

2016 International Day of Peace was celebrated by UPF Moscow, Russia

Dmitry Samko
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UPF-Moscow held a conference with the theme "The UN Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks of Peace" on September 24.

Representatives of public organizations, heads of affiliated organizations, and UPF Ambassadors for Peace attended the conference.

In his welcoming address as master of ceremonies, Dmitry Samko, secretary general of UPF-Moscow, emphasized the official message by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon outlining the important path for all humankind to follow: "This year's Day of Peace is dedicated to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are the basis for peace. Today, on the International Day of Peace, each of us has an opportunity to prove his or her commitment in the cause of peace by becoming a champion of Sustainable Development Goals."

Together with Sergei Suprunyuk, the chair of the super-marathoners' association "I Choose Sport!," Mr. Samko presented the results of the 2016 Peace Road project and the children's marathon from Moscow to Nizhny Novgorod, which was perhaps the main event of the summer under the Peace Road banner.

The picture of 2016 Peace Road activities was completed by Alexander Kubrak, team captain and coordinator of the Three Sisters 2016 race. Runners from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus participated in this ultra-marathon on July 30, the International Day of Friendship, when all three teams met at the Three Sisters memorial where the borders of the three countries meet.

Representing the Moscow chapter of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an affiliated organization, Elena Popova described its activities around the world. Special emphasis was given to the Bridge of Peace project, which has been carried out in different regions and countries to promote understanding and acceptance of other cultures.

Konstantin Krylov, the regional secretary general of UPF for Eurasia, spoke about recent initiatives and plans of the federation and focused on the UPF Principles of Peace on which the activities of the Ambassadors for Peace are based: "The partnership concept is an integral part of the UN program of Sustainable Development for the period up to 2030," Mr. Krylov said. "This partnership is based on mutual respect, dialogue, and understanding that we all are members of one global family. It complies with the principles supported by the Universal Peace Federation."

Ambassador for Peace certificates were awarded to two distinguished public figures: Zhurlah Ashuev, a member of the Assembly of Peoples of Russia committee that is titled "The Health of the Nation Is the Future of Russia"; and Dr. Ahmed Al-Saati, ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Russia, who in response promised to be worthy of the title Ambassador for Peace and invited UPF to hold a conference at the highest level in his country.

—Dmitry Samko, secretary general, UPF-Moscow