

UPF International: Africa Day 2026: Water, Dignity and the Spirit of Peace

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On [Africa Day](#), the Universal Peace Federation joins people across Africa and around the world in honoring the founding of the Organization of African Unity on May 25, 1963. This day recalls the long journey toward African unity, freedom and dignity. It also invites a renewed look toward the future. Africa is a continent of spirit, memory, family, youth, courage and promise.

In 2026, Africa Day stands within a strong continental and international focus. The [African Union 2026 theme](#) is "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and

Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063." The [United Nations Africa Dialogue Series 2026](#) carries the related theme "Water and Sanitation for Life: Harnessing Water Resources for the Africa We Want." These themes speak about water, sanitation and the daily dignity of human life.

Water carries sacred meaning in ordinary life. A child needs water to grow. A mother needs water to care for her family. A farmer needs water to feed a community. Safe sanitation protects health, dignity and the quiet security of daily life. Scarcity can deepen mistrust. Responsible sharing can open paths of cooperation. In UPF's view, Africa's future is shaped by economics, politics, infrastructure, conscience and the spiritual depth of the human person. Peace begins in the heart and becomes visible through service.

UPF's founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han and the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, taught that humanity is one family under God. Their vision affirms the dignity of every people, the value of every nation's contribution and the power of service as a path toward peace. Africa carries deep wisdom for this task. Across its many peoples and cultures, Africa has living traditions of family responsibility, respect for elders, reverence for spiritual life, care for community and hope passed from generation to generation.

Dr. Hak Ja Han has given sustained personal attention to Africa's peace and development. This commitment was expressed through UPF organizing major continental gatherings: the [Africa Summit in Dakar](#), where leaders gathered around the vision of a new Africa rooted in interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values; the [Africa Summit in Cape Town](#), held with the Royal House of Mandela to honor Nelson Mandela's legacy and address peace and human development in Africa; the [Africa Summit and Leaders' Conference in Johannesburg](#), which strengthened regional peace cooperation; and the [First Africa Continental Summit in Niamey](#), organized with the full cooperation and endorsement of Niger's government and with support from representatives of the African Union, ECOWAS and the G5 Sahel.

These gatherings showed UPF's respect for Africa's own leadership and its own spiritual strength. They brought together political leaders, parliamentarians, religious leaders, traditional authorities, women leaders and civil society partners. UPF deeply values its partnerships with international and regional organizations working in Africa, including institutions connected with the African Union, ECOWAS, the G5 Sahel, the United Nations system, faith communities, civil society and local leadership.

UPF also honors Africa's spiritual contribution to the world. The [Africa Spiritual Day](#) initiative at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa showed that moral and spiritual leadership has a vital place in public life. Institutions, laws and plans need the support of conscience, forgiveness, trust and the courage to heal old wounds.

Africa Day is a celebration of history and a prayer for the future. It calls partners in governments, religious communities, civil society, media, education and local leadership to recognize Africa's own voice and Africa's own gift to the world. UPF looks forward to continued cooperation for an Africa of dignity, spiritual strength, shared prosperity and peace.