



UPF EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER

SUMMIT EXPLORES SOUTHEAST EUROPE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

– SPECIAL REPORT –

By Jacques Marion, President, UPF Europe and Middle East



(L to R) H.E. Alfred Moisiu, Fmr. President of Albania; H.E. Hashim Thaçi, President of Kosovo; Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPF Founder; H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, President of N. Macedonia; and Hon. Elisa Spiropali, Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament of Albania

Tirana, Albania—Participants from over 50 nations attended the Southeast Europe Peace Summit organized by UPF from October 25 to 27, 2019, in Tirana under the patronage of the prime minister of Albania.

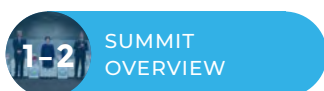
Three main events were held at the 3,000-seat Palace of Congresses. On the morning of October 26, the inauguration of the International Summit Council for Peace was attended by the co-founder of UPF, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon; the president of North Macedonia, H.E. Stevo Pendarovski; the president of Kosovo,

H.E. Hashim Thaçi; the Albanian minister of state for relations with the Parliament, Hon. Elisa Spiropali, who spoke on behalf of Prime Minister Edi Rama; the former president of Albania and co-chair of the summit, H.E. Alfred Moisiu; as well as ten former heads of state and government and key political figures from the Balkan region.

On the afternoon of October 26, a rally of Youth and Students for Peace, an organization that is affiliated with UPF, drew more than 2,000 young participants to attend cultural performances and launch peacebuilding projects. On October 27,

the summit concluded in the Tirana Congress Hall with a standing-room-only Family Blessing Festival, at which the congratulatory message was given by Mrs. Monika Kryemadhi, a political party leader and the wife of Albanian President Ilir Meta.

More than 70 current and former parliamentarians and government ministers attended the peace summit, including Hon. Talat Xhaferi, the president of the National Assembly of North Macedonia; Dr. Enver Hoxhaj, the deputy prime minister of Kosovo, and H.E. May Chidiac, the minister of state for administrative



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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, Chairman, UPF Europe & Middle East



Dear Readers,

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated exclusively to the Southeast Europe Peace Summit that was held in Tirana, Albania, on October 25 to 27.

It was a memorable event, both for the remarkable level of participants and for its timing. It brought together current and former heads of state and government, high-level religious leaders, presidents and members of parliament, and other distinguished speakers, including those from nations still dealing with deeply rooted mutual conflicts. And it took place at a time of tension with the European Union that focused everyone's attention.

The Youth Rally, the Peace Road Balkans project, the Family Blessing Festival—all of which took place alongside the peace summit—expressed a forward-looking, hopeful vision for peace in the Balkan region.

In her opening and closing remarks, the UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, offered deep insights and a spiritual perspective on the significance of the summit in the history of Albania and the Balkan region.

Finally, the Tirana summit was an important stepping-stone in our preparations for the World Summit 2020 to be held in February in Seoul, Korea.

Thank you for your support in helping to prepare these events. We look forward to your participation in our activities in this coming year!

development of Lebanon. Two participants drew special attention from the media: the recent election-winner and prime minister-elect of Kosovo, Hon. Albin Kurti; and Ambassador Christopher Hill, former US ambassador to the Balkans and special envoy to Kosovo during the conflict 20 years ago.

The Albanian religious community was represented by Mr. Bujar Spahiu, the leader of the Muslim Community; Hajji Dede Edmond Brahimaj, the world leader of the Bektashi Order; Mrs. Nikki Doçi from the Albanian Evangelical Alliance; as well as Dr. Genti Kruja, the secretary general of the Interreligious Council of Albania. Other religious figures came from throughout Europe and the Middle East, as well as a special guest from Senegal, Sheikh Mansour Diouf, the co-chair for Africa of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development.

Fifteen major organizations were official partners of the summit, including the Municipality of Tirana, the Podgorica Club of former heads of state and government of the Balkan region, the Ukrainian Peace Council, the World Bektashi Order, the University of Tirana, and other academic and business organizations. Women's Federation for World Peace, the Washington Times Foundation and the Professors World Peace Academy—organizations that are affiliated with UPF—also were represented.

The Peace Summit was a significant gathering for Balkan leaders at a time of conflict within the region and tension with the European Union. Centering on an inclusive vision of peace, mobilizing the energy of youth and the power of family tradition, it opened new horizons in the Balkan Peninsula.



1 Amb. Christopher Hill, Chief Global Advisor, University of Denver; H.E. Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania (2002 – 2007); and Gani Rroshi, Secretary General, UPF Albania at the press conference prior to the Summit.

2 Dr. Thomas Walsh, Chairman, UPF International, gave welcoming remarks at the Opening Plenary

EXCERPTS FROM OPENING PLENARY SPEECHES

Visit www.europe.upf.org/nl7 for the videos with the complete speeches.

H.E. Alfred Moisiu

President of Albania (2002–2007)



The conference is of particular importance because it takes place on the territory of the Balkans, which, as Wilson Churchill stated, “generate more history than they are able to consume”. It is a region that has had a very turbulent historical past, and even in today's conditions of prolonged peace in Europe, still has troubling problems. Some difficulties that still hamper regional understanding remain to be resolved.

However, the agreement between Northern Macedonia and Greece is a serious and very important step forward. Successfully resolving inherited problems between these two countries is an indisputable merit of the current leaders of Northern Macedonia, who for this purpose had to make a national as well as a personal sacrifice. This is an example that everyone from the political class of the region should learn from.

H.E. Stevo Pendarovski

President of North Macedonia

There is virtually no peace project in the Balkans that is an authentic product of the Balkan leaders without the serious involvement of the international community. Peace in Bosnia, Kosovo, the Ohrid agreement of Kosovo independence, the Prespa agreement in my country, were all achieved with the serious involvement of international actors.

I strongly believe that for the further democratization of the societies and states in the region, we increasingly need interactions between the political leaders, as well as between individuals and groups, in all spheres. This is what is needed to produce lasting peace in the region, as well as the conditions for further sustainable economic and democratic development, which will ultimately lead to more comprehensive connectivity.



H.E. Hashim Thaçi

President of Kosovo



This year marks 20 years since the end of the war in Kosovo. In the summer of 1999, no one could have imagined that 20 years later we would still not have a political agreement with Serbia on mutual recognition and no circumstances allowing for good neighborly relations. Great opportunities have been missed to reach this agreement, and we have always been ready to reach out.

We seek to become member states of the European Union as soon as possible, because we envisage no other political or historical destiny; indeed, we are not even seeking a different fate or future. Here, I have to refer again to my deep conviction that it would be best for all Western Balkan states to join the European Union together.

Hon. Elisa Spiropali

Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament, representing H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania

Given the religious diversity of Albanian society, maintaining social cohesion, tolerance and religious harmony even in turbulent times has been a remarkable achievement. Religious tolerance is an Albanian trait, or a social and cultural model, that can be “exported” towards other national and cultural contexts.

In view of the above logic, a claim arises internally; to try to find ways to create a better world - a better world, not as an expression of the egoism as “only for myself,” but a better world, as a legacy to the generations to come. A culture of peace will be achieved when citizens of the world understand global problems and have the skills to resolve conflicts constructively. Such a lesson cannot be achieved without self-sufficient and systematic education for global peace.



PERSPECTIVES FOR PEACE IN THE BALKANS

Opening Plenary, part 1 | 2019.10.26 | Palace of Congresses, Tirana, Albania

On the morning of October 26, 2019, at the Palace of Congresses, the Opening Plenary of the Southeast Europe Peace Summit began with a panel on the theme “Perspectives for Peace in the Balkans.” The European Union veto that blocked the accession of Albania and North Macedonia into the EU a few days before the summit, became a focus for the panelists, who were well-known leaders in the Balkans.

Hon. Vasilika Hysi, deputy chair of the Albanian Parliament, moderated the event. After welcoming the international audience to her country, she invited to the podium Hon. Talat Xhaferi, the chair of the National Assembly of North Macedonia. A respected statesman and a member of his nation’s Albanian minority, Hon. Xhaferi urged all parties to join hands in order to reach the goal of membership in the EU and NATO. What is needed now, he said, is commitment to one another, and wisdom instead of narrow-mindedness and exclusion.



Hon. Albin Kurti, Member of Parliament, Kosovo



Christopher Hill, Chief Global Advisor, University of Denver, United States



Ambassador Hill addresses the audience.



Hon. Vasilika Hysi, Deputy Chair of the Parliament, Albania



Hon. Talat Xhaferi, Chairman of the National Assembly, North Macedonia

Hon. Albin Kurti, whose party recently had won the elections in Kosovo and who was expected to form the next government, referred to the ongoing struggle between his nation and Serbia. A recurring danger, he said, is for people to emphasize what divides instead of what unites. Acknowledging that the commitment to peace is what spurs progress for all, he commended the summit for bringing like-minded people together.

The third speaker was former US Ambassador Christopher R. Hill. Currently the chief global advisor at the University of Denver, Ambassador Hill was the main US diplomat in Albania at the time of transition from communism. He then became ambassador to Macedonia and special envoy to Kosovo during the time of the Kosovo War. Reflecting on the great progress he has seen since his early mission days in the region, he emphasized that a peace process requires mutual respect without expecting instant gratification, and he advised the Western Balkan nations to act as if they were already members of the EU.



Dr. Michael Balcomb, Chairman, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) for Europe and the Middle East, welcoming the audience to Tirana



An interfaith invocation is given by Father Edmond Brahimaj, world leader of the Bektashi Order (left), and Dr. Marijan Oršolić of the Interfaith Department of Austria’s St. Pölten Diocese



H.E. Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania (2002–2007), signing the ISCP Declaration

INAUGURATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT COUNCIL FOR PEACE (ISCP)

Opening Plenary, part 2

The session began with an interfaith invocation by Hajji Dede Edmond Brahimaj, world leader of the Bektashi Order and summit co-chair, and Dr. Marijan Oršolić of the Interfaith Department of Austria’s St. Pölten Diocese. Dr. Thomas Walsh, the chair of UPF International, then explained about the vision and mission of the ISCP.

Representing Albanian Prime Minister H.E. Edi Rama, Hon. Elisa Spiropali, the minister of state for relations with the Parliament, welcomed Dr. Moon to Albania and shared her vision about establishing a culture of peace in the Balkans region. H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, the president of North Macedonia, expressed the disappointment of Balkan people regarding the EU rejection, saying that he felt responsible to resist the current negative climate and advance the democratic process in which European values prevail.

H.E. Hashim Thaçi, the president of Kosovo, reminded participants that over 20 years had passed since the war in the Balkans ended. He deplored, however, that the Western Balkan nations were still not part of the EU, and that Kosovo was still waiting for an all-inclusive agreement with Serbia.

H.E. Alfred Moisiu, the respected former president of Albania, reflected on the responsibility of Balkan nations preparing to join the EU. He then introduced Dr. Moon, whom he had first welcomed to Albania with her husband in 2005, during their UPF inaugural tour, while he was in office.

Dr. Moon said that she envisioned a bright future for Albania and the Balkans, pointing to the historical role of peninsulas as cradles of civilization. Albania may have been considered the last in Europe after a long history of suffering, she said, but the time had come “for the last to become the first”. She concluded the session by bestowing ISCP founding medals to eight former heads of state and government from Balkan nations.



Eight former heads of state received an ISCP founding medal from Dr. Moon: (L to R) Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi of Kosovo (2005–2006); Prime Minister Vilson Ahmeti of Albania (1991–1992); Acting President Jakup Krasniqi of Kosovo (2010–2011); President Živko Budimir of Bosnia-Herzegovina (2011–2015); Dr. Moon; Prime Minister Mirko Cvetković of Serbia (2008–2012); President Fatmir Sejdiu of Kosovo (2006–2010); Prime Minister Hasan Muratović of Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992–1995); and President Stjepan Mesić of Croatia (2000–2010)



THE FAMILY BLESSING FESTIVAL

On October 27, at the Tirana Congress Hall, 1200 couples, representing all regions and major cities of Albania, participated in a marriage rededication ceremony officiated by UPF Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. The event was the culmination of a three-year campaign to revive traditional family values in Albania, during which twelve thousand couples from throughout the country participated in Family Blessing Festivals organized by the Family Federation for World Peace.

The Festival began with songs and dance by well-known Albanian singers and young folk dancers. An interfaith prayer was offered by Sheikh Mansour Diouf, a Muslim leader of the large Mouride community in Senegal,

and by Czech Pastor Dr. Mikuláš Vymětal, from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. After the ceremony, a congratulatory message was given by Mrs. Monika Kryemadhi, a well-known political figure and party leader and wife of Albanian President Ilir Meta.

Dr. Moon reaffirmed her hope that strong family values could foster peace and unity in the Balkans peninsula, and asked President Alfred Moisiu to lead the Steering Committee of the International Summit Council for Peace in the region, offering publicly her support for this initiative. She concluded the Festival by offering a donation to three Albanian charities: the Mother Teresa Foundation, a children's charity, and the World Bektashi Order.



Excerpt of the speech by Hon. Monika Kryemadhi

Even though a few days ago the European Union gave us a desperate answer, the only thing that we value and of which we are proud is the family. It is the basis of our society. A strong family will lead to a strong society. Most of the pensioners in Albania today would not be able to survive for a whole week with their pension, never mind a month. With their income, they could not pay for their medicine, electricity and other expenditures, but it is the family that is the strength behind them; their children who have been educated to have love for their parents, and this fact makes us proud today in front of our international friends present in this hall.

In the globalized world today, with its free movement of peoples, we have heterogeneous families from different ethnical and religious backgrounds; we have Albanian men and women with spouses from other countries, with different nationalities. I have often been invited into such families. Regardless of what the man or woman is, what impresses me the most is the fact that the traditions, the customs, the languages are passed on with love and care to their children. I wish all these mothers and fathers a happy life, a warm family and a lot of love for their children.



- 1 Couples from all over Albania participated in the Family Blessing Festival.
- 2 Mrs. Monika Kryemadhi, the wife of Albanian President Ilir Meta, addresses the audience.
- 3 The entertainment featured famous Albanian singers and dancers.

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Excerpts from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's addresses at the Southeast Europe Peace Summit and Family Blessing Festival

Tirana Palace of Congresses, Albania, October 26-27, 2019

I was born on the Korean Peninsula, and today I stand here in the nation of Albania on the Balkan Peninsula. I believe that peninsulas are especially blessed lands. Not only are the natural environments truly beautiful, but the people living in these regions are also virtuous men and women. When we look at human history, we see that many good and virtuous people have suffered...

Looking at recent European history, Europe suffered tremendously as a result of the First and Second World Wars. They do not want this to happen again, so, for the sake of realizing a peaceful world, the United Nations was established. The UN was founded over seventy years ago, so why has it not yet fulfilled its responsibilities? Something fundamental is missing. Nations both large and small are not able to put aside their own self-interests and unite under the UN.

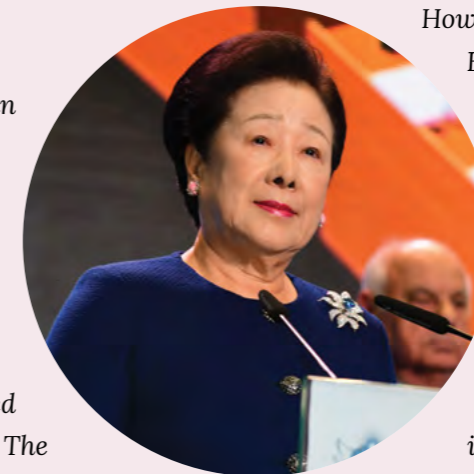
The situation is the same with the European Union. Both the superpowers of the world and the smaller nations prioritize their national interests. In this kind of world, there is no true love or living for the sake of others. Clearly these human-made institutions and organizations cannot last forever. We cannot succeed in realizing a beautiful future for the

earth with human-centered methods. There is only one road to peace! Only when we stand in a position in which we attend the absolute God, the Creator of the universe, can a world of peace come about.

I would like to say this: I know the hopes of the nations on the Balkan Peninsula.

However, when we think of the European continent, Albania can be considered to be the last. It is written in the Bible [Matthew 19:30] that "The first shall be last, and the last shall be first." Do not be disappointed because you have not yet joined the European Union. Albania is now the first, and you can embrace and show the path to Europe... How amazing is this truth? May God be with you wherever you go.

The nations of the Balkan Peninsula should look out to the world. Do not lament over not yet becoming a member of the European Union. In the past the Balkan Peninsula was the gateway to Asia. Balkan nations can enjoy freedom; however, in order to be truly free, the Balkan people must stay strong. I hope that you, the people of Albania, will live not just for yourselves but live for the sake of others, practicing true love. If you can lead by example, the Balkan Peninsula can unite as one.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS ON PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

October 26, 2019

Tirana International Hotel

Following the morning Opening Plenary, four concurrent sessions were organized at the Tirana International Hotel on the afternoon of October 26. A joint session of the International Summit Council for Peace and the Podgorica Club of former heads of state and government from the Balkans region featured prominent leaders who participated in the morning's ISCP inaugural session, while the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo spoke on the panel on Education for Peace and Development. In the second period, two assemblies of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace and the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development were held concurrently with prominent parliamentarians and religious leaders.



ISCP and Podgorica Club Joint Session. (L to R) Fmr. President Fatmir Sejdiu, Kosovo; Fmr. Prime Minister Mirko Cvetković, Serbia; Fmr. President Alfred Moisiu, Albania; Fmr. President Stjepan Mesić, Croatia; and Fmr. President Živko Budimir, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Hon. Nina Nováková, fmr. Czech MP, speaking at the session on Education, with Prof. Mimoza Hafizi, Former Albanian Deputy Minister of Education; Dr. Enver Hoxhaj, Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo; and Mr. Ali Laçej, President of Albanians Peace Council



(L to R) Rabbi Kevin De -Carli, Switzerland; Cheikh Mansour Diouf, Mouride leader, Senegal; Hajji Dede Edmond Brahimaj, leader of World Bektashi Order; Mr. Bujar Spahiu, Chairman, Muslim Community, Albania; Mrs. Nikki Nordby Doçi, Evangelical Alliance, Albania; and Amb. Jakob Finci, Head of Jewish Community, BiH, in the session on the role of faith leaders.



(L to R) Ms. Nafiye Gaş, Office of President, Kosovo; Hon. Vasilika Hysi, Deputy Speaker, Albania; Hon. Albin Kurti, MP, Kosovo; Hon. Erna Hennicot Schoepges, Fmr. Speaker, Luxembourg; Hon. Jovan Jovanović, MP, Serbia; Hon. Angela Guerra, MP, Portugal; and H.E. Dr. Ghazi Al Tayyeb, Senator, Jordan, in the session on the role of parliamentarians.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

October 27, 2019

Tirana International Hotel

On the morning of October 27, six working sessions were held concurrently on the theme of Peace, Security and Human Development. They addressed peacebuilding initiatives launched by UPF for media, academics and business leaders, as well as the themes of migration, interfaith activities, and the role of women in peace and reconciliation.



H.E. May Chidiac, Minister of State for Administrative Development, Lebanon, speaking in the media session with (L to R) Mr. Peter Zoehrer, Director, FOREF Europe; Mr. Thomas McDevitt, Chairman, Washington Times, USA; Mr. Predrag Vujović, PR Director, Serbia; and Mr. Lutfi Dervishi, Talk Show Host, Albania



The Challenge of Migration with (L to R) Dr. Emmanuel Dupuy, President, IPSE, France; Hon. Roberto Rampi, Senator, Italy; Dr. Neven Cvetičanin, Director, FORST, Serbia; Maître Houda Haouami, Lawyer, Tunisia; Mr. Peter Van Der Auweraert, Head, IOM Office, BiH; and Dr. Vjollca Hajdari, Political Expert, Germany



Fmr. Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi, Kosovo, speaking in the Session on family values with (L to R) Dr. Saemira Pino, fmr. Deputy Minister of Education, Albania; Dr. Thomas Selover, PWPA; and Mr. Jack Corley, President, FFWPU-East Europe



Mr. Yossie Mousalli, Director, HASHFELA, Israel, speaking in the session on Interfaith Cooperation with (L to R) Mr. David Fraser Harris, UPF Middle East; Dr. Genti Kruja, SG, Interreligious Council, Albania; Dr. Marijan Orsolc, Diocese of St Polten, Austria; and Mrs. Patricia Earle, UPF and WFWP, UK



(L to R) Carolyn Handschin, President WFWP Europe; Hon. Mrs. Ardiana Jaku, MP, Albania; Dr. Celine Guérin, Neuroscientist, Switzerland; Mrs. Bettina Kircher, Conflict Mediator, Germany; and Mrs. Zilka Siljak, University of Zenica, BiH, in the session on the role of women leaders



Mr. Abdul Basit Syed, Moderator, U.K.; Prof. Arben Malaj, Fmr. Minister of Economy, Albania; Hon. Azra Hadziahmetovic MP, Fmr. Minister of Economy, BiH; Mrs. Jolanda Trebicka, President, EPD, Albania; and Hon. Haki Shatri, Fmr. Minister of Finance, Kosovo in the session on the role of business

CLOSING PLENARY

The speakers in the closing plenary session on “Peace Perspectives in Southeast Europe” included Dr. Werner Fasslabend, former Austrian minister of defense (1990–2000); H.E. Bujar Nishani, former president of Albania (2012–2017); and Dr. Michael Balcomb, president of FFWPU Europe & Middle East, from the UK.

Dr. Fasslabend described the present situation in the Balkans and outlined the possible paths forward toward peace and economic development. President Nishani highlighted the presence of ethnic minorities in every Balkan country and affirmed his confidence that democracy remained the key to facing the challenges and ensuring stability in Southeast Europe.



(L to R) Mrs. Marilyn Angelucci; Dr. Werner Fasslabend; Dr. Thomas Walsh; H.E. Bujar Nishani; Dr. Michael Balcomb; Dr. Katsumi Otsuka

Dr. Balcomb concluded the summit by reaffirming Mother Moon’s message that we should be humble before God, spend more time listening to others and invest in the young people of the region.



UPF HQ'S GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

On October 27 morning, the ground-breaking ceremony for the new regional headquarters of UPF was held in Tirana, in the presence of Tirana Vice Mayor Anisa Ruseti (4th from right). Reflecting her vision and hope for the future work of UPF in the Balkans region, the UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, said: “Today we had the groundbreaking ceremony to build the UPF headquarters. This ‘Peace Embassy’ will be the place where we can demonstrate and teach future generations how to create a peaceful world”.

PEACE ROAD BALKANS

On October 26, after the Youth and Students for Peace Rally at the Tirana Palace of Congresses, young people launched “Peace Road Balkans 2019-2020”.

The Peace Road projects organized around the world contribute to realize the vision of the International Peace Highway, a world peace project launched by the UPF Founders to link the nations of the world. Through cycling or riding for peace across borders, the Peace Road projects aim at overcoming prejudice and creating positive interaction among youth and among leaders in areas of the world burdened with conflicts.

In 2018, Peace Road Balkans included stops in Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and northern Greece. The project will continue and expand annually in the region, including youth exchange and cultural and interreligious programs.

Peace Road Balkans 2019-2020 was officially launched on October 26 in Mother Teresa Square, Tirana.



“SPEAK OUT YOUTH!” RALLY BY YOUTH AND STUDENTS FOR PEACE

Mr. Antto Hassinen, YSP Director, North Europe
Saturday 26th of October 2019, Palace of Congresses, Tirana, Albania

Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) Albania hosted a youth peace festival and rally under the theme “Speak out youth!” Over 2,400 young people – mainly high-schoolers and university students – attended the event and approximately 500 of them came from neighboring countries or elsewhere from Europe. The event saw speakers such as the vice-mayor of Tirana, Mrs. Anisa Ruseti, and International President of YSP, Mr. Koji Matsuda.

The purpose of the event was to encourage youth to believe in their own voice, i.e. in their ability to take responsibility for their country and community through their own efforts. The reason this message is necessary is the general lack of faith among

Albanian youth in their own country and their desire to leave the country instead of remaining and resolving the existing problems.

A central part of the program was a speaking contest called S!NERGY in which Albanian youth presented Peace projects they had initiated themselves. In total eight projects were presented that support different Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) including (SDG#3) good health and well-being, (SDG#4) quality education, (SDG#11) sustainable cities and communities and (SDG#13) climate action. The winning projects got a financial grant for their further development. The purpose of the speaking contest was also to inspire

the participating youth to understand their own capability to serve their communities through volunteering.

The festival entertainment saw famous Albanian singers Marcela Cibukaj and Eugen Bushpepa perform in front of the excited audience. The event concluded with a one-kilometer march for peace jointly hosted by Youth and Students for Peace and Universal Peace Federation.

- 1 The audience consisted of more than 2,400 young people
- 2 Winners of the S!NERGY contest, with Mr. Koji Matsuda (Center)
- 3 A winning S!NERGY presenter’s school celebrating on stage





Dr. Sun Jin Moon addressing the Global Women Peace Leadership Banquet

GLOBAL WOMEN PEACE LEADERSHIP BANQUET

From a report by Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, President, WFWP Europe

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), co-organiser of the Summit, held a Global Women's Peace Network Banquet and Awards Ceremony on the evening of Saturday 26 October 2019. The guests included a former First Lady, 15 parliamentarians, former government ministers, and many other prominent women leaders from the Balkans, Europe, Middle East and Eurasia.

Prof. Julia H. Moon, an internationally renowned ballerina and President of WFWP International gave the welcoming remarks. Dr. Sun Jin Moon, Senior Vice President of WFWPI, gave the main address, painting a detailed picture of the world's needs and the love and capacities of women so needed in response to them.

It was a beautiful event, which was highlighted by the Global Women's Peace Leadership Award Ceremony, bestowing "Women of Excellence" Certificates and a grant on two outstanding women: Dr. Liri Berisha, former First Lady of Albania who founded and directs a number of institutions that care for children with autism and their families, and Dr. Feride Rushiti, a gynecologist and human rights defender, who founded an NGO to care for the thousands of women victims of torture and rape during the war in Kosovo.



(L to R) Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, Dr. Liri Berisha, Dr. Sun Jin Moon and Prof. Julia Moon



Dr. Feride Rushiti, director of the "Kosovo Center for the Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Africa Summit, 7 December 2019, South Africa

First Ladies Summit, 10–11 December 2019, Palau

*Central and South America Summit
15 December 2019, Dominican Republic*

*World Interfaith Harmony Week
1–7 February 2020, Various countries*

World Summit 2020, 2–8 February 2020, Seoul, Korea

Conference Africa Europe, April 2020, UNESCO, Paris, France

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