

Executive Summary of International Leadership Conference 2020 - The Americas

Michael Jenkins
September 13, 2020

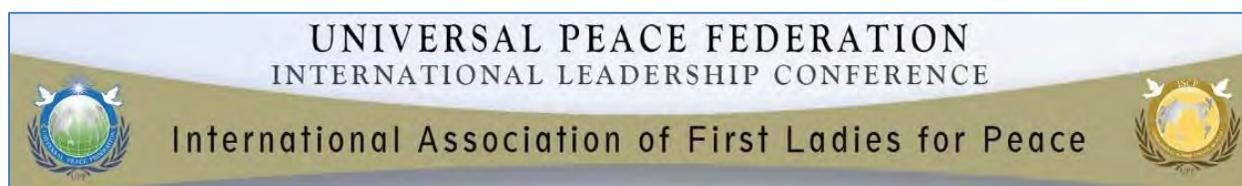


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INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
International Summit Council for Peace

 <p>Chair: Dr. Chang Shik Yang Chair, Universal Peace Federation Central America and Caribbean Regional</p>	 <p>H.E. Dr. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano Former President of Ecuador during a brief period of conflict over the office in 1997.</p>	 <p>H.E. Jocelerne Privete Former President of Haiti (2016 -2017). He was President of the Senate in Economy and Finance.</p>	 <p>H.E. Juan Guaidó Current president of the National Assembly and interim president of Venezuela.</p>
 <p>Hon. David Kilgour Was first elected to the Canadian House of Commons in 1979 and was re-elected seven times. International Council.</p>	 <p>Hon. John T. Doolittle Congressman John T. Doolittle served in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1991-2009.</p>	 <p>Dr. Michael Jenkins President of the North America Region of Universal Peace Federation International oldings, LLC.</p>	

The Americas -- The successful ILC 2020 for the Americas, under UPF Chairman Dr. Thomas Walsh, was organized by Regional Chairs Dr. Chang Shik Yang (Central America and the Caribbean), Rev. Dongmo Shin (South America) and Dr. Michael Jenkins (North America).

The sessions included 92 speakers and about 1,000 attendees, bringing a wide range of perspectives and experiences representing North America, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America. The session structure, including the creation of panels and themes, was organized around the UPF associations and assigned coordinators: International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP, Dr. Walsh) and its important project, The International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP); International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP, Dr. Jenkins); Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD, Dr. Taj Hamad); International Media Association for Peace and International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IMAP and IAED, Mr. Tom McDevitt); and International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP, Dr. Tom Selover).



UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
International Association of First Ladies for Peace

 <p>Chair: Mrs. Angelika Selle North American Coordinator of IAFLP.</p>	 <p>Dr. Sun Jin Moon International Senior Vice President of Women's Federation for World Peace.</p>	 <p>Madam Hilda Patricia Marroquín de Morales Former First Lady of the Republic of Guatemala 2016-2020.</p>	 <p>Hon. María Fernanda Flores de Alemán Former First Lady of Nicaragua; actually she is Congresswoman of the National Assembly of Nicaragua.</p>
 <p>Hon. Emilia Alfaro de Franco Former First Lady and Former Senator of the National Assembly of Paraguay.</p>	 <p>Hon. Dr. Margaret R. Best Was twice elected to the Provincial Parliament of Ontario, Canada, making history by becoming the first African-Canadian woman to be re-elected to the Ontario Legislature.</p>	 <p>Dr. Samia Burton She is a physician of Internal Medicine. She is Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at The George Washington University in Washington, DC.</p>	

Session topics reflected the conferences' main theme: "Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values."

Predominating in almost every presentation were concerns and first-person testimonies of the disruptive

impact of the coronavirus: in business, media, politics, religious expression -- every sphere. And yet it was often expressed in nearly every session that the pandemic was a dark cloud with a silver lining. People were paying more attention to their families, being more grateful for the small things in their lives, practicing better hygiene, and so forth.

 Mr. Chris Dolan President and Executive Editor of The Washington Times.	 Salvador Alejandro César Nasralla Salum Honduran sports journalist, television presenter, master of ceremonies, businessman, and politician.	 Dr. Sérgio de Azevedo Redó Brazilian, Lawyer, Journalist and Business Administrator. He is the current President of the São Paulo Press Association.
 Douglas Romay Lanza Lawyer, Social Communicator, TV and Radio presenter, Manager and owner of the Interactivo TV and Radio channel. He held the position of Senior Official of Human Development and Culture of the Municipal Government of Potosi city.	 Mrs. Cheryl Wetzstein Senior Advisor, IMAP. She is a now-retired award-winning journalist with 40 years of experience in New York City and later in Washington, D.C. Leadership articles.	 Mr. David Morgan Founder and Managing Partner of D. Morgan & Partners and Co-Founder and President of Multicultural Media Correspondents Association.

Also, widely prevalent was a feeling akin to a sigh of contentment that thought leaders in North, South, and Central America and the Caribbean were interacting among our continents. There was a palpable sense of this being a camaraderie that happens too seldom. Many expressed the affirmation that the countries of North and South should act more like family than we have been -- a notion that was enthusiastically embraced by all participants. Congressman John Doolittle concluded his remarks saying, "We all have the same name. We are the Americas."

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of UPF, received widespread credit from participants. "Nobody anywhere is working harder or has done more than Dr. Moon to bring about peace in our world." Congressman Burton said.

The ILC2020 Americas September 11–13 developed our foundation significantly in terms of core UPF leadership, technical teams and Ambassadors for Peace from each and every association. Respect for True Mother grew tremendously.

 Hon. Dan Burton U.S. House of Representatives (1983-2013); Co-Chairman, International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace of UPF.	 Hon. Dra. Silvia del Rosario Giacoppo National Senator of Argentina	 Hon. Carla Zambelli Salgado Member of the National Congress of Brazil
 Hon. Dr. Samuel Alejandro García Sepúlveda Senator elected by a relative majority in the state of Nuevo Leon, México.	 Hon. Loretta Sanchez Former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 46th and 47th districts (1997-2017).	 Hon. José Alberto Alfaro Former President of the National Assembly of Costa Rica.

Key Points of Development:

1. Speakers and UPF core teams gained a direct and personal experience with UPF's co-founders. They understood them from the World Summit, ILCs from the past, the Rally of Hope and earlier

developments. However, this was different. The focus that occurs on a webinar is more precise, and the eye-to-eye contact with the panelists, presenters and hosts gave a heartfelt experience with the heart of Mother Moon. We left feeling inspired and well informed by some of the highest-level speakers we can imagine. We also had an experience of coming much closer together in a working relationship.



UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Interreligious Association for Peace and Development



 <p>Dr. Taj Hamad Vice President of Universal Peace Federation International and the coordinator for IAPD.</p>	 <p>Pastor Noel Jones Pastor Noel is a Jamaican-American minister and a Pentecostal bishop.</p>	 <p>Metropolitan Chrysostomos (Celi) Is the leader of the Orthodox Church of the Patristic Calendar for Latin America from Mexico to Argentina.</p>	 <p>Imam Talib Shareef is the President and Imam of the historic Masjid Muhammad, The Nation's Mosque in Washington, DC.</p>
 <p>Alejandra Stamateas She is a Pastor of the Evangelical Ministry Presence of God.</p>	 <p>Father Ignatius Dominic-Savio Cétoute He is the Roman Catholic priest of the Soufriere parish in Saint Lucia.</p>	 <p>Imam Qamrul Khanson He is an author of books on psychological healing, wisdom, monotheism, spiritual diseases, comparative religions, and Islam.</p>	

2. Working together as a team across continents was a fast track for strengthening our global unity to achieve the purpose and goals of UPF.
3. The associations' development was very tangible. For former U.S. Congressman Dan Burton, the members of parliament are becoming friends and familiar to each other with a bond of commitment. All believe that the work with UPF is extremely relevant and valuable. The associations allow the concentration of each panelist to be in the field they represent. Conferences available to the public with heads of state and First Ladies are unheard of. Through this, we are being strengthened through our pillars of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Shared Values.
4. The fact that South and Central America are primarily Catholic and North America Protestant came through strongly when the co-founders spent most of their ministry in the Americas with a most life-risking time in South America. As Mother Moon said, the Americas are like the backbone of the world. Unity here means a spiritual foundation has created a breakthrough of unity overcoming all division.
5. The cooperation of all sectors with the most prepared leaders allows a new level of influence to strengthen the long-term ongoing relations between the nations of the Americas. The God-affirming democracies can be brought into more cooperation. The God-denying or socialist nations are being supported on a global scale by nations who don't want to see the Americas united. Some ISCP and First Lady presentations directly addressed this in no uncertain terms.
6. UPF is developing an in-depth network in each field of the associations. Before, it was totally dependent on a few core leaders of UPF. However, now the core leadership ranks now include heads of state, parliamentarians, religious leaders, First Ladies and key women, academicians, media and business leaders.
7. The media is identified strongly as not a "free press" but a media that has been coopted intentionally by people who have a God-denying or materialist-type view. The God-affirming media advocates printing all sides of the issue so that informed people can make their decision rather than having the media make the decision for them. IMAPs mission is serious -- however, networks of journalists that share our founders' values are being secured.

At the closing session, Congressman Burton introduced the [ILC 2020 Resolution](#), which reads in part, "At a time of serious global challenges, and on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Peace Federation by the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPF convened its first virtual International Leadership Conference (ILC) on September 11–13, 2020." The resolution calls on the formation of working committees "for the Asia Pacific, for the Americas and for the Africa-Europe-Middle East to support and cultivate partnerships with multilateral institutions, including the United Nations in honor of its 75th anniversary." The resolution was passed unanimously by

all conference participants.

UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

International Association of Academicians for Peace

 Hon. Elmer Evangelista Sánchez Former Senator of the Republic of Peru and Former Bicameral Budget President.	 Mr. Fabio Henrique Pereira Mr. Fabio is the President of Palhoça University in Brazil.	 Licda. Ivania Toruño Padilla Licda. Toruño is the Rector of the UCC-University of Commercial Sciences.	 Dr. Iouri Pankratz Is a professor of Linguistics in the Cognitive Science Program at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada.
 Dr. Alexandre Mansourou Is an adjunct professor of security studies at Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University in Washington, DC.	 Professor Alvis Gonzalez G. Is a PhD in Law and Notary Public, PhD in Notary-Registry Law; Dean Faculty of Social Sciences in Autonomous University of Central America 2003-2018.	 Dr. Thomas Selover Is international co-coordinator of IAAP, the International Association of Academicians for Peace.	

Individual reports for each session:

[Session 1: "Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis" "Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis"](#)

[Session 2: Perspectives From Current and Former Heads of State Perspectives From Current and Former Heads of State](#)

[Session 3: Strengthening Ties in the Americas Through Building New Bridges and Opportunities to Increase Mutual Cooperation Strengthening Ties in the Americas Through Building New Bridges and Opportunities to Increase Mutual Cooperation](#)

[Session 4: Religious Leadership Addressing the Critical Challenges of Realizing Peace in the Family, Nation, and World Religious Leadership Addressing the Critical Challenges of Realizing Peace in the Family, Nation, and World](#)

[Session 5: Women's Leadership in Times of Global Crisis Women's Leadership in Times of Global Crisis](#)

[Session 6: Finding Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: The Role of Media Finding Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: The Role of Media](#)

[Session 7: Breaking Down the Walls -- Pursuing Interdependence for a Community for Peace](#)

[Session 8: Perspectives from business leaders](#)

[Closing Session: Summary of Sessions and Call to Action](#)

UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Association for Peace and Economic Development Development

 Ms. Audra M Hajj-Bunten CEO of Phoenix Business Cycle. She is a sought after speaker and author of <i>The Internet Ignition</i> , about how to build a profitable online engine, and (upcoming) <i>The CEO Hostage</i> .	 Mr. Jhon Fonseca Former Vice Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica and President of the National Council of Trade Facilitation.	 Mrs. Nicole Verdugo President of the Chamber of Commerce of Women of Chile. Head of the Gender Department of DIRECON, leading the negotiating teams on gender matters in Chile's bilateral and multilateral Free Trade agreements.
 Mr. Aaron Manaigo Has over 20 years of experience representing both international governments and private sector companies throughout Africa, Latin America/Caribbean and Asia.	 Mrs. Lilian Schiavo Currently President of the Brazilian Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (OBME) and is a representative of Brazil at the Convergence of Women Entrepreneurs of the Mercosur.	



UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

International Leadership Conference 2020

September 11–13, 2020

ILC2020 Resolution

At a time of serious global challenges, and on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Peace Federation by the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPF convened its first virtual International Leadership Conference (ILC) on September 11–13, 2020. Dedicated to the theme of “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values,” our purpose was to seek solutions to current problems while also exploring new ways of envisioning our common life together as one global family. Tens of thousands of participants attended ILC2020.

The ILC2020 program was designed to be carried out concurrently in three regions: the Asia Pacific, the Americas, and Africa–Europe–Middle East. The program themes were built around the core Associations of UPF: **International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP)**, an international network of current and former heads of state and government; **International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)**; **Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)**; **International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP)**, coordinated in partnership with the Women’s Federation for World Peace); **International Media Association for Peace (IMAP)**; **International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP)**; **International Association for Peace and Economic Development**; and **International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP)**.

The deliberations of ILC2020 were guided by the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. As an outgrowth of the sessions, a variety of recommendations and proposals were advocated in hopes of overcoming critical challenges of our time, such as poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation.

We hereby summarize the core recommendations for consideration by our global UPF network, as well as by governments, NGOs, faith-based organizations, and the people of the world. These recommendations have been put forward by the UPF Regions that convened sessions of ILC2020 and by UPF Associations:

- Asia Pacific: We propose the formation of a working committee to explore prospects for the formation of a formal association or league of Asia Pacific nations, including research on the structure of the EU or the African Union;
- Africa–Europe–Middle East: We propose the formation of a working committee to explore ways of greater communication, trade and mutual benefit between Africa and its European neighbors;

- Americas: We propose the cultivation of greater partnerships of the UPF with existing multilateral institutions in the Americas to advance greater hemispheric cooperation and mutual interests in security and human development;
- ISCP: We propose the formation of three ISCP working committees for the Asia Pacific, for the Americas and for the Africa–Europe–Middle East to support and cultivate partnerships with multilateral institutions, including the United Nations in honor of its 75th anniversary;
- IAPP: We propose the formation of a working committee of parliamentarians to promote the establishment of a worldwide communication system that will act as an early-warning system for pandemics and to bring resolutions forward that allow a unified voice of parliamentarians for peace;
- IAFLP: We propose the formation of an IAFLP working committee on education to improve the quality of life of all people;
- IAPD: We propose the formation of an IAPD interfaith working committee of elders who serve as advisors, counselors and facilitators in venues of conflict, social unrest, and humanitarian disasters;
- IMAP: We propose the establishment of an IMAP working committee dedicated to creating standards of excellence and a code of ethics for journalists, publishers and social media influencers;
- IAAP: We propose the formation of an IAAP working committee to explore ways to apply principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values to specific critical problems affecting our world;
- IAED: We propose the establishment of an IAED working committee of business leaders in each of the great regions to identify opportunities for trade, investment and service to improve the quality of life of the people;
- IAYSP: We propose the development of an IAYSP educational program dedicated to the moral and social development of youth.

We ask that these proposals be given serious consideration, including feedback and suggestions. We conclude with words of gratitude to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Co-Founder of the Universal Peace Federation, and congratulations to the Universal Peace Federation on the occasion of its 15th Anniversary.



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ILC2020 THE AMERICAS: WEBINAR OPENS ITS INTERNATIONAL LOOK AT “OPPORTUNITY AND HOPE AT A TIME OF GLOBAL CRISIS”

Written by Dr. Ricardo DeSena, President Emeritus, UPF-USA, and Session Moderator Friday, September 11, 2020



Opening Plenary Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values



The Americas—The Opening Plenary Session of UPF’s global problem-solving online conference was a promising look toward a better future. It was the first of nine webinar sessions simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, Middle East; North America, Central America, South America, Caribbean) during the September 11–13 International Leadership Conference. The online program was open to all who registered and was watched by 735 viewers.

The Opening Plenary began with three beautiful prayers offered by **Rev. Dr. Glovinia Lewis Williams**, founding president and CEO of Dr. Glovinia Williams Ministries; **Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi**, spiritual leader of the Islamic House of Wisdom in Dearborn Heights, Michigan; and **Ven. Dr. Phramaha Thanat Inthisan**, chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Buddhist Association of America.

Welcoming all participants, **Dr. Chang Shik Yang** (*Regional Chair, UPF Central America and the Caribbean*), recalled that throughout history when unprecedented challenges arouse such as the Covid-19 of today, humankind has always found creative responses. He said, “It is time for us to overcome disconnectedness, division, conflict and distrust, in order to realize the ideals of our human community with trust, cooperation and love, and with the spirit of living for the sake of others.”

He also shared that during the conference all participants will have the opportunity to “celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Universal Peace Federation... and commemorate the centenary of UPF’s co-founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and the 8th anniversary of his Holy Ascension.” He concluded that, throughout the webinar’s nine sessions, “distinguished speakers will share presentations toward healing the pain, division and conflict caused by Covid-19, to move toward a brighter future.”

Rev. Dong Mo Shin (*Regional Chair, UPF South America*) expressed his gratitude to all the Ambassadors for Peace who work tirelessly, “even in situations where movement is limited due to Covid-19.” Reminding the audience that UPF firmly believes that we are all “One Family Under God,” Reverend Shin shared Father Moon’s words during the Second World Peace Conference in 1994, “Peace will only be accomplished when all men and women share in God’s love and truth and put these into practice. This starts with the individual and expands to the family, society, nation and world to form one global family.”

Dr. Michael Jenkins (*UPF Regional Chair, UPF North America*) reminded the audience that many attending this webinar were in New York City when the terrorist attacks happened exactly 19 years ago, on September 11, 2001, and that “it was an enormous change of direction for the whole world. That’s why the interfaith prayers and increased activity of dialogue and understanding is a pillar of the UPF and the International Leadership Conference... and through this engagement we can become one family and prevent extremism in all traditions.”

Dr. Jenkins also expressed that “the foundation of North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean is based on a Christian heritage, and we also embrace Islam, Buddhism all faith traditions. That’s the reason why Mother Moon created the World Clergy Leadership Conference.” Dr. Jenkins concluded by saying, “I particularly want to thank Mother Moon for her efforts since the World Summit to lift up the leaders of the world and bring them together with a common core vision of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.”

After a video presentation showing the outstanding work for peace of Father and Mother Moon, **Dr. Thomas G. Walsh** (*Chairman, UPF International*), shared with the audience that, “this ILC is taking place across the globe, and concurrent programs are taking place in three geographic regions: the Asia Pacific, the Americas (North, South and Central and the Caribbean) and finally in Africa, Europe and the Middle East.”

Dr. Walsh explained, “In February of this year, we convened World Summit 2020, with several thousand distinguished leaders from 170 nations. At that time, our co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, spoke of the need for the world community to reorient itself by moving away from exclusively materialistic and self-serving objectives toward spiritual, moral and other-serving objectives; only in this way, she argued, will the world find its way through the challenges we face.”

Dr. Walsh also clarified that the goal with this ILC2020 “is to explore our way forward. We will consider how we might turn tragic circumstances into opportunities to correct some of our collective deformities and disfunctions as humanity—extreme inequality, injustice, failures to take responsibility, corruption, disrespect for each other and for the environment.” Dr. Walsh also shared that in order to correct these deformities and disfunctions, “UPF underscores values of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.”

In conclusion, Dr. Walsh said, “I also must add a word of deep appreciation to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, whose leadership, guidance and vision made not only this ILC2020 possible, but the entire work of UPF possible, together with her beloved husband, Rev. Sun Myung Moon.... We feel the guidance and the blessing of heaven, and we pray that we can remain faithful to the founding vision, acting always in service to

the world, to the ideal of creating a world of universal peace, one family under God.”

Hon. Dan Burton (*International Co-Chairman, International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace; Member, U.S. Congress, 1983-2013*) began by thanking UPF leaders and especially Mother Moon “for all the things she has done in the cause of peace.” He also shared that in the early 1980s he met Father Moon, and he “impressed me with his determination to bring about a world of peace and understanding.... And now we have Mother Moon, who is doing an extraordinarily good job and travelling all around the world to bring about peace, understanding and freedom. I can’t imagine anybody who is doing more in the cause of peace than she has and is.” Honorable Burton also recalled that when the terrorist attacks happened on 9/11/2001, he was on Capitol Hill. He remembered that “it was a terrible, terrible time. It scared people to death... And earlier this year when everything was going well... a pandemic hit... a tragic thing that happened.” He concluded, emphasizing, “Your leadership, every one of you is so important... working together in the cause of peace... we are all brothers and sisters in this cause of peace.”

The last speaker was **Dr. Luonne Rouse** (*Co-Chairman, American Clergy Leadership Conference*) who began by saying, “What a great opportunity we have to fulfill our responsibility as chosen people... known to us through the great work of Father and Mother Moon, the Mother of Peace who has encouraged us to join to unite with her in carrying the message of true love throughout the world.” He clarified that “the reason is when we are sharing the gifts of God with one another, we have the opportunity for peace... We always have peace when we have faith and believe what God has originally designed for us.” He concluded: “We can work faithfully together, here and now, for physical peace to exist with mutual prosperity for everybody... Be sure that the religious leaders... are one in the spirit of God, working with you for peace now and forevermore.”

The September 11-13 International Leadership Conference was created to engage world leaders and citizens on issues ranging from rebuilding post Covid-19 economies to cooperative peacemaking. Under the rubric of UPF’s signature values of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values, its aim was to address solutions in commerce, health, environment, family, and social issues. “This year has seen dramatic disruptions not only due to the Covid-19 epidemic but in geopolitics, the world economy, the media, religion and all levels of society,” observes UPF Chair Dr. Thomas Walsh. “And yet, while there are reasons to despair, there is tremendous goodwill and desire to act on emerging opportunities and innovations that can relieve suffering around the world.”

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ILC2020 THE AMERICAS SESSION 2: PERSPECTIVES FROM CURRENT AND FORMER HEADS OF STATE

Written by Larry Moffitt, Secretary General, UPF North America
 Friday, September 11, 2020



Session II - ISCP Perspectives from Current and Former Heads of State

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT COUNCIL FOR PEACE

The Americas—The International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) addressed the topic “Perspectives From Current and Former Heads of State” as part of UPF’s global problem-solving conference. It was one of nine webinar sessions simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, Middle East; North America, Central America, South America, Caribbean) during the September 11–13 International Leadership Conference. The online program was open to all who registered and was watched by 632 viewers.

The moderator was **Dr. Franco Famularo**, who is president of the, Universal Peace Federation-Canada. .

Dr. Charles S. Yang (*Regional Chair, UPF Central America and the Caribbean*) also served as the organizing session chair with Dr. Famularo. He summed up the growth of UPF, especially in Latin America. He said that the United States and Latin America must strive for co-prosperity. Most new immigrants to the United States come from Latin America and the Caribbean, and many U.S. citizens have moved south, especially retirees. Aid from China vs. aid from the U.S. is very out of balance. Surprisingly, China is often the first country to help when natural disasters strike Latin America—arriving more quickly and with much more aid than the United States. China has sent many coronavirus test kits to the south, asking no payment. If the United States U.S. allocated even one percent of its military budget to aid Latin America, it would do immeasurable good. UPF Founder Father Moon emphasized many times that the United States was blessed not for itself, but for the purpose of serving the world.

H.E. Rosalía Arteaga Serrano (*President, Ecuador, 1997*):

The COVID-19 crisis underscores the significance and need for us to work together throughout all spheres of life. It should be the priority of all our nations. I have been a teacher most of my adult life. Education is of paramount importance. This virus has shown that the government cannot disregard either the system of public health and supplies, nor education. Hundreds of thousands of young people are outside the education system right now and being left behind. UNESCO is saying that we are going to lose 10 years in education because of COVID.

We need to pay attention to three fundamental factors: (1) Training of our teachers. We should elevate their capacity in how to use the technology of the digital world; (2) Connectivity. We must have internet access into the smallest localities; and (3) Computer hardware, cell phones, iPads need to be made available and distributed everywhere. We need to create emergency funds that can be used in crises like these. We must also fight corruption. Corruption is a cancer in our democracies. Education is key to overcoming corruption. UPF is creating a wave of hope by bringing us together.

H.E. Jocelerme Privert (*President, Haiti, 2016-2017*):

Coronavirus is one of the greatest and most destabilizing challenges in the world. Even the most developed economies are not sheltered from the devastation. We are finding how vulnerable we are, and we are learning the limits of our technologies. This continent has many structural weaknesses that were there before the crisis, and they stand out now in sharp relief. The social movements in many countries are rising. In Haiti we have medical shortages due to lack of preparation. Schools are closed, and education is suffering. Even after COVID subsides, there will be many economic difficulties. COVID knows no boundaries between nations. But even with all this, we are in a race to build a world of peace. Wars and crises are as old as humanity. Social injustice and poverty need to be mitigated and overcome. Civil society must examine the reasons behind violence and social conflict.

Hon. David Kilgour (*Canada’s Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, 2002–2003 and for Africa, Caribbean and Latin America, 1997–2002*):

All of us remember what we were doing on this date in 2001, when the Trade Towers were struck. Congratulations to UPF on its 15th anniversary, and to its founders, Dr. and Mrs. Moon. Globally, Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc on our countries. The

only bright spot is that it has caused us to improve our hygiene. This crisis also brings to the surface and spotlights those who care. (He cited emergency workers and first responders.)

The national leaders whose respective citizens are emerging from the pandemic fastest and least damaged are often among the world's 19 women leaders. They place health before the economy with leadership styles that are both empathetic and assertive. Effective strategies require a willingness to listen to health experts and scientists and then take decisive action on the best available evidence—easy in theory but difficult in practice. Leaders with these unique skills care deeply about people, says Mia Mottley, prime minister of Barbados.

New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern early on imposed self-isolation on all entering her country. She ignored WHO advice not to close airports to foreigners and moved to lockdown when New Zealand had fewer than 150 confirmed cases. As of September 4, there have been only 22 deaths.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen stopped the spread of Covid-19 by speedily closing her country to visitors from Wuhan and later from all of China. A lockdown wasn't needed. Just 489 Covid-19 cases and 7 deaths in Taiwan. Everything stayed open for all 24 million residents.

South Korea is also a model to emulate in slowing its epidemic without locking down entire cities or taking authoritarian measures, although it's currently braced for a resurgence. It has the best-organized testing program in the world.

Germany, led by Angela Merkel, was one of the first in Europe to begin fast-track tests for antibodies. She has been able to keep fatalities to 6,050.

Simon Tisdall noted in the *Guardian* that authoritarians make the worst leaders in a pandemic by mishandling their responses and placing political interests ahead of public safety and health. If Chinese authorities had acted three weeks earlier, the number of coronavirus cases could have been reduced by 95% and its geographic spread limited, concluded one university study in the UK.

Secretary Kilgour went on to cite others who had distinguished themselves in fighting Covid-19. He concluded on a note about values, citing of the importance of selfless values in all human conduct, no matter what—principles for which good people stand, and for which many suffer and die.

Hon. John Doolittle (*U.S. House of Representatives, 1991–2009*):

I express my appreciation to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who in partnership with her late husband, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, was behind the growth and development of the Universal Peace Federation. There is no other organization like this one today that seeks to eliminate the causes of global conflict over such an enormously wide spectrum of disciplines and spheres of human endeavor, among so many nations. Dr. Moon has shown a singular and unselfish dedication to serving humankind through projects such as this global webinar, and I'm honored to work with her and this great communication effort to promote peace.

Core values allow our nations to prosper together. UPF's values of interdependence, mutual prosperity and shared values are the basis for cooperation between nations.

Two shared values that bring us together are (1) religious freedom and (2) faith in God as a foundation for our societies. Faith, and the understanding that our rights come from God, allows us to be strong in protecting all people's rights.

The most essential value to make our nations strong is respect for family values and marriage. Strong marriages, making strong families, are proven to impart to our young people, the values of love, faithfulness and loyalty. The family is the absolute cornerstone of the social structures of South and Central America. Loyalty to one's family there is known the world over. For our hemisphere to prosper, we must uphold and protect these values more strongly in the United States.

For a nation to be strong, there must be good governance and sustainable economic development. That's why the core teaching of Dr. Moon, "Live for the sake of others," is so important. Corruption is antithetical to good governance and comes from putting one's self first. Selfishness destroys the unity and the spirit of cooperation, which is why our faith and family traditions are fundamental to preventing corruption.

All of us here have the same name. We are the Americas.

Dr. Michael Jenkins (*President, UPF International; Regional Chair, UPF North America*):

Even in the tensest times, faith leaders can find common ground. We began our program with interfaith prayer, which is need to emphasize our unity under God. Father and Mother Moon instituted the blessing to strengthen marriage to pledge fidelity to one another. When we have strong, loving families, the nation can become one family. When the faiths come together, there is a cultural and internal change in the hearts of the people. Mother Moon encourages unity in the Americas and says that exemplary heads of state, like those gathered here, can work to see North, South Central and Caribbean become one, strong family. She believes the blessing of God can pour out on the Americas. We have to protect our environment. Father and Mother Moon spent much time and resources in Brazil, in the Pantanal, in a settlement on the Paraguay River at Leda. That region is called "the lungs of the world."

Aid and cooperation from North America is critical. With more interaction, we can help. We can work with the U.S. Congress and increase cooperation with the world.

An abundance of comments and questions came from our audience, many of them asking for further elaboration on the involvement of China in the Americas. All the comments and questions had some connection to the impact of COVID.

Dr. Charles Yang said that we need to convince the United States to contribute more resources to Latin America, as China does. China has a political strategy for aid, and so the U.S. needs to increase its awareness and aid for Latin America. **Congressman John Doolittle** reminded that peace is the ultimate objective of UPF (from his capacity as North American Chair of IAPP). He said nations can have ulterior motives for "helping." We need to pay attention and verify the motivation. **H.E. Jocelerme Privert** commented on best practices coming from cooperation among the nations of the Americas. Haiti is a small country and cannot face the virus challenges alone. It needs the involvement of the U.S. **H.E. Rosalía Arteaga** said Ecuador is dealing with COVID and has had cautionary experience with aid from China. It has not always been good. She said, "I agree with Congressman Doolittle," in that we get aid from China at our own risk. More attention to Latin America's needs to come from the United States; if not, it may be too late. Ecuador was one of the first countries to emphasize masks and isolation. **Hon. David Kilgour** said he has many friends who say this virus is the worst thing to happen to humanity, even more so than World War II. **Dr. Michael Jenkins** spoke on the role of religious leaders in dealing with the fallout from the virus. He sees huge breakthroughs occurring as Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Jews and others are reaching out to embrace others in love and cooperation. These are the counter to materialism and approaches to the virus that stress material solutions only.

The September 11–13 International Leadership Conference was created to engage world leaders and citizens on issues ranging from rebuilding post Covid-19 economies to cooperative peacemaking. Under the rubric of UPF's signature values of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values, its aim was to address solutions in commerce, health, environment, family, and social issues. "This year has seen dramatic disruptions not only due to the Covid-19 epidemic but in geopolitics, the world economy, the media, religion and all levels of society," observes UPF Chair Dr. Thomas Walsh. "And yet, while there are reasons to despair, there is tremendous goodwill and desire to act on emerging opportunities and innovations that can relieve suffering around the world."

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ILC AMERICAS SESSION 3: STRENGTHENING TIES IN THE AMERICAS THROUGH BUILDING NEW BRIDGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE MUTUAL COOPERATION

Written by Larry Moffitt, Secretary General, UPF North America
Friday, September 11, 2020



Session III - IAPP

Strengthening Ties in the Americas Through Building New Bridges and Opportunities to Increase Mutual Cooperation

Perspectives from Parliamentarians and Members of Congress

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR PEACE

The Americas—The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) addressed the topic “Strengthening Ties in the Americas Through Building New Bridges and Opportunities to Increase Mutual Cooperation” as part of UPF’s global problem-solving conference. It was one of nine webinar sessions simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, Middle East; North America, Central America, South America, Caribbean) during the September 11–13 International Leadership Conference. The online program was open to all who registered and was watched by 593 viewers from 27 nations.

The moderator was **Dr. Simão Ferabolli**, who is Secretary General of UPF South America.

The panelists contributed the following remarks.

Hon. Dan Burton (*U.S. House of Representatives 1983–2013; International Co-Chair, IAPP*):

IAPP is not the first time legislators from different countries have met, but this organization is unprecedented in scale. When we first met in Seoul, Korea four years ago, and founded this association, there were 150 parliamentarians from about 40 nations gathered in a hall at the Korean National Assembly. We spread the word, and when we met again two years later, the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace had grown to nearly a thousand members of the national parliaments and congresses of close to 120 countries.

We try to tone down the political and elevate the humane. Joe DeTrani said that this group is ideal for working on the North Korea–South Korea problem. The potential for global disruption is greatest since the Cold War. One project being discussed is a global pandemic early warning network. We are already discussing this among ourselves. With parliamentarians working together worldwide, this kind of network could possibly shorten the time between an outbreak and calling the world’s attention to it.

Hon. Silvia del Rosario Giacoppo (*National Senator, Argentina*)

I want to say thank-you for allowing me to participate. We need to redouble our efforts to create peace. As a Latin American, I am very worried that we have a dangerously fragmented health system. COVID has been the worst health situation in the past hundred years. It has pushed 96 million in the Americas into extreme poverty. The urgency of North and South America to work together is more imperative than at any other time. We cannot keep doing as we have always done. We have a great opportunity to reverse the damage done by our neglect. The situation threatens human rights and even democracy itself. We can’t expect to have human rights if we do not have peace and sustainable development. The virus has unmasked our vulnerability. Dialogue, inclusion, cooperation—we need to build new bridges between all our sectors. We must build clear accountability at all levels. We need to foster true brotherhood. It is the right of all human beings to work together in unity and diversity. We need to improve our empathy and learn how to listen to one another to create a greater community of peace

Hon. Samuel García Sepúlveda (*Senator, Mexico*)

I propose a fiscal plan to address the economic crises of this time—of employment, housing and health. How can we get the funds to support these measures? We need to lower the current taxes, including sales tax. In Mexico there is a digital tax on all online services. This needs to be reduced. Because of the free trade treaty with the United States, we were able to avoid many tax increases. It has brought great benefits to our country. I hope it can be expanded to create many more such treaties with all the countries of the Americas. We should do all we can to encourage and motivate online commerce internationally.

Hon. Loretta Sanchez (*U.S. House of Representatives 1997–2017*)

I was chairwoman of the Border and Critical Infrastructure Subcommittee of the Homeland Security Committee. When I came to Congress in 1997, the United States was groping for a new policy regarding our southern neighbors. The 1980s were dominated by a focus on opposition to the Soviet Union and the war on drugs.

Since leaving Congress, I have been engaged in mutually beneficial commerce and trade with our neighbors to the South. In 2018, I led a private trade mission of 20 U.S. companies to Argentina to seek partners to increase commercial activity in Argentina. While there, I learned of the tunnel to be built between Argentina and Chile to move produce during the winter months to export throughout the Pacific. This got me involved in persuading the Inter-American Development Bank to provide more grant money to get this corridor built. And, most recently, I have been working with a newly elected mayor in Ensenada, Baja, Mexico, to entice more private monies from California to develop tourism, tech, and clean industries in that region.

Covid will pass. We must make sure we use this time wisely to build relationships across our countries and recommit to being good neighbors. That means we must build our economies together.

Hon. Carla Zambelli Salgado (*Congresswoman, National Congress of Brazil*)

These days I try to build bridges of any kind between people, organizations and countries. On the Korean Peninsula for example, the urgent point is to reduce the possibility of nuclear war. In the Americas, the urgency is finding balance between countries and their economies. The challenge is to strengthen democracy and promote cooperation. We should not feel forced by the pandemic to reduce cooperation. We have ideological differences between our countries, but we have to be pragmatic and work toward peace. We have to be ready to act together in the post-COVID time that is coming. Addressing mass unemployment will require our focus. We need to find ways to bring medical professionals to our countries, find vaccines for our tropical ailments (dengue, malaria, yellow fever) move forward in all our areas of common interest, and support and expand our various infrastructures together. Parliamentarians can work together with the private sector and religious leaders. That's what makes the tireless work of the Universal Peace Federation indispensable.

Hon. José Alberto Alfaro (*former President, National Assembly of Costa Rica*)

Many of us have stopped believing in our governments and have lost faith in the future. People see no way to get out, as they suffer the agony and tribulation of the current crisis. I also consider that human beings have a natural resilience and the guts to face adversity and overcome. People have an opportunity to develop their spirits at this time. We realize the weaknesses of our economies. COVID has had the destructive power of many atomic bombs together. But why are we fighting among ourselves? We need to find equality between the genders and races. Goodness needs to be placed as the supreme value among human beings. You have the power to elevate respect of human lives, the flora and fauna. You, my honorable, parliamentarians must stop discrimination among yourselves and use your resources to manufacture for the benefit others. You need to stop political control and emphasize care for the environment. Please create messages of reconciliation, peace and harmony. Nations will welcome you as agents of peace and harmony.

Addressing a question at the end of the session, **Loretta Sanchez** offered:

Many members of congress worldwide already understand that we need to know each other. When COVID is over, we should continue to meet face to face. For example, let's bring people together who have experience in small businesses throughout the hemisphere. Our desires are the same. We want to have a nice family, a nice home. We have the opportunity to pass laws that will help humanity.

The September 11-13 International Leadership Conference was created to engage world leaders and citizens on issues ranging from rebuilding post Covid-19 economies to cooperative peacemaking. Under the rubric of UPF's signature values of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values, its aim was to address solutions in commerce, health, environment, family, and social issues. "This year has seen dramatic disruptions not only due to the Covid-19 epidemic but in geopolitics, the world economy, the media, religion and all levels of society," observes UPF Chair Dr. Thomas Walsh. "And yet, while there are reasons to despair, there is tremendous goodwill and desire to act on emerging opportunities and innovations that can relieve suffering around the world."

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ILC2020 THE AMERICAS SESSION 4: RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL CHALLENGES OF REALIZING PEACE IN THE FAMILY, NATION, AND WORLD

Written by Leslie Rigney, UPF North America
 Friday, September 11, 2020



Session IV - IAPD Challenges of Realizing Peace in the Family, Nation and World

Perspectives from Religious and Spiritual Leaders

INTERRELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Americas—The Interreligious Association for Peace and (IAPD) addressed the topic “Religious Leadership Addressing the Critical Challenges of Realizing Peace in the Family, Nation, and World” as part of UPF’s global problem-solving conference. It was one of nine webinar sessions simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, Middle East; North America, Central America, South America, Caribbean) during the September 11–13 International Leadership Conference. The online program was open to all who registered and was watched by 730 viewers.

The Moderator was Archbishop George A. Stallings, Jr., Senior Pastor of Imani Temple African American Catholic Congregation.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad (*Vice President, UPF International, IAPD International Coordinator*) has been working with the United Nations for many years. He is UPF’s main representative to the UN and is director of its Office of the UN and International Relations. Dr. Hamad explained that IAPD was built on the foundation of many organizations started by Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon founded IAPD on November 12, 2017, and it has now had 23,000 religious leaders participating in 93 nations. Dr. Hamad spoke of religion as being essential to bring a world of peace, calling people to live together in mutual respect and love in what Reverend and Mrs. Moon call Heavenly Parent’s Holy Community.

Bishop Noel Jones (*Senior Pastor, City of Refuge Church, Los Angeles, California*), the author of many books, has a congregation of 17,000 and an international TV outreach. He is passionate about the recent Peace Starts with Me rallies. He has a great capacity to make the Word of God real. He stressed that God gives people documents that guide good leaders into good action. Those who follow these leaders can be a benefit to others in example and care. All religions offer teachings and guidance. Religious leaders need to become the conscience of the people. If we truly show that “Peace Starts with Me,” we can defeat every ruler of darkness and bring out the best in others. Father Moon spoke of a sacrificial attitude that will attract others to do good. Bishop Jones thanked God for Mother Moon, who said, “Let’s bring all the leaders of value together and let them talk to each other.”

Archbishop Chrysostomos Celi (*Metropolitan, Orthodox Church of the Patristic Calendar for Latin America, Ecuador*) is also the current president of the National Council of Freedom and Religious Coexistence. He oversaw the Declaration of “City of Pacific Religious Coexistence” on December 11, 2019. He stressed that an interreligious council at the United Nations, as proposed by Reverend Moon is of paramount importance for world politics. This council would also enhance humanity’s spiritual renewal on the foundation of God’s true love. He praised Mother Moon for initiating the World Clergy Leadership Conference. His final words were that we need to give the best of ourselves, work together, and avoid divisions in order to show the path to a real and true family to restore this world.

Imam Talib Shareef (*Imam, Masjid Muhammad Mosque, Washington, DC*) said that the Creator is One, Creation is One, and we are One, One Human Family Under G-d. G-d created order and unity and thereby established peace. We need to understand this message of oneness and promote unity. We also need to recognize the diversity in humans, just as each planet has its own orbit; it is beautiful to see the diversity that came from Adam. He observed that the coronavirus is driving us to work together: “You will never reach the garden of paradise unless you have faith, and you will never have faith until you practice loving one another.”

Pastor Alejandra Stamateas (*Pastor of Ministry, Presencia de Dios Church, Buenos Aires, Argentina*) has degrees in theology and in law. She has written 20 books and worked in 10 countries to help women overcome abuse and violence. She has worked with small communities of women, helping them overcome victimhood and suffering by teaching about the light of God and bringing that light into their partners and their families. These women learn to transform their entire

environment with the love of God.

Father Ignatius Dominic-Savio-Cetoute (*Roman Catholic Priest, Soufriere Parish, St. Lucia*) has degrees in counseling and is passionate about the value of the family. He said faith is important, but it's not enough to raise a family. Children imitate their parents in learning about life and love. Parents need to spend quality time with their young children. Grandparents are also very valuable. It is in the family of origin that we learn to be peacemakers. Every day when we wake up, we need to think, "How can I be a peacemaker today?"

Imam Qamrul Khanson (*Islamic Circle of North America*) noted that the pandemic is creating opportunities for realizing peace. His slogan has become "Your vigilance, Your Patience, and your Resolution Will Keep Us All Safe. Let us together reap the success together and trust in the Lord Almighty" In dealing with the divisions in society, he said, we should treat people in the most humanitarian ways to attract dignity and love and to generate a sense of understanding among humans. Every life matters.

The September 11-13 International Leadership Conference was created to engage world leaders and citizens on issues ranging from rebuilding post Covid-19 economies to cooperative peacemaking. Under the rubric of UPF's signature values of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values, its aim was to address solutions in commerce, health, environment, family, and social issues. "This year has seen dramatic disruptions not only due to the Covid-19 epidemic but in geopolitics, the world economy, the media, religion and all levels of society," observes UPF Chair Dr. Thomas Walsh. "And yet, while there are reasons to despair, there is tremendous goodwill and desire to act on emerging opportunities and innovations that can relieve suffering around the world."

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Bishop Noel Jones (*Senior Pastor, City of Refuge Church, Los Angeles, California*), the author of many books, has a congregation of 17,000 and an international TV outreach. He is passionate about the recent Peace Starts with Me rallies. He has a great capacity to make the Word of God real. He stressed that God gives people documents that guide good leaders into good action. Those who follow these leaders can be a benefit to others in example and care. All religions offer teachings and guidance. Religious leaders need to become the conscience of the people. If we truly show that “Peace Starts with Me,” we can defeat every ruler of darkness and bring out the best in others. Father Moon spoke of a sacrificial attitude that will attract others to do good. Bishop Jones thanked God for Mother Moon, who said, “Let’s bring all the leaders of value together and let them talk to each other.”

Archbishop Chrysostomos Celi (*Metropolitan, Orthodox Church of the Patristic Calendar for Latin America, Ecuador*) is also the current president of the National Council of Freedom and Religious Coexistence. He oversaw the Declaration of “City of Pacific Religious Coexistence” on December 11, 2019. He stressed that an interreligious council at the United Nations, as proposed by Reverend Moon is of paramount importance for world politics. This council would also enhance humanity’s spiritual renewal on the foundation of God’s true love. He praised Mother Moon for initiating the World Clergy Leadership Conference. His final words were that we need to give the best of ourselves, work together, and avoid divisions in order to show the path to a real and true family to restore this world.

Imam Talib Shareef (*Imam, Masjid Muhammad Mosque, Washington, DC*) said that the Creator is One, Creation is One, and we are One, One Human Family Under G-d. G-d created order and unity and thereby established peace. We need to understand this message of oneness and promote unity. We also need to recognize the diversity in humans, just as each planet has its own orbit; it is beautiful to see the diversity that came from Adam. He observed that the coronavirus is driving us to work together: “You will never reach the garden of paradise unless you have faith, and you will never have faith until you practice loving one another.”

Pastor Alejandra Stamateas (*Pastor of Ministry, Presencia de Dios Church, Buenos Aires, Argentina*) has degrees in theology and in law. She has written 20 books and worked in 10 countries to help women overcome abuse and violence. She has worked with small communities of women, helping them overcome victimhood and suffering by teaching about the light of God and bringing that light into their partners and their families. These women learn to transform their entire

environment with the love of God.

Father Ignatius Dominic-Savio-Cetoute (*Roman Catholic Priest, Soufriere Parish, St. Lucia*) has degrees in counseling and is passionate about the value of the family. He said faith is important, but it's not enough to raise a family. Children imitate their parents in learning about life and love. Parents need to spend quality time with their young children. Grandparents are also very valuable. It is in the family of origin that we learn to be peacemakers. Every day when we wake up, we need to think, "How can I be a peacemaker today?"

Imam Qamrul Khanson (*Islamic Circle of North America*) noted that the pandemic is creating opportunities for realizing peace. His slogan has become "Your vigilance, Your Patience, and your Resolution Will Keep Us All Safe. Let us together reap the success together and trust in the Lord Almighty" In dealing with the divisions in society, he said, we should treat people in the most humanitarian ways to attract dignity and love and to generate a sense of understanding among humans. Every life matters.

The September 11-13 International Leadership Conference was created to engage world leaders and citizens on issues ranging from rebuilding post Covid-19 economies to cooperative peacemaking. Under the rubric of UPF's signature values of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values, its aim was to address solutions in commerce, health, environment, family, and social issues. "This year has seen dramatic disruptions not only due to the Covid-19 epidemic but in geopolitics, the world economy, the media, religion and all levels of society," observes UPF Chair Dr. Thomas Walsh. "And yet, while there are reasons to despair, there is tremendous goodwill and desire to act on emerging opportunities and innovations that can relieve suffering around the world."

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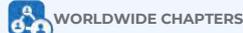
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ILC2020 THE AMERICAS SESSION 6: FINDING OPPORTUNITY AND HOPE AT A TIME OF GLOBAL CRISIS: THE ROLE OF MEDIA

Written by Alan Jessen, Coordinator, IAED North America
 Saturday, September 12, 2020



Session VI IMAP: Perspectives from the Media

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE

The Americas—The International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) addressed the topic “Finding Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: The Role of Media” as part of UPF’s global problem-solving conference. It was one of nine webinar sessions simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, Middle East; North America, Central America, South America, Caribbean) during the September 11–13 International Leadership Conference. The online program was open to all who registered and was watched by 592 viewers.

The session was moderated by Thomas P. McDevitt, who is chairman of the *Washington Times* and of the HJ Magnolia Foundation and global coordinator for IMAP.

The speakers at this session spoke passionately and truthfully, laying bare their frustrations with the current state of media. Whether it was issues of the weakened financial model for print media, the slackening of journalistic standards to properly vet and corroborate news, a growing emergence of young journalists entering the profession with the intent to advocate for a particular view, or the threats to free press posed by a dominant government presence, the speakers were in concurrence that there is a dire need for an independent, free, objective and ethical media—in every nation.

So what is at the root of this problem? What are the causes of the current erosion of trust in the media? The speakers offered various insights from their lengthy careers and their sincere commitments to journalistic integrity.

Christopher Dolan (*President and Executive Editor, The Washington Times, United States*) suggested that the erosion of journalistic standards coincides in the United States with the rise of the 24/7 news cycle. The speed of the news cycles—together with the thinning of editorial staff due to financial pressures—has undermined reporting and the proper vetting and corroboration of sources. This has led to stories being irresponsibly published and the loss of public trust. As the public desire moves toward entertainment, the need to rush new content online has created errors and mistrust. The rise of advocacy journalism, rather than “sticking to the facts,” has lessened the credibility of the media as a neutral purveyor of news. There is a strong need for better education and training in the professional standards required for impartial and competent journalism.

Salvador Nasralla (*Founder and Director, Cinco Deportivo, Honduras*) lamented the corruption and diversion of public funds during the pandemic as factors contributing to media disorientation and the disclosure of information more attuned to political and economic interests than seeking the common good. Speaking of the pandemic, he noted that much good information offered by the medical community and researchers was censored and prevented from disclosure on social media. He proposed that reforms are needed to promote better income for journalists and “social communicators” so they may play a positive influential role, rather than having to accommodate their opinions in the service of the political and economic interests of the ruling minorities. He concluded, however, with a positive message that an increase of communication through the internet during this time (e.g., Zoom) has allowed for the development of skills, new income opportunities and the growth of interdependence. His talk was very lively and informative.

Sergio de Azevedo Redo (*President, Sao Paulo Press Association; Vice President, National Federation, Brazil*) gave an extensive, stimulating review of the impact of media “breakthroughs” throughout history, such as the printing press and, recently, the 3-D printer. His point was to prove that what brings opportunities and hope in times of global crisis is the “conviction to live seeking peace and the values that structure humans, such as honesty, dignity, and ethics, that strengthen the main cell of society—the family.” Journalists must be the agents of transformation and the creation of good habits, values and opinions. The media has the responsibility to spread true facts and be the conscience of the nation.

David Morgan (*Founder and Managing Partner, D. Morgan & Partners; Co-Founder, Multicultural Media Correspondents Association, United States*) said that because media has the power to shape narratives on social and economic justice, it is essential that a society have reliable and readily accessible information from local and diverse news platforms. This would enable communities to have more control over information that directly affects them. The lack of media diversity is a bigger problem than ever. His call to action is to increase and strengthen diverse and local media ownership and representations. He sees IMAP as a strategic partner in this cause.

Douglas Romay Lanza (*Owner-Manager, Canal Interactivo TV-Radio; President, Association of Journalists of Potosi, Bolivia*) shared a moving video about Bolivia and Covid. He said the media has power—and it needs to use that power responsibly: Go into the heart of the people and society. The media should inform people and also help bring peace and an end to conflicts, as well as helping people to become friends and transform their world into goodness.

Cheryl Wetzstein (*Session Chairwoman; Senior Advisor, International Media Association for Peace*) concluded the session by reviewing the history of the World Media Association as a precursor to IMAP, especially highlighting the value of its fact-finding tours all over the world. A recent Asia IMAP event “showed that the world is actually united about the need for the media to be honest, fact-based and accurate,” she reported. She laid out the vision for IMAP to provide leadership and networking opportunities for media practitioners from around the world, promising that IMAP will “do all it can to help the industry regain its position as a public institution that is highly respected, highly trusted, independent, prosperous and accessible to all people.”

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ILC2020 THE AMERICAS SESSION 7: BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS —PURSUING INTERDEPENDENCE FOR A COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Written by Staffan Berg, UPF North America
 Saturday, September 12, 2020



Session VII IAAP: Perspectives from Academicians

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMICIANS FOR PEACE

The Americas—The International Association of Academicians (IAAP) addressed the topic “Breaking Down the Walls—Pursuing Interdependence for a Community for Peace” as part of UPF’s global problem-solving conference. It was one of nine webinar sessions simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, Middle East; North America, Central America, South America, Caribbean) during the September 11–13 International Leadership Conference. The online program was open to all who registered and was watched by 588 viewers.

The moderator was Mr. Robert Duffy, secretary general of UPF Canada.

Dr. Sung-bae Jin (*Chairman, Hyo Jeong Academic Foundation, Korea*) opened by saying that the idea of interdependence is “meaningless—unless we create a space for God, or a universal parental conscience, at the center of our work.” He called academicians to pioneer this way in order to assist in solving the difficult problems that now shackle democracies “to individualism, materialism, the decline of Christian ethics, and the monopolization of land and property.”

Dr. Elmer Evangelista Sánchez (*President, Association of Former Senators and Deputies of Peru*) placed the rich and diverse resources of his country at the service to the world. Technology, infrastructure and education are needed for its 32 million inhabitants to become real assets in a peaceful Pacific civilization.

Dr. Fabio Henrique Pereira (*President, Municipal Faculty of Palhoça, Brazil*) lamented the attack on morals and traditional values that has made society unstable. He graciously called for a peaceful value system that can mitigate the differences between nations and cultures.

Dr. Ivania Toruño Padilla (*President, University of Commercial Sciences, Nicaragua*) expressed her “greatest love, respect and congratulations for Mother Moon, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for her continuing seeking peace for all nations and for allowing us to be part of this magnificent event, the International Association of Academicians for Peace. It is a great honor for us to pursue UN Sustainability Goal 4, Quality Education for All, in new ways with less bureaucracy through the effects of this pandemic.”

Dr. Iouri Pankrats (*Professor, Linguistics, Simon Fraser University, Canada*) posed several passionate questions as a committed Ambassador for Peace for 15 years. He was concerned about the effectiveness of peaceful demonstrations in authoritarian political climates, such as the one in Belarus.

Dr. Alexandre Mansourov (*Adjunct Professor, Security Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, DC*) said that the pandemic “transformed higher education like no other event in recent memory. In a matter of days, Covid just closed campuses and moved classes online, basically altering every part of the educational experience.” He continued, “Enrollment has gone down dramatically; research funding is down substantially; endowment returns are down.” Universities are forced to rethink what they are offering students in the context of a lingering disease, political uncertainty, and public unrest. As educators, “we are not here to offer edutainment: we are here to engage students in higher learning.”

“The time has come for the internet for all,” said **Prof. Alvis Gonzalez Garita** (*Professor of Law, Costa Rica*). “Humanity needs access to information, knowledge in the most remote places on the planet. We cannot generate a more unequal world than the current one. We must change.” He proclaimed, “We are ready, as a great universal family under the protection of the Supreme Being, to now demonstrate solidarity.”

“All academicians can be engaged in peace-building,” **Dr. Thomas Selover** (*International Co-coordinator, IAAP*) reassured. The walls of separation “between fields and disciplines” has made knowledge fragmented. “We need to work together in the spirit of interdependence for the community of peace.” He asserted that “interdependence is a basic fact of life.” So, “when we look for interdependence, we will find it everywhere.”

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ILC2020 THE AMERICAS SESSION 8: PERSPECTIVES FROM BUSINESS LEADERS

Written by Alan Jessen, Coordinator, IAED North America
 Sunday, September 13, 2020



Session VIII IAED: Perspectives from Business Leaders

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Americas—The International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED) addressed the topic “Finding Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: The Role of Business Leadership” as part of UPF’s global problem-solving conference. It was one of nine webinar sessions simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, Middle East; North America, Central America, South America, Caribbean) during the September 11–13 International Leadership Conference. The online program was open to all who registered and was watched by 941 viewers.

The session was moderated by Thomas P. McDevitt, who is the global coordinator of the International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED), and chairman of *The Washington Times* and of the HJ Magnolia Foundation.

The speakers were each excellent and addressed the topic with great insight from their personal experiences and backgrounds. They represented the different sectors of economic life that IAED wishes to draw upon in pursuit of its mission of economic development and peace: (a) economists and thought leaders who provide research on major issues; (b) business leaders and entrepreneurs who are building successful businesses to strengthen local economies; and (c) people in government who are in position to create dynamic public/private partnerships bringing capital into underserved areas and addressing the needs for improved infrastructure in support of business development.

Speaking to the common reference point of the COVID pandemic and the economic disruptions it has caused, our speakers called for new thinking and new models of doing. They were consistent in the belief that business will need to be more human focused—both for their customers and their employees. In addition, it will be imperative that businesses not only adapt but embrace the new digital world and build out new communication, customer and workforce systems in order to succeed.

Hon. Jhon Fonseca, (*Former Vice Minister of Foreign Trade, Costa Rica*) highlighted the need for business leaders to be active learners who can develop new tools and skills by way of new thinking. He advised leaders to “shift your organization’s thinking around vision, expectations, metrics, and resources. We are moving into a nonlinear world where our model must change from: Transaction to Relationships; Audience to Community; Consumer to Co-Creator; Loyalty to Gratitude, and Promotion to Purpose.” He gave us much to reflect upon.

Mrs. Nicole Verdugo (*President, Women’s Chamber of Commerce, Chile*) spoke realistically about the dislocations suffered by many businesses due to the pandemic and the hardships it has caused. Yet she encouraged us that a new “entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector should drive the reactivation from companies to the new era of the sharing economy, where values and people are at the center of business.” Her remarks provided many specific ideas in an analysis of how business leaders will need to communicate better and be creative in responding the challenges. Difficult times will cause business leaders to learn through the process and become more efficient. In conclusion, she spoke to the “changes we have to make in the philosophy and application of leadership. We must seek feedback spaces and generate closeness with our work teams, which will allow us to act more efficiently by generating new talents, get to know people better and build better teams.”

Mr. Aaron Manaigo (*Global Political Solutions and Potomac International Partners, United States*) brought our attention to the “silver linings” that exist in times of crisis. He shared of his work to address two stubborn problems: the huge infrastructure needs of our national economies and the challenge of food security in underserved areas. He is utilizing U.S. Opportunity Zones to match strategic investment and sovereign wealth funds with private business to solve problems using enterprise and market opportunities, such as outdated roads and bridges, levee breaches, airport and traffic congestion and so forth. “Closing the infrastructure development and investment gap” would boost job creation and enhance economic growth by

decreasing overhead costs to business while more efficiently moving people, goods, and ideas. Public/private partnerships afford a great opportunity and hope for purpose-driven business leaders together with an enlightened government.”

Mrs. Lilian Schiavo (*President, Brazilian Organization of Women Entrepreneurs, Brazil*) spoke with passion and clarity in addressing the opportunities that exist for business leaders to be creative in remaking their businesses and economies. She stressed the need to focus on business values that support the strengthening of families as a foundation for a healthy economic and social environment. She also had many solid recommendations to offer for business owners and leaders seeking to make the transition to a different reality post-COVID.

Ms. Audra Hajj (*CEO, Angel Investors Network, United States*) shared the experience of her company over the past 20-plus years in working with businesses to change, adapt and thrive. She spoke with an encouraging tone that it is possible to relaunch, rebrand and re-message your business, transforming how you engage prospects, customers and employees by embracing the digital *evolution* (not *revolution*). Ms. Hajj is an enthusiastic and active supporter of IAED. She concluded with an offer to provide her highly valued 67-page *Business Acceleration Roadmap Workbook* along with 12 business strategy sessions for free to IAED members. Through sharing resources, we can grow and support this amazing network of like-minded people. For more information, [click here](#).

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ILC 2020 THE AMERICAS CLOSING SESSION: SUMMARY OF SESSIONS AND CALL TO ACTION

Written by Larry Moffitt, Secretary General, UPF North America
 Sunday, September 13, 2020



Closing Session A Call to Action



The Americas—Participants in UPF's historic problem-solving ILC2020 conference, "Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis," reflected on its successes and looked forward with hope. The ninth session, the concluding event of simultaneously occurring in three time zones (Korea, Japan, Asia-Pacific; Africa, Europe, UPF's the unprecedented three-day webinar, was open to all who registered and was watched by 908 viewers.

The session's moderator was **Dr. Trevor Jones**, President of UPF-Peru, who welcomed the participants, noting that we reflected on the past and have also set the tone for the future of UPF.

Session Reports

ISCP—Dr. Franco Famularo, President, UPF Canada:

Discussion of the impact of COVID played a big part in every discussion. There was widespread expression of gratitude for UPF's presence on the international scene. Congressman John Doolittle summed it up by concluding his remarks with, "We all have the same name. We are the Americas."

IAPP—Dr. Simão Feraboli, Secretary General, UPF South America:

One panelist expressed gratitude to heaven for so many blessings, for so many people met at UPF, and the opportunity to work together. To all of you who are great leaders, thank you very much.

IAPD—Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, Senior Vice President, UPF USA:

Archbishop Stallings did a stellar job of moderating this session. Bishop Noel Jones shared his gratitude to Mother Moon for bringing so many together and letting them share their hearts. Archbishop Chrysostomos praised Reverend Moon's idea to create an upper house for religious leaders at the UN. Imam Khanson said the pandemic is actually creating many opportunities for us to build peace.

IAFLP—Mrs. Angelica Selle, President, WFWP USA

We were blessed to have the participation of Dr. Sun Jin Moon, daughter of the founder. All the women leaders highlighted the domestic problems increased by COVID. First Lady Morales of Guatemala called the pandemic "the calm after the storm." Mrs. Alfaro de Franco said the pandemic underscored the unequal barriers for women to advance. Dr. Samia Burton talked about the pandemic affecting families behind closed doors—domestic violence and substance abuse. But she said the silver lining in this crisis is that it has brought us together and encouraged us to follow the example of Mother Moon, who continues moving forward without ceasing, trying to unite humanity despite the pandemic.

IMAP—Ms. Cheryl Wetzstein, Coordinator, IMAP North America:

I appreciated all the prayer support for this session from so many people. It really does matter. Our session expressed much concern about falling standards of the media everywhere. Many young people want to be hired by a news organization, but it is so they can advocate for their particular political point of view. News is expected immediately because of the internet, but there are fewer people to make that happen. Independent journalism is a big challenge in many countries. Media has tremendous power and should be used morally, to inform. Diversity in media is also important.

IAAP—Mr. Robert Duffy, Secretary General, UPF Canada:

Interdependence is learned foremost in the family. Ethics and morals in education are the keys to the education of youth. Higher education should be considered a human right for all people. There is currently unavoidable change in education dynamics—professors who used to be the owners of knowledge are becoming supporters. Our session was supported by excellent UPF volunteers in the background who have been in touch with our panelists for years.

IAED—Mr. Alan Jessen, Coordinator, IAED North America:

Important thought leaders with resources to share, came together. Government and private sector partnerships are important. Former Vice Minister of Costa Rica Jhon Fonseca said that we need to change our business model from transactions to relationships, from customers to community. He said we need to focus on relationship development rather than money only. Ms. Audra Hajj, our final speaker, developed a landing page for IAED on her own initiative, with a module for letting people sign up to become dues-paying members. All of our panelists expressed appreciation for Dr. Moon for creating this forum for exchange.

Reflections

Mr. Tom McDevitt, Chairman, *The Washington Times* and HJ Magnolia Global:

This online webinar was an amazing turning point for UPF, which is emerging onto the global stage. In Asia, Africa and the Americas so much is happening. The growth of UPF, centering on Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's leadership, is pulling us forward. Here are five factors that characterize UPF right now.

1. UPF is growing in mastery of new technology. We demonstrated that in the conduct of this webinar.
2. It is attracting top leaders of substance to speak at these conferences.
3. It has developed the ability to grow audiences through the use of advanced marketing techniques.
4. Most essentially, the quality of content of these sessions is something that is needed by the world.
5. We are witnessing an awakening in the ability of UPF to understand that Dr. Moon's vision is what we need now. Her impact solving the challenges of the world is happening. This is because God is working.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Chairman UPF International:

I am very impressed with the results of this conference. The UPF leaders are world leaders, giants who can give so much to this world. I feel a heavenly wind is at our back; the Holy Spirit is with us. We are working grounded in spiritual values, which translates as substance. Deeply grateful to the way Father and Mother Moon have brought such passion, drive and commitment that has stirred us to great levels of accomplishment – greater than I could have ever imagined. There is no better way to celebrate UPF's 15th Anniversary than to be hard at work on this ILC webinar. We have spent these past three days with our sleeves rolled up. We worked just as hard the month prior to this, preparing this conference. The principle of interdependence and mutual prosperity centered on universal values is borne out and realized as it lives in our unity. UPF is a vaccine, or homeopathic remedy, that is spiritually needed by the world at this time. We are emerging as a game-changer in the world. Behind it is the deep innovation and meaning of the life and work of Father Moon, and the ongoing, quiet but powerful leadership of Mother Moon.

Dr. Chang Shik Yang, UPF Regional Chair, Central America and the Caribbean:

Panelists have offered suggestions and great hope. This is our first time to do such a conference online. Our 60 speakers elevated our program to a higher standard than any in the past. We are grateful to our accomplished presenters in these sessions and to three heroes, the secretary generals of the Americas. Our team is recognized for its dedication and effort. Our in-house interpreters were amazing. Thank-you to our regional and subregional directors and to our organizing committee for their hard work.

Rev. Dong Mo Shin, UPF Regional Chair, South America:

Many of the participants in this seminar sympathize with the values of our Founders. UPF's Founders say that God is the key to solving all conflicts, that the essence of God is love, and that God's love is true love. True love is to give unconditionally and to live for the sake of others. I hope you can leave this conference with a strong start as Ambassadors for Peace. Become the people who achieve the dream that North and South America will become one America.

Dr. Michael Jenkins, President, UPF International; Regional Chair, UPF North America:

Congratulations to all the key leaders of the Americas. We worked together night and day, with determination because of the sacrifices of our co-founders, beginning with the founding of UPF in 2005. That founding ceremony was followed immediately by their 120-day whirlwind tour of the world. They sacrificed everything for America and the world and planted UPF in every corner of the world. It is truly amazing to see the foundations now blossoming because of True Mother's incredible ability to unify leaders from presidents to parliamentarians to faith leaders to First Ladies and business, media and academia leaders. She is winning their hearts, and they feel deeply the desire to cooperate.

This is the first time we have challenged ourselves to undertake this kind of conference, with this technology. Because of our global communications system, out of 92 speakers, not one of them missed their time online.

The affiliated associations have taken on their mission impressively. Their amazing foundation has grown considerably. There is a bonding of relationships like I have never seen before. I observed the following: (1) Dr. Moon's vision of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values have been felt in the ILC. (2) Father and Mother Moon emphasize marriage as the key to peace—many of our conference participants have also participated in an International Marriage Blessing ceremony. (3) America is mainly Protestant and South America is mainly Catholic. Father Moon has said that if the Christian foundation of Catholic and Protestant can come together, we can melt all barriers, including the one between North and South Korea. The ILC brought North and South, Protestant and Catholic together in heart

through this conference. (4) The Americas are the battleground of the God-affirming force of democracy and God-denying forces of socialism and materialism at the national level. We broke down that barriers significantly with this conference.

Hon. José Alberto Alfaro, President, IAPP Central America and the Caribbean:

Congratulations to Mother Moon for your great leadership and vision. I also thank all the panelists and moderators. Without exception, their presentations gave great value.

Ms. Maribel Barretos, Ambassador for Peace; expert and lecturer on conscience:

I am honored to be part of this great planetary family. God's will to live in freedom, harmony and prosperity. UPF is fulfilling its mission, and we can do even more. We recognize our divine source of blessing and harmony. Peace for the entire universe, over all borders, over all humanity.

Hon. Dan Burton (*International Co-Chairman, IAPP; Member, U.S. Congress, 1983–2013*) and **Dr. Samia Burton** offered their reflections. Dr. Burton enjoyed being with Dr. Sun Jin Moon and the First Ladies, and Honorable Burton said the following: "I have worked with leaders all around the world, but have never met anyone who works as hard as Mother Moon for the cause of peace. She has gone all over the world. We need her leadership more than ever before. Thank you, Mother Moon, and your family, for working so tirelessly on behalf of peace."

ILC2020 Resolution Signing Ceremony

Congressman Burton introduced the [ILC2020 Resolution](#), reading salient portions, and called for participants to raise their right hands. Then he said: "Be it accepted and affirmed that on this Sunday, September 13, 2020, there was a major step forward in firmly establishing a unified world of peace. If you agree, say 'I agree.'" Agreement was unanimous.

Conclusion

Dr. Trevor Jones, President, UPF Peru:

With the signing of the ILC 2020 Resolution, we have come to the end. We will meet again in two weeks to hold the second Rally of Hope with Hak Ja Han Moon. Her living example is the one thing that binds us all together. We often feel the presence of Father Moon, especially at our UPF 15th Anniversary Celebration yesterday, and Mother Moon has shown her determination to continue the work they began during the 1950s—sharing a vision of hope in the theme Peace Starts With Me.

To go back to the Executive summary, [click here](#).

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