region you will find three global hotspots: North Korea, Taiwan, and the South China Sea.

Hon. Mike Pompeo

Secretary of state (2018-2021), USA



I often hear the conflict in the world described as between the United States and China. I don't believe that's true for a second. This is not about some conflict between one country and another. This is about the model that will be set for the entire world, how each of you and every one of your families will live.



Dr. Michael Pillsbury gives the keynote address at the 6th Think Tank 2022 Forum.

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SESSIONS OF THE PEACE SUMMIT 2023 (MAY 2-6)

FOCUS ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Written by Renee Corley, UPF International



H.E. Albin Kurti, prime minister of Kosovo, addresses the audience.

“Prospects for Peace in Southeast Europe,” which took place on May 4, 2023, was one of the regional peacebuilding sessions of Peace Summit 2023. It featured a very distinguished group of speakers.

H.E. Albin Kurti, prime minister of Kosovo, said: “We [in Kosovo] are trying our best to have, on the one hand, peace and security but, on the other hand, freedom and democracy. We believe we do not have to sacrifice freedom for the sake of security, or vice versa, and that democracy is not just an instrument to get elected into power, but also a value to which we should adhere every day.”

H.E. Alfred Moisiu, president of Albania (2002-2007) and current chairman for the Balkans of UPF’s Summit Council for Peace, warned that the risk of a confrontation between Serbs and Albanians has become more actual than ever. It is our urgent duty as Ambassadors for Peace to sharpen our vigilance and work for peace, he said.

H.E. Filip Vujanović, president of Montenegro (2003-2018) and founder of the Podgorica Club, a group of former heads of state and government from the Balkan nations, explained that Montenegro enjoys a good relationship with its neighbors because it accepted many refugees

and displaced people, and is strongly dedicated to the values of peace, stability and prosperity.

H.E. Mladen Ivanić, president of Bosnia & Herzegovina (2014-2015, 2016-2017), speculated that in the current Ukraine-Russia conflict, the two sides may not sit down to build an agreement until far too many people have been killed. He proposed that the two sides should not wait but sit down now and work for an agreement.

Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend, the Austrian minister of defense (1990 to 2000) and president of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, said that strong Serbian nationalism and strong Albanian nationalism exist. But because both nations are losing their populations, they need to unite and work together in order to survive.

H.E. Zlatko Lagumdžija, prime minister of Bosnia & Herzegovina (2001 to 2002) and newly appointed ambassador of his country to the U.N., emphasized the need to achieve a new level of cooperation among European nations to deal with the current threats and to reach out to the European Political Community of 44 nations that was established in 2022.

As the final speaker, H.E. Boris Tadić, president of Serbia (2004 to 2012), said that those who focus on solving existing conflicts are doing important work, but prevention of conflict is much more important. He stated that the Kosovo issue triggered the war in Ukraine. This demonstrated, he said, that when we don’t focus on a problem we are facing, we will pay an extremely high price after a few years.



H.E. Alfred Moisiu
President, Albania
(2002-2007)



H.E. Filip Vujanović
President, Montenegro
(2003-2018)



H.E. Boris Tadić
President, Serbia
(2004-2012)



H.E. Mladen Ivanić
President, Bosnia &
Herzegovina
(2014-2015, 2016-2017)



Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend
Minister of defense,
Austria (1990-2000)



H.E. Zlatko Lagumdžija
Prime minister,
Bosnia & Herzegovina
(2001 to 2002)

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR PEACE

Written by Cindy Pfeiffer, North America regional coordinator of IAFLP

A session devoted to the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) was held on May 4, 2023, and included current and former parliamentarians from 10 countries. Dr. Michael Jenkins, president of UPF International, served as the moderator, while Hon. Dan Burton, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives (1983–2013) and international co-chair of IAPP, spoke of the association's important network of legislators representing countries all over the world, who are given the ability to address their countries' problems.



Other speakers were Hon. Annette Lu, vice president of Taiwan (2000–2008); Hon. Maimouma Yombouno, first vice president of the National Assembly of Guinea; Hon. Iroshka Lindaly Elvir Flores Nasralla, vice president of the National Congress of Honduras; and Hon. Hamidou Traore, vice president, National Assembly (National Transition Council) of Mali. Hon. Dr. Malte Kaufmann, a member of the parliament of Germany (Bundestag), said that, coming from Germany, a country that was once divided, it is heartbreaking to see Korea still divided. What happened in Germany after 40 years—reunification—also could happen in Korea. We must know that peace “with God” is the way of peace, he concluded.

- 1 Hon. Iroshka Lindaly Elvir Flores Nasralla, vice president of the National Congress of Honduras
- 2 Hon. Dan Burton, Member of Congress (1983–2013); International Co-Chair, IAPP, USA
- 3 Hon. Maimouma Yombouno, first vice president of the National Assembly of Guinea
- 4 Hon. Dr. Malte Kaufmann, Member of Parliament, Germany
- 5 Hon. Annette Lu, Vice President (2000–2008), Taiwan
- 6 Hon. Hamidou Traore, Vice President, National Assembly (National Transition Council), Mali

RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR PEACE

Written by David Fraser Harris, secretary general, UPF Middle East and North Africa

A session of Peace Summit 2023 was devoted to UPF's Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD). Dr. Tageldin Hamad, vice president of UPF International and international coordinator of IAPD, was the moderator. Dr. Arben Sulejmani from North Macedonia, speaking on behalf of His Holiness Baba Mondi, world leader of the Bektashi Order, reminded the audience that the fundamental responsibility of religious leaders is to promote goodness. Hon. Dr. Mohammad Habash from United Arab Emirates spoke of his efforts under Syria's late Grand Mufti Sheikh Ahmad Kftarou to develop interfaith initiatives in Syria, and of his more recent efforts in the

UAE as chairman of the Human Fraternity Center, which has one target: “How can we build one family under God?”

Other speakers were Archbishop George Stallings Jr., chair of IAPD-USA; Dr. Surinder S. Gill, secretary general of the Sikhs of the United States; Bhai Sahib Satpal, ambassador for the Sikh religion in the Western Hemisphere; Pastor Juan Carlos Hasbun, senior pastor of Kemuel Christian Church in El Salvador; Rev. Dr. Cynthia Jackson, pastor of Allen AME Church, New Jersey, USA. The final speaker was Imboni Dr. Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe, founder of the Revelation Spiritual Home, South Africa, who referred to that human interconnectedness that is called *Ubuntu*.



The panelists of the IAPD session at the Peace Summit 2023



Hon. Dr. Mohammad Habash
Associate Professor,
Abu Dhabi University



Dr. Arben Sulejmani
Bektashi Order,
North Macedonia

FIRST LADIES AND WOMEN LEADERS

Written by Blessie G. Dhakal, international coordinator, IAFLP



1 Hon. Liza Gashi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Kosovo
2 H.E. Monica Chakwera, First Lady, Malawi



3 The panelists of the IAFLP session



4 The participants are mainly first ladies and women leaders.

The session on May 3 that was devoted to the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP), “First Ladies’ and Women Leaders’ Role in Building a Culture of Peace,” was moderated by Kaeleigh Moffitt, the president of Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), USA. A total of 80 participants attended the session, including 15 current or former first ladies. Moriko Hori, the president of WFWP International, welcomed the prominent women leaders and participants.

The speakers were H.E. Dr. Ade Shirri Dion Ngute Grace, wife of the prime minister, Cameroon; H.E. Dr. Monica Chakwera, first lady of Malawi; Dr. Rajni Kaushal Chand,

wife of the deputy prime minister, Fiji; Hilda Patricia Marroquin de Morales, first lady (2016–2020), Guatemala; Shiranthi Wickramasinghe Rajapaksa, first lady (2005–2015) and wife of the prime minister (2019–2023), Sri Lanka; and Hon. Liza Gashi, deputy minister of foreign affairs and diaspora, Kosovo.

Hon. Liza Gashi highlighted how women’s leadership can contribute to better representation, gender equality, peace and security, and inclusiveness and diversity—all of which are crucial in building a lasting world culture of peace. The closing remarks were given by Blessie G. Dhakal, international coordinator of IAFLP.

ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

Written by Nancy Hewitt and Dr. Thomas Selover

The International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) held two sessions on May 4, both moderated by Dr. Thomas Selover, international co-coordinator of IAAP. The first session included a welcoming address by Dr. Thomas Walsh, chairman of UPF International, and an opening address by Dr. Sung-Bae Jin, chairman of the Hyo Jeong Academic Foundation. The other speakers were H.E. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba, vice president (2003–2004), Zambia; Dr. Frank Kaufmann, president, Professors World Peace

Academy (PWPA), USA; and Hon. Dr. Mohammad Habash, associate professor, Abu Dhabi University, UAE, who stated that religious scripture has been widely interpreted to justify war, but no one has a right to force people to war.

The second session included special opening remarks by Dr. Sakeena Yacoobi from the Afghan Institute of Learning and a Sunhak Peace Prize laureate, who gave a passionate testimony of her struggle in Afghanistan. The other speakers were Professor Dr. Mahendra Prasad Lama, senior professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, president, University for Peace, Costa Rica; and Hon. Keith Best, MP (1979–1987) and chairman of the Board of Trustees, UPF UK, whose presentation was titled “The Path to Peace: The Role of the UN and UPF in Achieving Peace in Europe and the Middle East.”



Left to right: Professor Heung-soon Park, professor, Sun Moon University, South Korea; Hon. Timothy Mtambo, minister of character education and civil unity, Malawi; Mrs. Sagadat Sabitova, UN expert on family psychology, education, gender issues, and domestic violence, Kazakhstan; Dr. Thomas Selover, International President, PWPA; Dr. Mahendra Prasad Lama, senior professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, president, University for Peace (UPEACE), Costa Rica; Hon. Keith Best, MP (1979–1987), UK



The panelists and participants of the symposium

WORKING TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Over the years, UPF founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon have launched many projects for the sake of the environment. Motivated by a desire to feed the hungry and to creatively protect this world, they personally devoted time, energy and resources to the creation of the Leda Settlement in the Pantanal wetlands of Paraguay. While investing in large areas of the Pantanal and the Chaco region, they sought to educate others on the importance of these areas for the future of Paraguay and the world. More recently, in South Korea Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon created the HJ Garden, a nature reserve adjoining the newly dedicated Cheon Won Gung temple in the Cheongpyeong complex, and inaugurated an emission-free, electric sightseeing ship that will sail on the neighboring Bukhan River.



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has initiated many projects for the environment, including the recently inaugurated "HJ Cruise", the first electric cruise ship in Korea.

Excerpt of Address by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon at the 1st Rally of Hope on 9 August 2020

Originally, the Creator's dream was to build the kingdom of God on earth together with His children. However, due to the unforeseen fall of humankind away from God, our history has continuously been marked by wars, as we see today. However, the natural world, unaffected by the fall, continues to exist in accordance with the principles of creation.

It is due to people's ignorance that not only this nation but also all nations are contributing to climate change. The beautiful earth created by the Creator is being destroyed. Some wealthy nations are seeking to escape from the earth's environmental problems by going into space. I cannot say that this method is the right one. This earth was specially selected by God the Creator; it is God's beloved earth. There can be no future for people who seek to abandon the earth. Will going into space guarantee eternity?

Our earthly life, our physical life, is limited. The urgent priority should be: How can I and my family live a life that aligns with our eternal life? The COVID-19 pandemic has cost many people their lives. International cooperation is at a standstill. Additionally, natural calamities and floods have caused numerous casualties and displaced civilians. What do you think about this? I have said before that God, our Creator, is love. God is our Parent. How would a parent feel who watches his or her children die? The time has now come for us, particularly the people of Korea, its politicians, and religious leaders, to kneel and offer prayers of repentance and compassion before Heaven.

Excerpt of Dr. Sun Myung Moon's speech about the Pantanal on 8 November 1999

There are many places in the Pantanal where nature has been untouched and remains the same as it was when first created by God. In other places, many species could not maintain their standard and have become extinct. Yet this area around the Pantanal and the Amazon Valley remains untouched. Why did I come here? I am not the only who came. God came with me and loves all of creation that was sacrificed throughout history.

In Noah's time, the fish were not judged. I came here to the Pantanal to pave a path for creation to return through indemnity, by creating a bond with the fish that were untouched by the flood judgment. We must love all things that were created by God. I have the responsibility to protect this. We should increase the number of species. We should not exterminate the species, thus making the creation less than it was when first created by God.

The Pantanal is a place that can become a primordial treasure house for the animals and plants that were originally created by God. I am establishing an international movement to protect and preserve God's creations. Will you or will you not cooperate with me?

The Pantanal is where land, water and plants live together. It is truly exquisite. Creatures from the time of Creation have survived there in the Amazon Valley, in the Pantanal. They have carried on their line of species while living in nature untouched since the time of Creation. That is why the Pantanal is the world's Holy Ground.



In the 1990s, when Dr. Sun Myung Moon was in his seventies, he and his wife Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon made many trips to South America's Pantanal wetlands, where they established the Jardim New Hope Project and Leda Settlement to find ways to end world hunger and train families from around the world to love and preserve the environment.

REGIONAL NEWS

BALKAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENNA

From reports by the EUME branches of UPF and WFWP

Vienna, Austria—Former Western Balkan heads of state, high-level officials and Balkans experts were the panelists at a one-day conference at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. The Balkan Leadership Conference of November 11, 2022, titled "Western Balkan Countries and EU Relations – Challenges and Perspectives," was held jointly by the Europe-Middle East branch of UPF and the Podgorica Club of former heads of state of the Balkan Peninsula. The approximately 150 participants included officials from 17 embassies, scholars, and NGO representatives.

Welcoming remarks were offered by Ambassador Emil Brix, director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna; Dr. Wolfgang Petritsch, president, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (by video); and Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, co-chair, UPF Europe and Middle East (EUME).

In session 1 on "The EU and NATO – European Security Architecture and the Position of the Western Balkans in Light of the Russian Aggression against Ukraine," former heads of state and government from the Balkans and others discussed the political situation in Southeast Europe in the light of the current conflict.



Session 1 (left to right): H.E. Enver Hoxhaj, deputy PM, Kosovo (2017-2019); Jacques Marion, co-chair, UPF EUME; Dr. Werner Fasslabend, president, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy; H.E. Alfred Moisiu, president, Albania (2002-2007); H.E. Stjepan Mesić, president, Croatia (2000-2010); H.E. Mladen Ivanić, president, Bosnia-Herzegovina (2015-2017); H.E. Goran Svilanović, Serbian minister of foreign affairs (2000-2004)



1 Dr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (2009-2021) (video message)

2 Dr. Wolfgang Petritsch, President of OIIP (video message)

3 The conference, held jointly by UPF-EUME and the Podgorica Club, attracted approximately 150 participants.

In session 2 on "The Western Balkans and the EU Accession Process Fatigue – Results, Responsibilities and Next Steps," H.E. Filip Vujanović, president of the Podgorica Club and president of Montenegro (2003-2018), presented an overview of the Podgorica Club, founded in Montenegro in February 2019. The panelists discussed the importance of NATO and EU accession for stability in the Western Balkans.

The third session on "Youth, Peace and Security in the Western Balkans – Moving Forward with the Energy and Optimism of the Next Generation" was co-organized with the Austrian chapter of International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), an organization affiliated with UPF. The speakers discussed the problems faced by the youth in Southeast Europe and offered possible ways forward.



Session 2 (left to right): Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, co-chair, UPF EUME; Dr. Werner Fasslabend, president, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy; H.E. Filip Vujanović, president, Podgorica Club, president, Montenegro (2003-2018); H.E. Rexhep Meidani, president, Albania (1997-2002); H.E. Jadranka Kosor, PM, Croatia (2009-2011); Hon. Lukas Mandl, member European Parliament, Austria; H.E. Zlatko Lagumdžija, PM, Bosnia-Herzegovina (2001-2002)



Session 3 (left to right): Lirjetë Avdiu-Vejsa, chairwoman, K Cultural Association, Vienna; Jennifer Miftarofska, IAYSP EUME; Slobodan Martinović, advisor to the former president Filip Vujanović, Montenegro; Kirsty Rancier, youth focal point for UNODC; Luka Čekić, expert on the Western Balkans, International Institute for Peace; Bogdan Pammer, president, IAYSP EUME; Aleksandar Savović, chief of cabinet of former President Mladen Ivanić, Bosnia-Herzegovina

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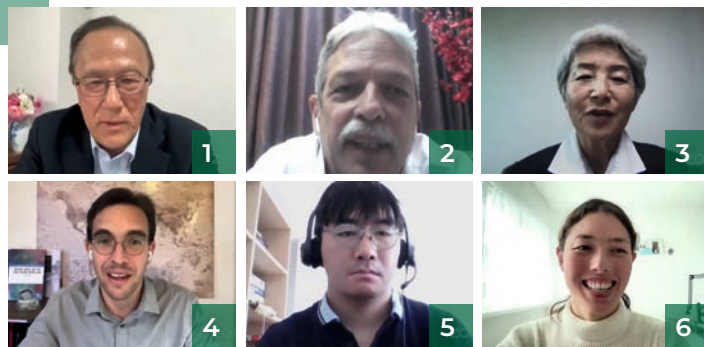
A NEUTRAL KOREAN PENINSULA: A SOLUTION FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN NORTHEAST ASIA?

Written by Chantal Chételat Komagata, coordinator, UPF Central Europe

Two webinars organized by UPF's International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) asked if the two Koreas could end their decades-long separation by embracing political neutrality. The first webinar on March 31, 2023, featured Mélanie Komagata, who presented her master's thesis on this topic conducted at the University of Geneva. Two eminent respondents, Dr. Vana Kim Hansen (Ed.D.), co-chair of the Council for a Neutral Unified Korea and Coordinator of the International Network for Neutral

Korea, and Felix Abt, a Swiss business affairs specialist on North Korea and Vietnam, offered their own experiences in relation to neutrality.

The second webinar on May 11 featured Dr. Sangpil Jin, assistant professor in Korean Studies at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Dr. Pascal Lottaz, associate professor at Kyoto University; and Dr. Vana Kim Hansen. The speakers attempted to identify the steps needed for neutrality to become a solution to the current stalemate. In his closing remarks, Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, co-chairman of UPF EUME, suggested the establishment of a Peace Zone at the Demilitarized Zone, where a fifth UN Office for Asia could be established.



- 1 Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, UPF Europe and Middle East
- 2 Mr. Felix Abt, Swiss business affairs specialist on North Korea
- 3 Dr. Vana Kim Hansen, Council for a Neutral Unified Korea; INNK
- 4 Dr. Pascal Lottaz, Associate Professor, Kyoto University
- 5 Dr. Sangpil Jin, Assistant Professor, University of Copenhagen
- 6 Mélanie Komagata, postgraduate student, University of Geneva

REGIONAL NEWS

SWISS PEACE CUP TOURNAMENT FOR CHILDREN

Written by Seraina Termine, UPF-Switzerland

The tenth edition of the Peace Cup children's football tournament was organized by the UPF chapter in the canton of Ticino in partnership with the local football club. Twelve category E teams from Switzerland and nearby Italy participated in the event on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Giuseppe Termine, president of UPF-Ticino, explained in his introductory speech, "The purpose of the tournament is to spend a day full of fun and respect for healthy values such as team spirit, non-violence and non-discrimination."

The winning result was achieved by the Stella Capriasca team, while the main Peace Cup award was conferred on the joyful Accademia del Talento team, which also had the youngest age average. Of the three special awards, one went to the girls-only team and the other two to associations for their preparation. One of these teams even created a workshop for children, with the aim of helping them to understand fair play and the values that support peace. The other team arrived with beautiful posters, declaring and affirming the significant role of peace in sports.



- 1 The team Accademia del Talento won the Peace Cup.
- 2 The team Stella Capriasca had the winning result.
- 3 Two of the teams in action
- 4 The girls' team received a special award for endurance.



REGIONAL NEWS

“NO PEACE WITHOUT WOMEN” CONFERENCE HELD IN KOSOVO

Written by Carolyn Handschin, vice president, WFWPI; Mitty Tohma, president, WFWP-EUME



Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, vice president, WFWPI, addresses the audience.



H.E. Albin Kurti, PM, Kosovo

The second conference in the “No Peace Without Women” series was held on 13 June 2023, at Kosovo’s Assembly in Pristina. Sponsors and partners were the Assembly, WFWPI UN Office, and the EUME branches of WFWP, UPF, and UPF’s International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP).

The prime minister of Kosovo, H.E. Albin Kurti, opened the conference. Hon. Liza Gashi, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and H.E. Emilia Redžepi, deputy prime minister, not only offered speeches but also were essential in preparations and in inviting all the nation’s parliamentarians. The event was attended by 120 leaders, 12 of whom were ambassadors from different nations of Europe and the

Balkans, with over 20 media outlets covering the event.

Besides those attending from the region—first ladies, former presidents, government ministers, members of parliament, business and financial leaders—there were messages of concern and support coming from Ol’ga Algayerová, the head of the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, and Nobel laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The “No Peace Without Women” conference has received strong support from political leaders, who increasingly recognize the need to involve women in peace processes. The conference amplified the voices of women calling for more inclusive and sustainable peace agreements.



H.E. Emilia Redžepi
Deputy prime minister,
Kosovo



Hon. Suzana Pribilović
MP, minister of public
administration,
Montenegro



H.E. Amb. Nancy Soderberg
Senior Director, National
Democratic Institute,
Kosovo/USA



Hon. Ol’ga Algayerová
General secretary,
UNECE, Geneva,
Switzerland
(video message)



H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Nobel laureate, president
(2006-2018), Liberia
(video message)



Hon. Liza Gashi
Deputy minister of
foreign affairs, Kosovo



Mrs. Anja Margetić
Deputy mayor, Sarajevo,
Bosnia & Herzegovina



Hon. Moriko Hori
President,
WFWP International



Hon. Senida Mesi
Deputy prime minister
(2017-2019), Albania



Ms. Sally Becker
CEO, Save a Child,
United Kingdom

REGIONAL NEWS

UPF EVENT AT UN GENEVA EXALTS PARENTS

Written by Heiner W. Handschin, UPF-EUME director for UN relations

Geneva, Switzerland—UPF and affiliated organizations held a conference titled “The Role of Parents in Creating a Peaceful and More Secure Society and World” on June 1, 2023, the Global Day of Parents, in the UN’s Palace of Nations.

Speakers in session 1, “The Empowerment of Parents as Key Educators of Children and Youth,” included (1) Frederique Seidel, program executive at the World Council of Churches, who suggested that environmental awareness should be addressed not only in schools but already in the family. (2) Dr. Adrian Holderegger, professor emeritus, University of Fribourg, called for compassion and flexibility in the

consideration of parenthood.

In session 2, “UN SDGs, Human Rights Advocacy in the Family, Schools, and Society,” (3) Dr. Marco Respinti, the editor of CESNUR’s Bitter Winter, spoke about offering tools for parenting based on promoting human rights. (4) Dr. Whadi Maalouf, global program manager, UNODC, Vienna, and (5) Sabine Rakotomalala, head, Violence Prevention Unit, World Health Organization, Geneva, described the skills and tools that these important UN agencies can offer to parents. These points were echoed by (6) Carolyn Handschin, president, UN CSW, who suggested a shift from patriarchy and matriarchy to a new concept of “family-archy.”



REGIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

Here we present a few of the events held in observance of the UN International Day of Families, which reflects the importance the international community attaches to families and their role in development. The 2023 observance focuses on “Demographic Trends and Families.”



Albania — The family festival in Shkodra, on 10 June included eminent personalities, well-known singers, a photography competition, and a lantern festival.



Moldova — On 14 May in Chisinau, more than 40 volunteers participated in a bicycle tour to promote the International Day of Families through a Peace Road project.



Norway — UPF-Norway organized a program on 22 May in the Main Library in Oslo with the theme “Family and Society – How Do Family Relations Affect Society?”



United Kingdom — Nearly 50 participants gathered at the Peace Embassy, Thornton Heath, London, for a special commemoration.



Kosovo — On 15 May, the regional council of Ferizaj, Kosovo, organized artistic activities to promote family values.



Russia — On 13 May, a “Play Football for Peace” tournament was held in Moscow with the support of local and regional officials.

REGIONAL NEWS

UPF-ALBANIA FAMILY CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES VALUES

Written by Gani Rroshi, secretary general, UPF-Albania



The second International Conference on the Family is held in the Tirana Peace Embassy.

Tirana, Albania—Approximately 100 people attended the second International Conference on the Family on April 15, 2023, titled "Family, Society and Universal Values." More than 60 dignitaries, researchers from various fields, Ambassadors for Peace and young people gathered in the Tirana Peace Embassy, with about 40 more joining online. H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu, president of Kosovo (2006-2010), delivered the welcoming speech.

In session 1, "Renewal of the Family System in a World That Needs Renewal," chaired by Dr. Saemira Pino Gjipali, former Albanian deputy minister of education, Dr. Ljiljana Skrobić, professor of social policy and social work, University of Nis, Serbia; Jacques Marion, co-chair, UPF EUME; and Ms. Vjollca Meçaj, lawyer and honorary chair, Helsinki Committee, Albania, spoke about important aspects of family functioning.

In session 2, "Understanding Values in Family and Society," the speakers included Professor Dr. Ibrahim Berisha, professor of sociology, University of Pristina, Kosovo;

Professor Dr. Svetlana Trbojevik, professor, Saints Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia; and Professor Dr. Lekë Sokoli, director, Institute of Sociology, Albania.

To conclude, four social scientists were honored with the title of Ambassador for Peace for their contributions as academics and social activists: Dr. Svetlana Trbojevik from North Macedonia, the lawyer Vjollca Meçaj, Professor Dr. Lekë Sokoli, and Gezim Tushi.



- 1 H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu, former president of Kosovo
- 2 Dr. Ljiljana Skrobić, professor of social policy and social work, University of Nis, Serbia
- 3 Ms. Vjollca Meçaj, lawyer and honorary chair, Helsinki Committee, Albania
- 4 Professor Dr. Ibrahim Berisha, professor of sociology, University of Pristina, Kosovo
- 5 Professor Dr. Svetlana Trbojevik, a professor at Saints Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia
- 6 Professor Dr. Lekë Sokoli, the director of the Institute of Sociology, Albania

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 22, 2023 International Leadership Conference, Cambodia
- Sept. 8-10, 2023 Seminar on UPF Vision and Peace Principles, Glory House, The Netherlands
- Oct. 14, 2023 Joint UPF Conference with the Podgorica Club, Skopje, North Macedonia
- December, 2023 Conference on Human Rights, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

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