

United Mexican States IAPP launched at the Mexican Parliament building

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First three from right, Costa Rica IAPP president, Cong. Lorelly Trejos Salas; Jose Alberto Alfaro Jimenez and Laura Paula Lopez Sanchez; -- Mexican congress; First two from Left

The launch of the national chapter of IAPP in the United Mexican States took place in Building E of the Chamber of Deputies in the Palace of San Lazaro (Saint Lazarus), which is the Mexican Parliament building, on November 28.

Representatives of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN) and Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) attended the founding of the Mexico chapter of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), a body that seeks to overcome divisions of race, religion and nationality, with programs promoting dialogue and reconciliation and the strengthening of values and institutions.



Be inclusive

In his remarks at the IAPP inauguration, the president of the bicameral National Security Committee in the National Congress, Deputy Waldo Fernandez Gonzalez (PRD), stressed that all members of society must be part of building social peace. "Mexican women, Mexican men and politicians must work in harmony to keep up with the circumstances." He went on to say that in the Chamber of Deputies, ultimately no legislative or parliamentary work seeks disharmony.

He thinks that given the different visions of the country, the legislative process of preparing and discussing each initiative (whether initiatives pass or fail) will have a vital and important sub-product, which is social peace." He recognizes that among the legislators, different visions prevail, but they always try to overcome in the best interest of the nation, of the people and to maintain peace. He expressed his hope that this effort "contributes to

Mexico, with its security problems, achieving peace as soon as possible."

Peace above self-interests

Deputy Baltazar Martínez Montemayor (PAN) pointed out that lasting peace must start from the family, sowing in each child the culture of harmony. "They see us as an example and inspiration and that is where our responsibility to instill peace begins, which for ideological, religious, political and power-related reasons we have been unable to build."

Martínez Montemayor, organizer of the event, explained that the IAPP movement, sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), seeks to put an end to conflict-oriented ideologies and put peace above the interests of groups, terrorists and mercenaries that sell weapons and those who fight for political, religious or territorial gain. He said that it is necessary to go to work, school and social clubs, putting peace first, without shame or shyness," in this world, in which we have seen so many attacks, so much aggression and so the death of so many innocents without reason."

The task is huge, he warned, because the movement seeks to promote legislators, whose responsibility is to provide peace to the states and give certainty of the rights of citizens and the culture of service to generate this new model of peace.



José Alberto Alfaro Jimenez, vice president of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica beside Dr. Walsh and Charles S. Yang as they present certificates to new ambassadors for peace

Democracy, justice

The PRI deputy, Juan Antonio Ixtlahuac Orihuela, said that Mexico is going through serious moments in its fight against crime, and at least fifty- six people die each day from intentional crimes. "This figure runs counter to the development and stability in society and challenges the state institutions." The country is waging a battle against crime, corruption and drug trafficking, which is why, he said, "It is important to make the greatest effort to strengthen democracy and justice, which are fundamental to achieving peace."

He reminded us that almost a hundred years ago, the Treaty of Versailles was established to make universal peace part of the public discussion "and today, at such a distance, with so much evolution, with so much political capacity and development, we keep the problems of violence and crime alive. That is why it is vital to discuss what we have to do at the international level."

"Peace is not a matter of borders, of sovereign states or nation states; it is of universal size and dimension; therefore, all countries must be committed to working for it." He added that Mexico must recover leadership in culture, traditions and production, and be a country that advocates internationally for peace and the unity of nations.

Maintain good government

The local deputy of Nuevo Leon, [a state, or province] Laura Paula López Sánchez (PAN), read the IAPP Inaugural Declaration, in which it indicates that parliamentarians, as representatives, have an important role to play in the establishment of peace and human development.

She emphasized the commitment to promoting good government practices, including transparency, responsibility, collegiality and public service. She stressed the value of working for the good of all people, going beyond the barriers of nationality, culture, ethnicity, race, gender, religion and political ideology in seeking solutions to current critical challenges, including territorial disputes, religious and racial conflicts, environmental degradation, climate change, violent extremism, poverty, hunger, nuclear proliferation and corruption.

Toward safe, stable societies

When his turn to speak came, Othón Pérez Hernández del Castillo, president of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Mexico, recognized the role of legislators in representing the people, in promulgating laws and defending human rights.

"We will work to build a safe and stable society in which to live. We understand the importance of cooperation and collaboration in search of innovative solutions to some critical issues that we face locally, nationally, regionally and globally such as climate change, the rise of extremist ideologies, humanitarian

disasters and conflicts, among others."



Dr. Walsh and Mexican Congressman Baltazar Martinez Montemayor signing the resolution

Make a route to peace

The international president of the UPF, Thomas Walsh, said that Mexico's inclusion in the IAPP movement is part of an "excellent program, as it is a strategic country for the region and the continent." He expressed that a strong, healthy, stable family structure is necessary. In addition to establishing conditions that allow all to reach the goal of sustainable development and to establish the way or route to peace, he seeks to accelerate the process of commercialization and exchange for all the countries of the world. The crucial point is dialogue and cooperation, maintaining contact, meeting even those with different visions and perspectives, listening to one another and consolidating a common vision, he emphasized.

Influence of the internet

In turn, the regional president of UPF in Central America and the Caribbean, Charles S. Yang, said, "The world no longer has barriers or borders. Cyberspace knocked them all down. We all live under the same sky and we must help bring social peace." He pointed out that

because of social, political and religious differences, world harmony is constantly affected by wars; hence the need for parliamentarians to join forces, regardless of parties or creeds, "to bring peace to all humanity."

The need for moral representatives

When his turn at the podium arrived, the former vice-president of the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly, José Alberto Alfaro (and current IAPP president of Latin America and the Caribbean), indicated that parliamentarians must feel a true calling, have common interests with and the sensitivity to feel concern for others. "Given the problem of corruption, if you do not have morality and firm values, you could never represent the people as a true vocation supportive of the general national interest," he said. "The parliamentarian has a commitment to the people and to peace. If we fail, the nations will not achieve peace that lasts."

Bolster the family

From the Congress of Costa Rica, Deputy Lorelly Trejos Salas (the Costa Rica IAPP president) said that as long as a country conducts itself under a democratic framework that guarantees the exercise of fundamental rights, optimal environments for peace, respect, tranquility and the reduction of violence will follow. She spoke out for strengthening the family, which plays a fundamental role but has been affected by social destruction, causing violence to the nuclear family. She also promoted educational systems focused on the integral development of individuals to bring inclusive economic growth. "Otherwise, she warned, legislators will be jointly responsible for poverty, inequality and discrimination."

The director of social studies, in the area of the status of women and gender equity, at the Center for Studies for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equity (CEAMEG), Judith Díaz spoke next. She indicated that this sector should be present in the construction of a new culture of peace and be recognized as an integral part of the solution, since they (women) have been the first victims in armed conflicts, and face those conflicts in a different and more vulnerable way.

Therefore, "we must bequeath a different world to the young generation. We who have been participants, modifying the legislation so that women might live in a different world must also build a better world that develops from prevention, work with those in the young generation who emerge from an educational environment that promotes values and respect."