

We must do our best to encourage dialogue between warring groups

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Fifth Rally of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is an honor and a privilege to address you all at this fifth Rally of Hope.

I would like to start by honoring the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has already killed over 2.3 million people throughout the world. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

At a time when this tragedy compels us to close our borders, virtually all of us must prepare to deal with a serious social and economic crisis that will further increase poverty and inequality in our countries. And so, I would like to see international cooperation and solidarity strengthened, so that poorer countries are not left behind! Vaccines must reach every person quickly and free of charge, and we must focus on global resilience rather than national.

Your Excellencies,

I would also like to thank Dr. Moon, co-founder of UPF, for her utmost dedication to promoting global peace and understanding. And let me also honor the memory of her late husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, so that we may continue his work of promoting greater solidarity between all peoples.

In 2019 I took part in the World Leaders' Gathering at the Asia Pacific Summit, in Cambodia. At the time we vowed to spare no effort in promoting peace, prosperity and universal values. However, I am saddened to see that war and conflict have not abated and that millions of men, women and children continue to suffer as before. For it to be truly possible to further peace and to quell terror, we must understand and believe that everyone truly matters. We must protect equality and universal values, and we must do so while respecting the uniqueness of every individual, society, and country.

Today's challenges are complex and require new stances and approaches. We must redesign the models of the past to adapt them to reality, or better yet, to the various realities. We must do our best to encourage dialogue between warring groups and amongst all those that can contribute to a solution, both within countries and outside.

Speaking from experience, both in my country, Timor-Leste, and in the group of fragile and conflict-affected countries called the G7+, I can say with certainty that fair peace means much more than the absence of conflict. It is paramount to also free people from hunger, disease, and poverty. We learned during our first years of independence that there can be no development without peace and no peace without development!

So, I say, ladies and gentlemen, that courage and resilience are the key words for today's challenges. Courage, so as not to give in to pessimism and not to stop trying, which would make the world's problems even worse. And resilience, so as to continue working to unite people within their diversity and to ensure that intensive dialogue and diplomacy prevail.

The international community must remain steadfast and show solidarity. We do not have time to waste any opportunity we have to do better, consistent with universal values, our interdependence and the strengthening of partnerships based on mutual respect.

We must do better for individuals and for the whole of humanity, until fair peace is both a right and a duty for every person in the world. Thank you very much.