

UPF Africa's ILC2021: Toward Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula

Katherine Rigney
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Africa -- UPF-Africa hosted ILC2021, webinar series 3, September 9-10, 2021 on the theme, "Toward Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula: Prospects for Economic Development and Peace; Ideologies, Worldviews and International Relations." Cohosts included: ISCP, IAPP, IAPD, IMAP, IAED, IAFLP, IAACP, and the Peace Road Foundation. There were 6 sessions featuring about 20 VIP speakers. The audience numbered many, many thousands throughout the continent participating via livestream, YouTube, Facebook and Telegram.



Session One: Host ISCP (#1 video: youtu.be/No_KdyX9iwQ). The Opening Session (September 9) dealt with the issue: "What are the Vision and Perspectives for a Reunification of the Korean Peninsula in a Competing Ideological, Geopolitical and Economic Environment?"

Moderator: **Dr. Paterne Zinsou**, vice president of UPF-Africa; coordinator, IAPP Africa Region

Following introductory videos and highlights of previous ILCs and Rallies of Hope, welcome remarks were given by **Mrs. Katherine Rigney**, UPF-Africa chairperson. **Dr. Tageldin Hamad**, vice chairman, UPF International and chair of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO), delivered introductory remarks. The keynote address was presented by **H.E. Hassan Mohamed Amardanbe**, minister of defense of Somalia, who expressed gratitude to UPF and Mother Moon for their efforts to achieve global peace. Other speakers included: **H.E. Emmanuel Nadingar**, former Prime

Minister of Chad, and **H.E. Ousseini Timni**, former speaker of the parliament, Niger.

Session Two: Host: IAPP (#2 video: youtu.be/3lpHvg-aSLY). The session's theme was "Worldviews and International Relations: Parliamentary Diplomacy." The following questions were discussed: What are the strategies that parliamentarians can put into play in order to contribute to the reunification of the Korean peninsula? How might parliamentary diplomacy be a favorable asset to this process? Do parliamentarians have sufficient means for their policies? What are the advantages of parliamentary diplomacy to achieve this objective?



Moderator: **Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir**, MP, and president of the Parliamentarian Commission of Sustainable Development Goals, Chad

Panelists:

Hon. Dr. Abdullah Makame, East Africa Legislative Assembly, Tanzania

Hon. Drabo Josephine, former member of Burkina Faso and ECOWAS Parliament

Session Three: Host: NGOs (#3 video: youtu.be/YblWxu280xI). The theme was: "Prospects for Economic Development and Peace." The speakers discussed the questions: How can economic cooperation programs contribute to the process of reunification of the two Koreas? What are the most sensitive areas in order to best achieve this objective? Economic cooperation is an avenue to explore and develop as a factor in bringing the two peoples together. Are there opportunities for convergence in the business world? How can African countries that have trade relations with one of the two Koreas or both at the same time contribute to the reconciliation of the two Korean peoples and promote reunification?

Moderator: **Mrs. Albina Tanui**, secretary general, UPF-Somalia

Panelists:

Dr. Reginald Nalugala, Tangaza University College, Kenya

Mrs. Michelle Piardon Bha, president, REFA International; president, Rotary Club Abidjan

Elixir, Cote d'Ivoire

Ms. Mary Muthoni, national director, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Robert Oyand Omenya, managing director, Ramsis Enterprises Limited, Kenya

Session Four: Host: IAED (#4 video: youtu.be/Tx33szqB4Ng). On September 10, the theme for Session Four was "Prospects for Economic Development and Peace: Doing Business, Make Peace." This session focused on the prospects for economic development on the Korean Peninsula and throughout Northeast Asia. Could a Northeast Asian Economic Community that includes DPRK be possible? Are there bilateral trade agreements that would offer a peace dividend? Panelists explored opportunities for peace through economic development.

Moderator: **Mr. Abdoulaye Wone**, Regional Coordinator, IAED

Panelists:

Mr. Nkosinathi Lucky Zulu, pastor; cofounder, Creative Digital Technology, South Africa

Mr. Adama Doumbia, president, UPF-Africa; regional coordinator, ISCP-Africa

Dr. Paterne Zinsou, vice president of UPF-Africa; coordinator, IAPP Africa Region

Session Five: Hosts: IAAP and IMAP (#5 video: youtu.be/2xdqrF5cbpY). The theme was "Ideologies, Media, and Culture." The session speakers examined the questions: How to transcend the differences in ideology, regime and political opinion between North and South, and put into practice the ideal of brotherhood and unity between two divided peoples? What role can the media and civil society play in order to generate this force of attraction and this desire for reunification, repeatedly through different forms of cooperation? These initiatives include, among others: meetings of separated families, sports and scientific cooperation between the two Koreas, tourist visits, etc. How can obstacles to this process be prevented and how to capitalize on these initiatives and attempts geared towards the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula?



Moderator:

Mr. Frederick Wakhisi, secretary general, UPF-Kenya

Panelists:

Prof. Eric Aseka, renowned historian, Kenya

Hon. Olive Louembet, environmental leader, Gabon

Session Six: Closing Session (#6 video: youtu.be/x-Vq6trPJ6U). The theme of the closing session was "The Role of UPF and its Associations and Sister Organizations in the Korean Reunification Process."

Moderator: **Mr. Adama Doumbia**, president, UPF-Africa; regional coordinator, ISCP-Africa

Keynote speech: **Dr. Thomas Walsh**, chairman, UPF International. The title of Dr. Walsh's presentation was: "UPF International: Offering a New Paradigm for Peace through Restorative Practices."

Congratulatory remarks: **Rev. Rudolf Farber**, secretary general, UPF-Zambia

Closing remarks: **Rev. Bakary Camara**, co-chair, Cheon Eui Won (CEW) Heavenly Africa. Rev. Camara explained that "the two Koreas cannot overcome their difficulties on their own but only in cooperation with the world." He quoted the UPF founders who "strongly believe that the reunification of the two Koreas is a steppingstone towards a unified world," hence the critical importance of the forum.

The session concluded with a peace song.