

UPF Europe and the Middle East Webinar on Global Peace and Development

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This webinar featured leading politicians who expressed their views on the theme: **"Reflecting on 75 years since WWII: Towards a vision for Global Peace and Development Post Covid-19"**.

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, the world may be facing its biggest collective challenge since that time: the coronavirus pandemic. During a recent U.N. Security Council virtual meeting, reflecting on the lessons learned from World War II, U.N. and E.U. officials suggested that the way we react to the new challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic could be as significant as the way in which the world was rebuilt after the devastation of war, resulting in the formation of such key organizations as the European Union, the United Nations and a new, principled-based, world order.

Expressing concern that the pandemic is testing the multilateral system and may deepen existing conflicts and generate new geopolitical tensions, they emphasized that the rules-based international order, centering on the U.N., must be strengthened.

In the light of these reflections, panelists expressed their perspective on the challenges European nations face as they emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, and on the role parliamentarians can play in this context to promote peace, democracy and mutual prosperity in Europe and the Greater Region.

The four panelists are:

Hon. Pier Ferdinando Casini, Senator, former President of the National Assembly, Italy

Hon. Gadzhimurad Zairbekovich Omarov, Member of the State Duma, Russian Federation

Hon. Keith Best, former Member of Parliament; Chair of the Board of Trustees, UPF-UK, United Kingdom

Hon. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, former President of the Parliament, Luxembourg; Co-Chair, International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)-Europe