

Report on IAPP Inauguration event in Albania, & The National Peace Council Assembly, 25th of November 2017

Dear brothers and sister,

We would like to report you about the IAPP Inauguration event which took place in Tirana International Hotel in Tirana – Albania on November 25th 2017. Right after the IAPP Inauguration on Balkan level, which took place in Pristine – Kosovo on 23rd – 24th of September, we started preparation for the inauguration on national level. Our goal was to have at least 30 correct and former MP present, therefore together with Mr. Apostoli – Chairman of UPF in Albania and a Former MP, we worked hard to make sure MPs take seriously our invitation and attend the event. Actually, 28th and 29th of November are national holidays in Albania and most of MPs & VIPs travel with their families, therefore we had to work really hard.



Finally, 140 participants attended the Inauguration event of the IAPP in Albania and 30 current and Former MPs attended and signed the document. Among participants we had H. E. Alfred Moisiu – Former President of Albania, Prof. Dr. Vasilika Hysi – Deputy Speaker of Albanian Parliament, two former Deputy Prime Ministers, 7 current Members of Parliament, 11 former Government Ministers and other high VIPs.



The Session was moderated by the Chairman of UPF Albania Hon. Gaqo Apostoli. Congratulatory addresses were given by President Moisiu, the Honorary Chair of IAPP for Europe, Mrs. Erna Hennicot Schoepges – Former President the Parliament of Luxemburg (1989 – 1995) and Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, President of Universal Peace Federation for Europe, Eurasia and Middle East.





Five eminent speakers presented their papers on the topic of our IAPP event *“Parliamentarian Communication and Cooperation with Civil Society”*. The first speaker was Prof. Dr. Vasilika Hysi – Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Albania followed by Prof. Dr. Shezai Rrokaj – Member of Parliament and Chairman of National Peace Council of Albanian UPF. Next speaker was Prof. Asoc. Dr. Grida Duma – Member of Albanian Parliament followed by Mr. Hydajet Hyseni – many times Member of Kosovo Parliament and the first Chairman of UPF Kosovo. Next speaker was Mrs. Mesila Doda - Former Member of Parliament followed by the last speaker of the session, Rev. Jack Corley, who talked about the vision and mission of IAPP and its goals and objectives.



At the end of the session 8 high level VIPs were appointed as Ambassadors for Peace. Among them was Prof. Dr. Paskal Milo – Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and many years Member of Parliament, Prof. Ass. Dr. Grida Duma – current Member of Parliament, Hon. Agron Duka – Member of Parliament, Mrs. Mesila Doda – former Member of Parliament, Hon. Shefqet Muci – former Government Minister, Dr. Albina Deda – former Member of Parliament, Hon. Diana Culi – former Member of Parliament, Mrs. Suzana Jahollari – Prefect of Tirana.



At the end of the session all MPs and VIPs signed the inaugurating document displayed in a big board.



On the afternoon of the same day, November 25th, we hold the Assembly of the National Peace Council of Universal Peace Federation Albania. We do it each two years and also make the elections of the new leadership for the next 2 years. After organizing Local Assemblies in Local Peace Councils in 10 different cities and also electing the leadership of Local Peace Councils, we gathered to make the analysis of UPF's work for the last 2 years and also plan the goals for the next 2 years.



The Assembly was moderated by the Chairman of National Peace Council Prof. Dr. Shezai Rrokaj. Congratulatory remarks were given by Mr. Jacques Marion – President of UPF Europe and also Hon. Hatixhe Hoxha – Charwoman of UPF Kosovo. UPF could organize 64 activities during the last 2 years and also appointed 230 Ambassadors for Peace. Short presentations were given by the Coordinator of the Albanians’ Peace Council Mr. Ali Lacej, Vice Chairs of the Presiding Council of UPF Mr. Flamur Shehu and Mrs. Majlinda Mema and also by the Vice Chairman of National Peace Council Mr. Astrit Memia. Also, a presentation of all activities organized during the last 2 years were given by Mr. Gani Rroshi.



Then Mr. Apostoli introduced all the elected Chairs of Local Peace Councils who gave short message for all the members of National Assembly.



At the end, the new leadership of UPF Albania was elected and the Presiding Council of UPF will be led by Mr. Gaqo Apostoli as Chairman and three Vice Chairs – Mrs. Majlinda Mema, Mr. Flamur Shehu and Dr. Niko Veizaj. One the other hand, the Leadership of the National Assembly will be Mrs. Rajmonda Stefa as Chairwoman and three Vice Chairs – Mr. Niko Faber, Mr. Astrit Memia and Mrs. Nora Malaj.

Prof. Dr. Shezai Rrokaj who was the Chairman of National Peace Council, will serve as the Honorary Chairman of IAPP Albania.



We are very grateful for the great work of the previous leadership of UPF and wish great success to the new leadership.

Reported by,

Albanian HQ