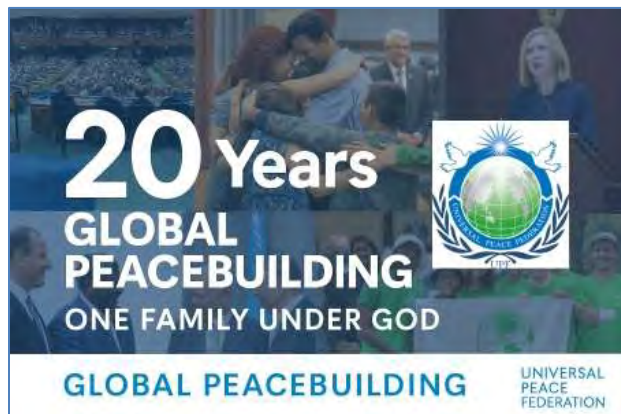


Commemorative Address 20th Anniversary of the Universal Peace Federation

Tageldin Hamad
September 12, 2025



Your Excellencies, UPF Ambassadors for Peace, the frontline of hope, and cherished friends from around the world,

It is a profound honor to connect with you on this momentous occasion: the 20th anniversary of the Universal Peace Federation.

As the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly convenes in New York under the banner "Better Together: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development and Human Rights," UPF reaffirms its deep commitment to those universal ideals. For two decades, we have worked to advance the Sustainable Development Goals through practical initiatives in education, peacebuilding, environmental stewardship, gender equality, youth engagement, and interreligious cooperation. As an NGO with General Consultative Status at ECOSOC, we know that peace, dignity, and development are inseparable and that a just, sustainable world begins with the conviction that we are one human family under God.

Founding the Dream

Today we celebrate not only an organization, but a dream. That dream was given form long before 2005, and was inaugurated at Lincoln Center when our founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han and her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, launched UPF and set out on a historic 100-day world tour to more than 100 nations. They met presidents and parliamentarians, religious leaders and scholars, and called people across the globe to unite behind a vision of peace rooted in spiritual values and universal principles.

Standing before a global audience, Rev. Moon declared: "I declare today before all humanity the founding of the Universal Peace Federation. Its mission is to renew the existing United Nations and provide a new level of leadership." That declaration was not merely ceremonial, it was a blueprint for action: a call to unite institutional strength with moral conviction.

Faith and Global Governance

The founders' vision reached even further. In 2000 Rev. Moon proposed an Interreligious Council at the United Nations not to replace politics, but to complement it, to bring moral perspective into global decision-making. Today, interfaith engagement is increasingly present in UN conversations: World Interfaith Harmony Week, interreligious consultations, and faith-based partnerships now play a role in shaping policy and practice. What once seemed audacious is now increasingly necessary and plausible.

Our Principles

UPF's work is guided by five core principles:

1. We affirm that humanity is one family under God.
2. We hold that our highest qualities are spiritual and moral conscience, compassion, integrity.
3. We recognize the family as the primary school of love and peace.
4. We uphold living for the sake of others as the path to reconciliation.
5. We insist that lasting peace requires cooperation across ethnicity, faith, and nation.

These principles are the compass for every UPF initiative, and they echo the deepest aspirations of the United Nations.

Peacemaking in Practice

Principles become meaningful only when acted upon. UPF's regional initiatives from the South Asia Peace Initiative and the South Caucasus Peace Initiative to the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) and the Northeast Asia Peace Initiative (NEAPI) have convened political and religious leaders to pursue dialogue, confidence-building, and reconciliation. Over 70 high-level meetings have brought former heads of state, diplomats, and experts together to explore concrete paths to peace.

We welcome developments like the Abraham Accords, which reflect the same spirit of interfaith reconciliation that MEPI has championed: mutual respect, dialogue, and a regional architecture for peace.

Rev. Moon's bold infrastructural visions including the proposal for a bridge-tunnel across the Bering Strait and the idea of a planetary Peace Highway were never only engineering dreams. They were metaphors for connection: of peoples, economies, and hearts. Today, initiatives that knit regions together physically and culturally underline the truth that our future is shared and interdependent.

Peace Road and Youth Action

The Peace Road movement millions walking, running, and cycling in solidarity shows that peace is both symbolic and active. Alongside Peace Road, UPF's character education, sports-for-peace tournaments, and service-learning projects equip young people with the values and skills to build inclusive communities. Our Youth and Students for Peace programs have engaged thousands across more than 70 countries a hopeful investment in the next generation of ethical leaders.

The Family, Women, and Moral Leadership

At the heart of UPF's mission is the conviction that peace begins in the family. The family is where responsibility, empathy, and reconciliation are first learned. Equally, Rev. Moon insisted on the vital role of women as moral leaders and peacemakers. Today, Dr. Hak Ja Han continues that mission, elevating women's leadership through initiatives like the International Association of First Ladies for Peace and convening global summits that place women at the center of peacebuilding.

Continuing the Legacy

Since Rev. Moon's passing, Dr. Hak Ja Han has convened landmark summits including the World Summit 2020 launched Think Tank 2022 on the Korean Peninsula, and established the Sunhak Peace Prize, honoring those whose lives embody service to humanity. Under her leadership, UPF's global associations spanning faith, governance, academia, business, arts, and women's leadership form an integrated platform for advancing peace through multiple sectors.

Ambassadors for Peace, The Frontline of Hope

Our Ambassadors for Peace are the living network of UPF: more than 100,000 volunteers in over 190 countries. They have organized thousands of forums, service projects, and educational events bringing practical assistance and moral witness to communities worldwide. They embody the founders words: "True love gives, forgets that it has given, and continues to give without ceasing."

Healing a Wounded World

We cannot celebrate without soberly acknowledging the suffering that persists conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East among them. These crises teach us that peace cannot be imposed; it must be nurtured through reconciliation, compassion, and the courageous work of embracing former enemies. UPF answers with both dialogue and service delivering aid after natural disasters, supporting clean-water projects, and assisting communities in crisis. This is peace in action.

Renewing Our Commitment, A Call to Action

Friends, the world has changed in profound ways over these two decades. New technologies, shifting geopolitics, climate emergencies, and widening inequalities challenge our institutions and our consciences. And yet the vision that birthed UPF is more urgent than ever.

So let us recommit today: to bold dialogue where others remain silent; to reconciliation where others choose division; to building bridges where walls divide. Let this anniversary be not merely a commemoration of the past, but a declaration for the decades to come.

Together through our seven global associations, through partnership with the United Nations, and through the tireless service of Ambassadors for Peace we will advance interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values.

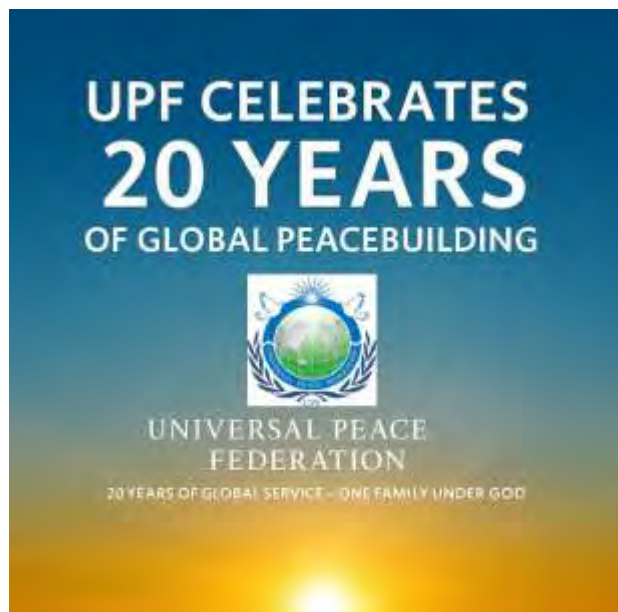
If not us, who? If not now, when?

One family under God. Let this be more than a phrase; let it be our shared reality and our shared commitment. Thank you and may the Universal Peace Federation continue to be a beacon of hope and a force for peace for generations to come.

Dr Tageldin Hamad

Earlier Statement:

UPF Celebrates 20 Years of Global Peacebuilding



UPF 20th Anniversary: Two Decades of Global Peacebuilding and Dialogue

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), inaugurated on September 12, 2005, by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han at Lincoln Center in New York. Over the past two decades, UPF has grown into a global alliance of peacebuilders, partnering with governments, civil society, and faith communities to promote dialogue, cooperation, and sustainable development.

Honoring Ambassadors for Peace and Partners Worldwide

In commemoration of this milestone, UPF extends heartfelt gratitude to its tens of thousands of

Ambassadors for Peace of the Universal Peace Federation and partners around the world. Their tireless work in interfaith dialogue, humanitarian relief, education, environmental initiatives, and moral leadership has brought the vision of "one family under God" closer to reality.

Seven Global Peace Associations: Engaging Leaders Across All Sectors

Since its founding, UPF has supported the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through practical peacebuilding efforts in every region. It has launched seven global associations engaging parliamentarians, faith leaders, scholars, women, business leaders, artists, and former heads of state to address the world's most urgent challenges.

Family, Service, and Shared Values: The Principles of Peace

Our principles remain unchanged: peace begins with the family; true leadership is rooted in service; and reconciliation across all boundaries is possible when we center our actions on shared spiritual values.

Reaffirming Commitment to the United Nations and Global Partnerships

As we look ahead, UPF reaffirms its commitment to supporting the UN, expanding its peace initiatives worldwide, and creating a healthier, more hopeful information space online. In a time of uncertainty and division, we pledge to remain a steadfast voice for unity, dignity, and peace.

To all our partners we say: thank you. Let us continue walking together toward a world of mutual prosperity and lasting peace.

Universal Peace Federation

20 Years of Global Service - One Family under God