

## UPF Asia-Pacific ILC 2021 (part 1) - Session V: Energize UN for Peace in Korea

Ursula McLackland

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**Asia Pacific** -- Session Five of the July 7-8 International Leadership Conference 2021 (ILC2021) -- Asia Pacific program was held on July 8, under the theme, "Re-Energizing the United Nations for Peace on the Korean Peninsula." The event featured four distinguished leaders from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and the United States. In total, 1,610 people from 41 countries registered for the event and 507 watched it lived on Zoom.

**Dr. Tageldin Hamad**, *vice president of UPF International*, underlined that while the UN has taken actions to address the reunification issue more work and continuous engagement is needed to make reunification a reality. He mentioned that Pope Francis has expressed a willingness to visit North Korea and the willingness of the Pope to do so and the engagement of other religious leaders will eventually help this cause.

**Amb. Dayantha Laksiri Mendis**, *a former ambassador of Sri Lanka to Austria and a permanent representative to the UN in Vienna, Austria*, spoke of the importance of dialogue and reasoning in the reunification process and acknowledged that it takes time.

**Mrs. Cecile Guidote-Alvarez**, *a UNESCO Artist for Peace and director of Earthsavers, Philippines*, underscored that the two Koreas must realize their identity through their culture. If each country can establish empathy towards each other, reunification will be possible. There is a need to have a fusion of technology and art as a dynamic instrument of peace as well, she said.

**Mr. Habib Mayar**, *deputy secretary general of the G7plus from Timor Leste*, mentioned that the G7plus envisions a paradigm to increase the inclusiveness of the UN through communication and information technology which can involve more people in promoting peace.

**Mrs. Ursula McLackland**, *secretary general of UPF-Asia Pacific*, moderated the event.