

## President of Côte d'Ivoire National Assembly Honored as Ambassador for Peace

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Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire -- On November 7, 2019, UPF-Côte d'Ivoire and the Ivorian section of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) jointly organized the appointment of H.E. Amadou Soumahoro, president of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, as Ambassador for Peace.

The ceremony, organized in the enclosure of the palace of the National Assembly, brought together nearly 200 guests. In addition to the Ambassadors for Peace who are members of the institution, leaders of religious groups, traditional groups, public bodies, and national and international institutions, as well as representatives of the diplomatic community, the minister of sports at the national level and deputies of all political persuasions took part in this activity.

In accordance with the established program, the ceremony started with the entrance (and greetings) of the president of the National Assembly in the palace rotunda. The opening prayer for this solemn ceremony was offered by Imam Dramé Moussa, of the Grand Mosque of Grand-Bassam and national president of the Association of Religious Guides for Peace and Development.

With the support of the music group Côté Soleil, the participants sang in chorus the national anthem. Opening the series of speeches, Hon. Jean-Yagui Likane, in his capacity as president of IAPP-Côte d'Ivoire, welcomed all the guests before explaining the reasons for the distinction of the president of the National Assembly. In particular, he said that the recipient of the day works constantly so that all the political tendencies present in the parliamentary institution work together in the bureau of the National Assembly despite their differences. These remarks were warmly applauded by all the audience.

Subsequently, Sayé Lazare Aka, president of UPF-Côte d'Ivoire, presented the five universal principles of Ambassadors for Peace. Thanks to the careful attention of the guests, the national chairman explained exactly what is expected of the Ambassadors for Peace.

Before proceeding with the ceremony, the audience watched a video clip showing the words and actions of the recipient in different parts of the country. The participants unanimously applauded this video content.



The ceremony was continued by Aka Sayé Lazare, Téliako Inago and Jean-Yagui Likane. They presented the official certificate and scarf of Ambassador for Peace, the medal of UPF, the special medal awarded to the Ambassadors for Peace at the Dakar summit, the personal card of the institution and a copy of the autobiography of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, founder of UPF. The solemnity of the moment spontaneously pushed all the guests to stand up and to applaud the recipient, new Ambassador for Peace of UPF-Côte d'Ivoire.

In his address as a recipient, H.E. Amadou Soumahoro expressed his gratitude and thanked the organizers for having chosen him. In affirming that he "... is in line with the Principles of Peace," he also promised to do more to promote and consolidate peace and social cohesion for the sake of the whole populace.

The closing prayer was offered by Pastor Zézé Noel, leader of the Family Federation for Peace and Unification in the municipality of Yopougon.

The group photo was the last step of the activity. For the occasion, the guests took care to surround Danho Paulin, minister of sports and also an Ambassador for Peace, and H.E. Amadou Soumahoro, president of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire.