World Summit 2025: Establishing a New Era of Peace and Prosperity

Song Yong cheon May 12, 2025



The World Summit 2025, which was attended by political leaders, religious figures, and experts from various fields from 120 countries, was held with great success as part of the commemorative events for the 65th anniversary of the True Parents' Holy Wedding and the grand opening of the Cheon Won Gung Museum.

Organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), the World Summit 2025 began on April 10 with the Welcoming Banquet, followed by the opening ceremony on April 11 at Lotte World Hotel, located in Songpa-gu, Seoul, under the main theme: "Contemporary Challenges to World Order: Establishing a New Era of Peace and Prosperity." The event was held over four days at the Lotte World Hotel, the Korean National Assembly, and the Hyojeong Cultural Center in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi-do.

The opening ceremony was conducted by Michael Jenkins, UPF World President, and featured keynote speeches from distinguished personalities, including: Philémon Yang, current President of the UN General Assembly (video message); Goodluck Jonathan, former President of Nigeria; Andrés Pastrana, Arango, former President of Colombia; Yusuf Raza Gilani, former Prime Minister and current Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan; Macky Sall, former President of Senegal; Signe Zeikate, First Lady of Costa Rica; Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Jimmy Morales, former President of Guatemala; and Boris Tadić, former President of Serbia.

During their interventions, the speakers agreed that "there can be no world peace without peace on the Korean Peninsula," marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the UN and the liberation of Korea. They also emphasized the need for the international community to address current diverse challenges through a multilateral approach.







① Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Giving Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony ② Pastor Paula White-Cain, Senior Advisor to the White House Faith Office, Giving Her Congratulatory Address ③ Philemon Yang, President of the United Nations General Assembly, Giving Special Video Address

World-Class Leaders Share the Vision of "Contemporary Challenges to World Order: Establishing a New Era of Peace and Prosperity"

In his welcome address, Dr. Charles S. Yang, Chairman of UPF International, reflected on the current geopolitical challenges facing South Korea, including the threats posed by North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and the complexities of navigating between U.S.-China hegemonic competition. He emphasized the timely significance of World Summit 2025, suggesting that peace on the Korean peninsula is a prerequisite for peace in Northeast Asia and throughout the world.

Pastor Paula White-Cain, Senior Advisor to the White House Faith Office, speaking in a personal capacity, offered a congratulatory message expressing her gratitude to President Hak Ja Han. She acknowledged President Han's dedicated pursuit of peace, noting how her efforts had facilitated numerous world summits that accomplished the remarkable feat of bringing diverse representatives together for dialogue.

In his special video address, Philémon Yang, President of the United Nations General Assembly, reflected on the UN's 80-year legacy as a force for peace and international cooperation, expressing confidence in its continued importance for the future. He emphasized multilateralism as the pathway to building a world for future generations.



The keynote speakers consistently highlighted the significance of multilateralism in their remarks. Yousaf Raza Gilani, President of the Senate of Pakistan and first President of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) acknowledged the challenges of our divided world order, including climate crisis, energy shortages, water resource depletion, growing inequality, and intensifying violent conflicts. Nevertheless, he expressed optimism about the shared values between ISC and UPF, suggesting their collaborative potential to develop mechanisms promoting cooperation, inclusion, mutual respect, coexistence, and harmony.

Former President of Colombia, Andrés Pastrana, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the contemporary global challenge of transitioning from unilateralism to multilateralism. He advocated for increased action and solidarity as the essential path forward and the necessary new direction for international relations.

Former President of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, reflected on the serious challenges currently facing the world, including instability, climate change, economic recession, and social unrest. He offered a perspective on environmental stewardship, suggesting that our planet is not our possession but rather entrusted to us temporarily for the benefit of future generations.

Former President of Senegal, Macky Sall, addressed the global security crisis, calling for a more decisive role from the UN Security Council as the designated guarantor of collective security under the United Nations Charter. He outlined specific needs for improvement, including stronger mandates, more effective action mechanisms, and robust support for regional arrangements where circumstances require them.

The First Lady of Costa Rica, Signe Zeicate, an economics expert originally from Latvia, shared insights from both Latvia and Costa Rica's experiences, noting that peace is neither an instantaneous achievement nor a matter of chance, but rather a deliberate and ongoing process.

Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, reflected on the various wars, conflicts, and polarization affecting different regions of the world. He emphasized the contemporary need for visionary leadership capable of addressing future challenges, concluding his remarks with an expression of optimism based on the resilience people have demonstrated throughout human history.

Former President of Serbia, Boris Tadić, observed that the UN's 80th anniversary presents a critical juncture for redefining the organization's role. He advocated for developing a more comprehensive framework for peace and reconciliation, with the UN's functions clearly delineated within this broader vision.

Former President of Guatemala, Jimmy Morales, stressed the importance of restoring and strengthening multilateral organizations, specifically mentioning the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union. He suggested that only through such institutional reinforcement can conflicts be effectively resolved through dialogue and mediation processes.





① Moon Sun Jin, Executive Director of the HyoJeong International Foundation for Environmental Peace (HJIFEP), Reading the Founder's Greeting Remarks ② Professors and Panelists Conducting a Discussion

Plenary Sessions

In Plenary Session 1 of the "World Summit 2025" organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), various proposals were presented under the theme "Contemporary Challenges to World Order: Establishing a New Era of Peace and Prosperity." In the session held on the 11th at the Lotte World Hotel in Songpa-gu, Seoul, four former presidents from different countries delivered keynote speeches sharing their opinions for the peace and prosperity of the international community.

Luis Federico Franco Gómez, President, Paraguay (2012-2013), emphasized that peace and stability serve as prerequisites for achieving sustainability, highlighting the importance of peace, people, planet, prosperity, and participation.

Anthony Carmona, President, Trinidad and Tobago (2013-2018), called for conscience-driven, service-oriented leadership to address global crises through action, not rhetoric. He urged reforms to combat corruption, promote justice, and prioritize environmental protection through initiatives like an International Environmental Court. He emphasized that true peace and prosperity stem from integrity, accountability, and moral leadership.

Filip Vujanović, President, Montenegro (2006-2018), highlighted the urgent need to reaffirm global peace and prosperity amid current global conflicts and challenges. Marking the 80th anniversary of the UN and 20 years of UPF, he emphasized the need for UN reform, shared responsibility, and the enduring values of equality, harmony, and the legacy of peace leaders.

Dioncounda Traoré, President, Mali (2012-2013), advocated for ultimately moving toward a world order without poles, cautioning that while change takes time, we must be careful not to waste it.

Nevers Mumba, Vice-President, Zambia (2003-2004), addressed how Africa must respond to the changing world order by achieving self-sufficiency, eradicating poverty, and inaugurating an era of peace and prosperity.

He stressed the importance of developing educational curricula focused on solving the continent's challenges, establishing democracy, and exercising sovereignty over resources.

Khuon Sudary, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, emphasized that sustainable peace requires equitable participation of women, who must be actively involved in peace processes. Ado El Hadj Abou, Secretary General of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), characterized peace as common development and prosperity as a shared right, calling for renewed commitment to the United Nations Charter.

Ado El Hadj Abou, Executive Secretary, CEN-SAD (Community of Sahel-Saharan States), Chad, emphasized the urgent need for global solidarity to address rising conflicts, climate change, and

inequality. He called for inclusive reforms of multilateral institutions, highlighted Africa's key role in global peace, and presented CEN-SAD's regional strategy, focusing on security, economic integration, environmental resilience, and youth empowerment to build lasting peace and prosperity.

Plenary Session 2 "Vision for an Asia Pacific Union Forum" opened with congratulatory remarks by Hon. Agung Laksono, Speaker, House of Representatives, Indonesia (2004-2009), who discussed how Indonesia's free and active foreign policy contributes decisively to world peace through constructive engagement, mediation, and diplomatic conflict resolution, and H.E. Chaiyong Satjipanon, Former Thai Ambassador to Washington D.C., UN Geneva, Korea, Australia, Italy, and Indonesia, who advocated for fostering a culture of peace and establishing agreements founded on empathy, listening, and mutual respect, followed by a progress report on the Asia Pacific Union Forum by Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, Chairman, UPF Asia-Pacific.

The main addresses, giving examples of peace-building through dialogue across different countries, were given by Hon. Dionisio Oswaldo Amarilla Guirland, Vice President, National Congress of Paraguay (2013- 2018); Paraguay; Senator, Paraguay, Hon. Dave Akbarshah Fikarno Laksono, Member of Parliament, Indonesia, Hon Marek Krajci, Member, Parliament, Slovakia, Dr. Niklas Swanström, Director, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden, Hon. So Yuk Choy, Hong Kong Deputy to National People's Congress, China (2008 – 2022), H.E. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Jarwan, International President of Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), UAE, Dr. Chheng Kimlong, Asian Vision Institute (AVI) Director, Cambodia, Hon. Senator Mushahid Hussain, Co-Chairman, International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), and H.E. Suos Yara, Chairman, 5th Commission, National Assembly, Cambodia; President, International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP). Concluding Remarks were given by Dr. Charles S. Yang, Chairman, UPF and IAPP International.



Commemorative Photo of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) General Assembly Participants

Session on 'Climate, Environment, and the Future of Earth'

In the session titled "Climate, Environment, and the Future of Earth" held on April 12, Moon Sun Jin, Executive Director of the HyoJeong International Foundation for Environmental Peace (HJIFEP), addressed how environmental indifference and natural resource exploitation have generated serious problems. She emphasized that addressing environmental challenges fundamentally requires fostering a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature.

Moon Sun Jin's assessment resonated strongly with attendees at the session "Exploring a Sustainable Earth Environment: Innovative Challenges to Overcome the Climate Crisis." Participants collectively acknowledged the severity of humanity's climate challenges and exchanged diverse perspectives on potential solutions. The session also featured presentations of concrete action steps tailored to regional and national circumstances.

Joo Dong-moon, President of the HyoJeong International Foundation for Environmental Peace, expressed concern that continuing trends in climate change and environmental degradation could potentially trigger a sixth mass extinction. He noted that despite measures like reducing fossil fuel usage, international response remains inadequate and the situation continues to deteriorate.

Former President of Senegal, Macky Sall, highlighted the paradox that Africa, while contributing minimally to global emissions, suffers disproportionately from climate change impacts. Professor Jang Seo-yong from Korea University's Graduate School of International Studies concurred with this observation, suggesting that the global community must consider how to mitigate climate change while

ensuring sustainable development.

"Women and Peace" Session

On April 12, at the Lotte Hotel World in Songpa-gu, Seoul, Session II of the "World Summit 2025" was held under the theme "Women and Peace." At this meeting, more than 120 women leaders from around the world gathered to share diverse opinions on the role of women in building a hopeful future of peace and prosperity.

Julia H. Moon, director of Universal Ballet, reflected on her time leading the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) as the most productive and valuable period of her life. She conveyed Dr. Hak Ja Han's message regarding the significant role of women, noting how she views women as representing the voice of God and mothers as the most universal and powerful beings.

Samia Burton, co-president of the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) in the United States, spoke about women's innate empathy and sensitivity driving their tireless work toward justice and equality. She expanded on the concept of peace as extending beyond the mere absence of war to encompass guaranteed justice for all. The First Lady of Costa Rica, Signe Zeikate, highlighted her country's achievements in women's political and social participation.

Fatima Vila Nova, First Lady of São Tomé and Príncipe, identified single motherhood as one of her country's primary social challenges, suggesting that education of new generations offers a path to resolution. She expressed appreciation for Dr. Hak Ja Han's dedicated investment that has enabled educational and professional training opportunities for young people.

IAPP General Assembly

The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) held a general assembly on May 12 in the grand auditorium of the National Assembly building in Yeouido, Seoul, and adopted the "Peace Declaration of the World Summit 2025."

The IAPP is an international network organized to jointly address global problems through solidarity and cooperation among parliamentarians worldwide. It seeks the path of coexistence and mutual prosperity by jointly responding to issues that threaten peace and hinder human development, such as territorial conflicts, extreme terrorism, environmental degradation and climate change, hunger and poverty, nuclear proliferation, and religious and racial conflicts.

Welcoming remarks were given by Hon. Dong-Young Chung, Member, 22nd National Assembly, South Korea; President, Parliamentary Union with U.S. Congress, who offered a poignant perspective on the loss of human life, comparing each death to the vanishing of a small universe, noting the ongoing loss of life in many parts of the world and expressing his belief that collective dreams of a world without war can become reality, and by Hon. Kyung-Won Na, Member, 22nd National Assembly, South Korea, who connected true peace in North Korea with human rights advancement. She expressed hope for finding genuine peace solutions for North Korea and creating new forms of peace amid rapidly shifting global dynamics.

Following opening remarks by Dr. Charles S. Yang, Chairman, UPF International and IAPP International, congratulatory remarks were given by H.E. Philemon Yang, President, 79th United Nations, General Assembly (by video), Hon. Newt Gingrich, 50th Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives (1995-1999), and H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President, Philippines (2001-2010).

Keynote addresses were given by Hon. Dan Burton, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (1983-2013); Chair, IAPP, Hon. Germán Alcides Blanco Álvarez, Senator, Colombia, Hon. Hadja Memounatou Ibrahima, Speaker, ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Parliament, Nigeria, Hon. Ismail Benbeyi, Member, Parliament, Morocco, Hon. Julio Cesar Cleto Cobos, Congressman, Argentina, and Hon. Ngolo Pierre, President, Senate, Congo, Hon. Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament and Chairman of Parliamentary Committee, India, and Hon. Himanshu Gulati, Member, Parliament, Norway.

Special guest speeches were given by Pastor Paula White-Cain, Senior Advisor to President Donald J. Trump, The White House Faith Office; President, Paula White Ministries, USA, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, President University of Peace, Costa Rica, and H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeriyanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

During the event, participants emphasized that this is a crucial moment when the role of the IAPP is needed for world peace. In his speech, former Speaker Gingrich reflected on our current era of multiple risks, ranging from pandemic continuation to nuclear war threats, while acknowledging the potential for technological innovation to generate prosperity. He highlighted the IAPP's importance as a forum where countries can share their realities and collectively seek solutions to shared challenges.

Attendees emphasized the need for reflection and solidarity to address peace threats stemming from North Korea's nuclear activities. Reverend Paula White-Cain, speaking in a personal capacity, portrayed the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula as more than a diplomatic objective - describing it as a sacred mission. She called for unity among allies such as the United States and Japan, while also encouraging countries with North Korean ties, such as China and Russia, to contribute to peace efforts.

Former congressman Dan Burton addressed how North Korea's nuclear militarization poses threats beyond South Korea to other nations as well. He stressed the IAPP's responsibility, as a global parliamentary representative body, to discuss and raise awareness about this critical issue.

Speakers highlighted the necessity of a global peace platform, emphasizing international unity as a priority. H.E. Ar. Siti Rozaimeriyanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman shared insights from ASEAN's peaceful cooperation approach, noting the essential relationship between peace across all societal sectors and development.

Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena advocated for sustainable solutions to create a new peace equation through cooperation. He described cooperation as an information-sharing process that exchanges ideas to enhance mutual understanding and establishes common vision for institutional framework development.

The assembly also presented the "Peace Declaration of the World Summit 2025," which outlines establishing a sustainable world peace coalition, recognizes the Korean peninsula's peace and unification as crucial to global peace, values activities promoting these goals, and proposes transforming the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into a global peace park and international peace space.