

Jacques Marion
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UPF EUROPE NEWSLETTER



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Intervention of H.E. Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania (2002-2007), at the Southeast Europe Peace Summit in Tirana, Albania.

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Summit Explores Southeast Europe Peace and Development

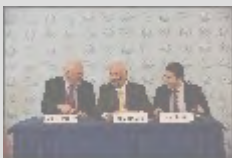
Summit Explores Southeast Europe Peace and Development

Written by UPF Europe

28 October 2019



Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the chair of UPF for Europe and the Middle East, welcomed the participants to the summit at the opening banquet.



[Click on the links below for the session reports](#)

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Family Blessing Festival
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The videos of the sessions, as well as individual speeches and presentations, are gradually being added.

Tirana, Albania—Participants from over 50 nations attended the Southeast Europe Peace Summit organized by UPF. The summit, held from October 25 to 27, 2019, featured a wide range of activities, which were introduced to the media at a press conference on October 25 by former Albanian president H.E. Alfred Moisiu, former US Ambassador to the Balkans Christopher Hill and Summit Secretary General Gani Rroshi.

Three main events were held at the large, 3,000-seat Tirana Congress Hall. On the morning of October 26, the Opening Plenary was attended by the founder of the Universal Peace Federation, Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, the president of North Macedonia, H.E. Stevo Pendarovski; the president of Kosovo, H.E. Hashim Thaçi; the Albanian minister of relations with the Parliament, Hon .Elisa Spiropali; the president of the North Macedonian National Assembly, Hon. Talat Xhaferi; the Deputy Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, Hon. Vasilika Hysi; the prime minister elect of Kosovo, Hon. Albin Kurti; as well as ten former heads of state and government, Ambassador Christopher Hill, and key political and religious figures from the region.



(L to R) H.E. Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania (2002 – 2007); H.E. Hashim Thaçi, President of Kosovo; Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Founder, Universal Peace Federation; H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, President of North Macedonia; and Hon. Elisa Spiropali, Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament at the Opening Plenary.

On the afternoon of October 26, a rally of Youth and Students for Peace, an organization that is affiliated with UPF, drew more than 2,000 young participants to attend cultural performances and discuss peace

projects. On the afternoon of the next day, October 27, the summit concluded in the Tirana Congress Hall with a standing-room-only Family Blessing Festival.

On the morning of October 27, the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new regional headquarters of UPF was held in the presence of Tirana Vice Mayor Anisa Ruseti.

The Summit was attended by more than 70 current and former parliamentarians and government ministers, including Dr. Enver Hoxhaj, the deputy prime minister of Kosovo; H.E. Skender Reçica, the Kosovan minister of labor and social welfare; and H.E. May Chidiac, the minister of state for administrative development of Lebanon.

The Albanian religious community was represented by Mr. Bujar Spajiu, the leader of the Muslim Community; Father Edmond Brahimaj, the world leader of the World Bektashi Order; Mrs. Nikki Doçi, representing the Albanian Evangelical Alliance; as well as Dr. Genti Kruja, the secretary general of the Interreligious Council of Albania. Other religious figures came from throughout Europe and the Middle East. The African continent was represented by Sheikh Mansour Diouf from Senegal, the co-chair for Africa of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, a UPF initiative.



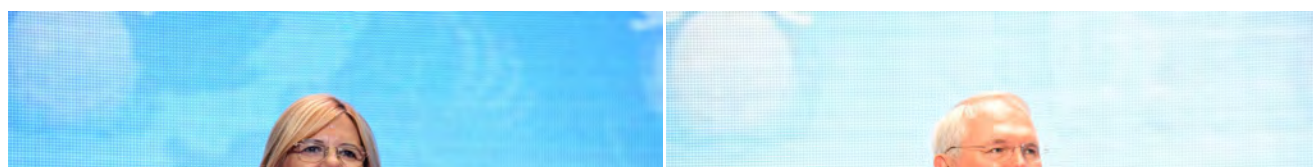
Hajji Dede Edmond Brahimaj and Dr. Marijan Orsolich Cheikh Mansour Diouf and Dr. Mikulas Vymetal

Fifteen major organizations were official partners of the summit, including the Municipality of Tirana; the Podgorica Club of former heads of state and government of the Balkan region; the Ukrainian Peace Council; the World Bektashi Order; the University of Tirana; and other academic and business organizations. UPF affiliate organizations included The Washington Times Foundation, Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA).

The summit's organizing committee was co-chaired by Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the chair of UPF for Europe and the Middle East; H.E. Alfred Moisiu, a former president of Albania (2002-2007); and Father Edmond Brahimaj, the world leader of the Bektashi Order.

The Peace Summit was a significant gathering for leaders in the Balkans. Political conflicts in the region are intense, within nations such as Albania, or between nations such as Kosovo and Serbia. Relations with the European Union are at a point of tension: A few days before the event, Albania and North Macedonia were denied the long-expected agreement to begin the accession process into the EU, which created great political turmoil in the two countries. The issue was addressed by each of the key political figures who spoke at the Opening Plenary, drawing great attention from the media.

The Opening Plenary began with a series of speeches on the theme "Perspectives for Peace in the Balkans," moderated by Albanian Deputy Speaker Hon. Vasilika Hysi. The president of the North Macedonian National Assembly, Hon. Talat Xhaferi, initiated the session, followed by Hon. Albin Kurti, the recent election winner and future prime minister of Kosovo, and by Ambassador Christopher Hill, who served as US ambassador in the Balkans during the 1990s and who was the main American diplomat in Albania at the end of the communist era.





Hon. Vasilika Hysi



Amb. Christopher Hill



Hon. Albin Kurti



Hon. Talat Xhaferi

The launch of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), a UPF initiative, began with a speech by Hon. Elisa Spiropali, the Albanian minister of relations with the Parliament, given on behalf of Prime Minister Edi Rama under whose patronage the summit was convened. She was followed by H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, the president of North Macedonia, and by H.E. Hashim Thaçi, president of Kosovo. Former Albanian President Alfred Moisiu gave his remarks as co-chair of the summit before introducing the UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

Dr. Moon said that she envisioned a bright future for Albania and for the Balkans. Pointing to the historical role of peninsulas as cradles of civilization, she compared the Balkan Peninsula with the Korean Peninsula and expressed her conviction that the Balkan nations had come to a time of opportunity. Instead of lamenting the rejection by the EU, she said, if Albania and the Balkan nations focus on strengthening their base with strong families and spiritual values, they will become a transforming power for Europe. Quoting the Bible and drawing great applause from the audience, she concluded that although Albania was considered last in Europe after a long history of suffering, the time had come for the last to become the first.

Eight former heads of state from nations that had been in conflict during the Balkan wars came up on stage to receive an ISCP founding medal from Dr. Moon: President Stjepan Mesić of Croatia (2000-2010); Prime Minister Hasan Muratović of Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-1995); President Fatmir Sejdiu of Kosovo (2006-2010); Prime Minister Mirko Cvetković of Serbia (2008-2012); President Živko Budimir of Bosnia-Herzegovina (2011-2015); Acting President Jakup Krasniqi of Kosovo (2010-2011); Prime Minister Vilson Ahmeti of Albania (1991-1992); and Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi of Kosovo (2005-2006).





Eight former heads of state received an ISCP founding medal from Dr. Moon

The signing of the ISCP Declaration was done at the luncheon that followed the Opening Plenary, chaired by President Alfred Moisiu and Dr. Thomas Walsh, chair of UPF International.

That afternoon and the next morning, ten summit sessions were held at the Tirana International Hotel, well attended by around 400 participants. They dealt with six areas of focus recently launched by UPF: the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) for heads of state and government; the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP); the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD); and peacebuilding initiatives for the media, academics and business leaders. Other sessions addressed the themes of migration, education for peace, interfaith activities, and the role of women in peace and reconciliation.



Session IIIA had for theme "Addressing the critical challenges of our time - the role of parliamentarians".



Session IIIB discussed the "Role of Faith Leaders in Addressing the Critical Challenges of our Time".

A Global Women's Peace Leadership Banquet for 150 participants was organized on the evening of October 26 by WFWP, while at the same time a dinner for interfaith leaders was hosted by Father Edmond Brahimaj.

Many participants testified to the quality of the panelists and the relevance of panel discussions. At the Closing Plenary, a full-room audience listened to insightful reflections on "Peace Perspectives in Southeast Europe" by two distinguished speakers: Austrian Minister of Defense Dr. Werner Fasslabend (1990-2000) and H.E. President Bujar Nishani of Albania (2012-2017). Dr. Michael Balcomb, head of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) for Europe and the Middle East, concluded by explaining the UPF founders' perspective for the development of ISCP in the Balkans and the greater region.



H.E. May Chidiac, Minister of State for Administrative Development, Lebanon, speaking at the session "Media in the 21st century: Challenges and Opportunities".

Mrs. Marilyn Angelucci, Dr. Werner Fasslabend, Dr. Thomas Walsh, H.E. President Bujar Nishani, Dr. Michael Balcomb and Dr. Katsumi Otsuka at the Closing Plenary

A high point of the summit was the Family Blessing Festival, held at the Tirana Congress Hall on the afternoon of October 27. Representing all the regions of Albania and the 61 UPF Local Peace Councils created since 2018 in each of Albania's municipalities, 1,200 Albanian couples participated in a marriage rededication ceremony officiated by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, under the watch of a full audience and live coverage by TV cameras.

Affirming the importance of the family as the cornerstone of a peaceful and stable society is at the core of UPF's vision and activities. This was also the congratulatory message given by Mrs. Monika Kryemadhi, the wife of Albanian President Ilir Meta, a well-known political figure and party leader in her own right.



Mrs. Monika Kryemadhi speaking at the Family Blessing Festival

After traditional dances and songs by young performers and famous Albanian singers, Dr. Moon spoke again to the audience about the importance of strengthening the cohesion of society by promoting family values.

She asked President Alfred Moisiu to lead the Steering Committee of the International Summit Council for Peace in the region, offering publicly her support for this initiative. She then offered a donation to three charities in Albania: the Mother Teresa Foundation, a children's charity, and the World Bektashi Order.



The summit concluded with a closing dinner and a few reflections and songs from the audience. For many participants, this was a milestone event at which representatives of different faiths, political affiliations, nationalities—sometimes enemy nations—came together centering on an inclusive vision for peace, which could take root and expand in the Balkan region.



Dr. and Mrs. Balcomb with Mr. Gani Rroshi at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Headquarters of UPF in the region



In the afternoon of 26 October, the Youth and Students for Peace Rally gathered over 2000 young participants centering on cultural performances and peace projects.



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Opening Plenary - Part 1

Written by UPF Europe

26 October 2019



Welcoming remarks: Dr. Michael Balcomb

Regional Chair, FFWPU Europe and the Middle East

Dr. Michael Balcomb currently serves as the Regional Chair of the Family Federation for World Peace for the combined 72 nations of Europe, the Middle East and Eurasia. Previously he served as the President of the Family Federation USA from 2013 to 2017. He was born in Abeokuta, Nigeria in 1957, educated in England and the United States, and joined the Unification Movement in California in 1976. He and his wife Fumiko have five children — two girls and three boys —aged from 30 to 20, all still living in the US.

Dr. Michael Balcomb gave the welcoming remarks and invited the assembly to actively participate in the Summit, in which people had come from numerous countries, in particular Sheikh Diouf Mansour from Senegal, the leader of 7 million Muslims.



Moderator: Prof. Dr Vasilika Hysi

Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Albania

Prof. Dr. Valisika Hysi was a full-time professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Tirana from 1985 to 2009. From 2000 to 2009, she was Executive Chairwoman of the Albanian Helsinki Committee. Since 2002, she has been a member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance based in Strasbourg, France. Elected as a member of the Albanian Parliament in 2009, she was chairwoman of the Parliamentary Commission for Legal Issues, Public Administration and Human Rights, chairwoman of the Sub-Commission for

Human Rights, and secretary of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Legal Reform. Currently, Ms. Hysi serves as Vice-Speaker of the Albanian Parliament.

Hon. Vasilika Hysi mentioned that this was a significant time for the region, as Albania and North Macedonia were both making efforts to join the European Union and emphasized the presence of dignitaries of politics as well as leaders of religions from all over the world, in particular women activists, who are contributing to human rights, and thus to peace, security and human development. She also described Albania as the best model of tolerance towards the different religions and summarized the themes of the summit as being peace, security and human development and the Inauguration of the International Summit Council for Peace in the region, bringing together current or former Heads of State that are committed to a dialogue for peace.



Speaker: H.E. Talat Xhaferi

Speaker of the Parliament, Republic of North Macedonia

After attending the Military Academy of the Land Army in Belgrade and Sarajevo, Mr. Talat Xhaferi pursued postgraduate studies in Command and Staff Duties at the Military Academy "General Mihailo Apostolski" in Skopje. After serving as an Officer successively in the Armies of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia until 2001, he became a Member of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in 2002. From 2004-2006, he was the Deputy Minister of Defence and from 2013-2014 he was the Minister of Defence of the Republic of

Macedonia. On 27 April 2017, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. He also chairs the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia to the Inter-parliamentary Union and is the Head of Delegation of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia to the Parliamentary Assembly of the South East European Process for Cooperation.

Although the guarantee of peace is the right of every human being, he said that in Southeast Europe, it had always been easy for "the powder keg to explode. For sustainable peace to be established, the commitment to each other as well as wisdom instead of narrow-mindedness and exclusion are essential elements. As there is more strength when people work together, a strategic path is necessary to reach the goal of becoming members of the European Union and NATO. Hon. Talat Xhaferi also mentioned his recent experience in Strasbourg at the European Parliament where he met with some of the members. He encouraged all to not give up hope after the discouragement of having been rejected this time. He concluded emphasizing the importance of building bridges of collaboration with the world.



Speaker: Hon. Albin Kurti

Member of the Assembly, Republic of Kosovo

Hon. Albin Kurti graduated in Computer Science and Telecommunications from the University of Prishtina. In June 2005, he co-founded "Lëvizja Vetëvendosje" (Movement for Self-determination), of which he was the President until March



2015. Albin Kurti is currently serving his third term in office as a member of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. He was the movement's candidate for Prime Minister of Kosovo and was re-elected as President of the movement for self-determination in January 2018. In the early parliamentary elections held on

October 6th, 2019, Albin Kurti won the highest number of votes, which makes him the most likely candidate for the new Prime Minister of Kosovo. Albin Kurti has published over 550 articles and has been invited to give presentations at many renowned universities inside and outside of the country. He has also served as the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs at the Assembly.

Hon. Albin Kurti said: "I feel like I'm in my own home, in Tirana, just as in Pristina" and mentioned that one of the greatest dangers of humanity is to emphasize the things that divide instead of those that unite. Knowing that the commitment to peace is what spurs progress for all, he commended this summit for bringing like-minded people together. Although the cold war is over, there is still coldness due to the walls dividing people and what people want most is employment and justice whether within or without the EU. Finally, he stated that fighting problems together can guarantee long-term stability.



Speaker: Amb. Christopher Hill

Chief Global Advisor, University of Denver, USA

Amb. Hill is a former career diplomat, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Albania (1991), Macedonia (1996-99), Poland (200-2004), South Korea (2004-05) and Iraq (2009-2010). Prior to Iraq, he served as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2005-2009, during which time he was also the head of the U.S. delegation to the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue. He also served as Special Envoy to Kosovo. He currently serves as the Chief Global Advisor to the Chancellor and Professor of the

Practice in Diplomacy at the University of Denver. Prior to this position, he was the Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Amb. Christopher Hill mentioned how difficult it is to achieve peace and that far from just being the absence of war, all know now that it requires a structure of respecting other points of view without expecting instant gratification as it takes a long time. When he first came to the Balkans, there was a system of government with a monopoly on people's thoughts and he now sees the desire of the region to be part of something better, a Europe that is free and prosperous.

He expected problems, twists and turns, and challenges to come up and was confident that all could be overcome. He advised the West Balkan nations to already act like they were members of the EU and made them aware that people from other parts of the world present were looking for solutions to their own problems. When working in the Balkans, he used to think that the problems here were the worst but after going to Korea, he realized that the people were frustrated for having been divided by foreign interests without their say. After that, he went to Iraq and met a situation even worse, that of a ruthless war, and felt that the issues in the Middle East were even worse than those in the West Balkans. He emphasized the fact that amazingly Albania and North Macedonia had become part of NATO, as they had been able to reform their militaries.

Finally, he talked about the importance, in diplomacy, to listen to others, absorb knowledge and gain wisdom. Similar problems are happening all over the world, also in the US, and, as every country is unique, it must work out its problems but also needs support from others.



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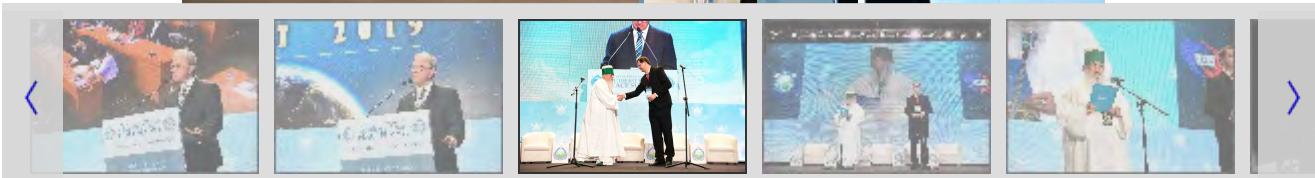


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Opening Plenary - Part 2

Opening Plenary - Part 2

Written by UPF Europe

26 October 2019



Moderator: Mr. Jacques Marion

President, UPF Europe and the Middle East

Mr. Marion is a French citizen, born in Cameroon. He worked for twelve years with Unification Movement programmes in Northern, Central and Southern Africa. Between 1998 and 2006, he worked in China as a Vice President of the International Educational Foundation, based in Beijing. From 2006 to 2013 he served as Secretary General of UPF Eurasia, based in Moscow. He is currently the president of UPF Europe and the Middle East and the president of UPF France.

The Moderator, **Mr. Jacques Marion**, said that "The harmony of religion is the core of peace whether here

in the Balkans or the whole world.” He then called on stage two faith leaders for an invocation, **Hajji Dede Edmond Brahimaj**, World Leader of the World Bektashi Order, also co-chair of the Summit, and **Dr. Marijan Orsolich**, Interfaith Department of the Catholic Diocese of St Polten, Austria. Baba Mondri Brahimaj prayed God to give all strength to “go beyond division and create bridges of brotherhood eternally”. Dr. Orsolich read St. Francis’ prayer starting with “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace”.



Welcoming remarks: Dr. Thomas Walsh

Chair, UPF International

Dr. Walsh is the Chair of UPF International and Secretary General of the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation. He has been a teacher, author, and editor specializing in the areas of interfaith, religious studies, peace studies, philosophy, and social theory. Dr. Walsh serves on the International Council of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and the International Coalition for Religious Freedom. He has contributed to and edited more than 30 books related to interfaith, peacebuilding and renewal of the United Nations.

Dr Thomas Walsh, Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation, highlighted the wisdom of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon’s guidance of UPF and the World Summit Series. He explained that the structure of UPF will be revolutionary after the inauguration of three further organizations next February in Korea and that the Southeast Europe Peace Summit, like other UPF conferences, brings a vision to deal with challenges and development. He mentioned that Dr. Moon, who, with a loving heart, is bringing values and vision to foster progress, had been to Albania before, during the world tour in 2005 following UPF’s inauguration, and that in the coming months, she will be participating in other Summits in Niger, Cambodia, South Africa, Tanzania, Palau and the Dominican Republic. Forming a revolutionary structure of UPF was her inspiration with 6 organizations under the UPF umbrella, all of which are featured in the impressive program of this Summit. He concluded by saying “that the work of UPF has prospered throughout the world... At its core, UPF and the Summit series are guided and driven by a spiritual vision”, that of Dr. Moon.



Speaker: Hon. Elisa Spiropali

Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament of Albania

Hon. Elisa Spiropali attended the Qemal Stafa gymnasium in Tirana, Albania, where she earned a scholarship from the United World Colleges as one of the top five high school students in Albania and later received a diploma at the Lester B. Pearson College in Vancouver Island, Canada. She continued her education by enrolling at the Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, United States where she graduated in 2005 with an honorary degree in two branches, Politics and Economics. After becoming a member of the Socialist Party, she was

appointed for a brief time as Director General of Customs and later as a spokeswoman for the Party Presidency. She was elected as member of the Albanian Parliament following the 2013 General Elections. On 17 January 2019, she resumed the vacant post of Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament.

Representing H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania, Elisa Spiropali, Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament, presented his speech expressing his admiration for Dr. Hak Ja Moon, as a leader of peace, and welcomed her to Albania. She admired the way Dr. Moon is keeping the lantern of peace in the world years after her husband’s passing and that it is a pleasure and honor to welcome her to Albania, where racism and intolerance cannot find a place, a unique model that could be exported to other nations in the world. As an example of that, she said that the number of Jews increased during World War II in Albania because the people refused to surrender them to the Nazis. She added that UPF is doing well by bringing together leaders of the world in different forums, as an answer to the eternal quest to build a better world. She also mentioned that, in February 2019, Prime Minister Rama had attended the UPF World Summit in Korea, where so many important issues had been considered and that they are proud to hold

the UPF's Southeast Europe Peace Summit in Tirana, as a good omen for the future. She emphasized giving more than taking, being more patient, upholding the human rights, and hoped that some of the values of this summit would be materialized. She concluded by saying that Albania was considered the North Korea of Europe but is now cooperating with the neighbors in the Balkans and is on the verge of joining the European Union, after years and years of efforts.



Speaker: H.E. Dr. Stevo Pendarovski

President, Republic of North Macedonia

Dr. Pendarovski graduated from the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus" and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. from the Institute for Political, Legal and Sociological Research, University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje. For the past 11 years, he was a Professor at the UACS School of Political Science. From 1998 to 2001, he was Head of the Analytical and Research Department of the Ministry of Interior and the ministry's spokesperson. From 2001 to 2004, he was National Security Advisor of the President of the Republic of Macedonia.

From 2004 to 2005, he was President of the State Election Commission. From 2005 to 2009, he held the position of Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of the Republic of Macedonia. From 2016 to 2017, he was a Member of Parliament. From December 2017 till May 2019, he was National Coordinator for preparation of the Republic of North Macedonia for NATO membership.

H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, President of North Macedonia, said that Southeast Europe is feeling disappointed as the accession to the EU, and thus solving visa issues, was just postponed. He mentioned that countries in the region had been held back by corrupt elites and oligarchic business groups, preventing development and causing conflicts between nations and that some of the elites with democratic legitimacy are faced with the temptations of populism. He feels a huge responsibility to resist this negative climate and advance the democratic process, in which European values are prevalent. He emphasized the importance of investing in youth, who have expectations and dreams. They tend to move to European nations to fulfill those dreams and need assistance to fulfill them here. He also indicated his desire to support the process of integration with the EU values, even if it takes a long time, knowing that peace starts at home, which is one of UPF's core values.



Speaker: H.E. Mr. Hashim Thaçi

President, Republic of Kosovo

Mr. Hashim Thaçi completed his studies in History at the University of Prishtina and completed his post-graduate studies in the field of Southeast European History and Political Science at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. He was elected as the President of the Republic of Kosovo on 26 February 2016 and assumed his duties on 7 April. Before that, he was the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Prime Minister of Kosovo for two mandates (2007-2014). Mr. Thaçi was the first President of the

Democratic Party of Kosovo and retained this position until his election as the President of Kosovo. Mr. Thaçi chaired the Government of Kosovo which declared Kosovo an independent state in February 2008 and led the Kosovo team in the Rambouillet negotiations in February 1999. As Prime Minister, Mr. Thaçi led the political dialogue between the Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Serbia, which in April 2013 resulted in the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between Kosovo and Serbia. As result of his engagement for peace and stability, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

H.E. Hashim Thaçi, President of Kosovo, attended a Summit in Korea some years ago and was very impressed. He reminded the participants that over 20 years had passed since the war in the Balkan ended with the support of NATO. The Thessaloniki Agreement in 2003 then started a process of reforms to adjust to European values, which opened a new stage for the nations of the Western Balkans. However, he

depleted that 20 years later the Western Balkan nations were still not part of the EU and were waiting to have an all-including agreement with Serbia.



Speaker: H.E. Alfred Moisiu

President of Albania (2002-2007)

President Moisiu, after graduating from the Moscow Academy of Military Engineering in 1958, served in high positions at the Ministry of Defence and received in 1979 his PhD in Military Science. He served twice as Vice Minister of Defence, in 1981 and 1991. After establishing the Albanian North Atlantic Association in 1994, he guided the reform of the Albanian Armed Forces and Albania's integration into NATO. In 2002 he was elected President of Albania by consensus of the ruling and opposition parties. During his presidency, he was active in solving internal political conflicts and strove to develop regional peace initiatives.

H.E. Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania from 2002 to 2007, and co-chair of the organizing committee of the summit, welcomed everyone to Albania and thanked Dr. Moon for her support for this Summit aiming at Peace, Security and Human Development in Southeast Europe, a very essential topic. He emphasized the importance for Albanians to establish good neighborly relations with other nations of Southeast Europe and appreciated the Podgorica club for having become a partner that added value to this Summit. He reminded all that Ambassadors for Peace have assigned themselves to overcome old grudges and build a better and more peaceful future, and that some issues have already been overcome, like the North Macedonia and Greece agreement, thanks to North Macedonia's sacrifice. He mentioned that relations between Kosovo and Serbia are still unresolved and that leaders need to go beyond old views and find new solutions. Also in Bosnia, the situation may become aggravated if things don't change. He acknowledged that the issues that each country is facing require the involvement of international structures in order to be solved and that the purpose of the Southeast Europe Summit is to find solutions, like for example, the 2000 youth who are part of the Summit and conduct joint projects, working together for the sake of the future of the region. He also hinted at the strong family culture of the Balkans to build upon.

President Moisiu concluded by warmly introducing Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. He explained that she and her late husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, were born in North Korea and experienced refugee life during the Korean war and, as a result of the suffering they experienced, have been dedicating themselves to peace. They have 14 children and more than 40 grandchildren and they have been promoting peaceful loving families as a means to establish a peaceful world. He testified that while he was in office, he had welcomed them to Albania in October 2005 during their world tour for the inauguration of UPF. He admired Mrs. Moon for having continued the work even after her husband's passing.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

Founder, Universal Peace Federation

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, widow of the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon [1920-2012], is the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation. Together with her husband, she has devoted her life to peace, founding many organizations and initiatives in a wide range of fields. In 1992, Dr. Moon, together with her husband, founded the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP). Dr. Moon is the International Chairwoman. She invested all her energy into developing a global base for the new organization, giving the Federation's inaugural speech in 113 cities in 12 countries and in three different languages within an eight-month period. After her husband's passing, Dr. Moon has taken over the leadership of the organizations she and her husband founded.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Founder of the Universal Peace Federation, mentioned that she was born on the Korean Peninsula and was now on the Balkan Peninsula. She said that peninsulas are blessed by heaven with virtuous men and women, who have suffered for being good. She emphasized the special blessing

given by God to human beings, the portion of responsibility and that Heaven's providence advances centered on virtuous people like her, the only begotten daughter of God, who has been dedicating her life to do Heaven's Will. She mentioned the countless challenges facing the world and that many nations want to become part of the EU. She reminded all that the UN was formed 70 years ago, but hasn't been able to bring peace because predominant national interests are promoted above the whole purpose. She pointed at the importance of including God in order to find lasting solutions. She recalled that the first human ancestors failed and that fruitful ancestors, who include God in their lives, are needed in order for peace to be established. She regretted that Jesus, sent after 4000 biblical years as a fruitful ancestor, was crucified, that Christianity faced tremendous challenges to implement the values he taught and that Communism developed amid the Christian cultural sphere.

In order for human beings to attend God in our daily lives, she said that He raised religions in all areas of the world and that His providence advanced through the birth of the only begotten daughter, a fact that Christianity needs to recognize, and she became True Parent in 1960. She deplored that due to Christianity's misunderstanding of their mission, they couldn't become the foundation to build a world of peace, and advised all to research Heaven's Truth. She expressed her desire to guide all 7.6 billion people to God and to the Marriage Blessing, an important step to raise humanity to become God's beloved children. She recognized the wish of the Balkans in regard to the European Union and reassured Albania for being considered to be last, because it is written in the Bible that the last shall be first. Finally, she encouraged the country to become a model that the EU could follow instead of being disappointed about their rejection, and declared the country as 'Heavenly Albania', which can take the lead in Europe in becoming 'One Family Under God'.

At the conclusion of the plenary, ISCP founding medals were offered to 8 former heads of state or government:

- Former President Stjepan Mesic of Croatia
- Former Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic of Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Former President Fatmir Sejdu of Kosovo
- Former Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic of Serbia
- Former President Zivko Budimir from the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Former Acting President Jakup Krasniqi of Kosovo
- Former Prime Minister Vilson Ahmeti of Albania
- Former Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi of Kosovo

This was followed by the lighting of the Holy Flame of Peace. The torch of peace has now been lit on to the continent of Europe, in Albania.'

The International Summit Council for Peace Declaration was signed at the subsequent ISCP luncheon.



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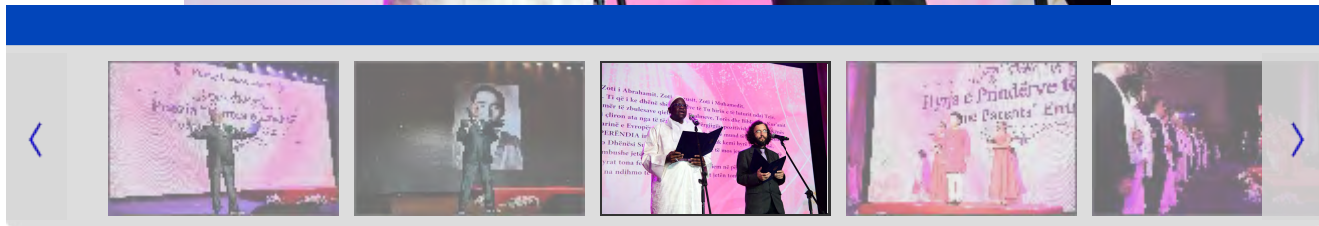


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Family Blessing Festival

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



On October 27, at the Tirana Congress Hall, 1200 couples representing all regions and major cities of Albania participated in a marriage rededication ceremony officiated by UPF Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. The event was the culmination of a three-year campaign to revive traditional family values in Albania, during which thousands of couples from throughout the country participated in Family Blessing Festivals organized by the Family Federation for World Peace.

The Festival began with songs and dance by well-known Albanian singers and young folk dancers. An interfaith prayer was offered by Sheikh Mansour Diouf, a Muslim leader of the Mouride community in Senegal, and by Czech Pastor Dr. Mikuláš Vymětal, from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. After the ceremony, a congratulatory message was given by Mrs. Monika Kryemadhi, a well-known political figure and party leader and the wife of Albanian President Ilir Meta.

Extract of the speech by Mrs. Monika Kryemadhi:

Even though a few days ago the European Union gave us a desperate answer, the only thing that we value and of which we are proud is the family. It is the basis of our society. A strong family will lead to a strong society. Most of the pensioners in Albania today would not be able to survive for a whole week with their pension, never mind a month. With their income, they could not pay for their medicine, electricity and other expenditures, but it is the family that is the strength behind them; their children who have been educated to have love for their parents, and this fact makes us proud today in front of our international friends present in this hall.

In the globalized world today, with its free movement of peoples, we have heterogeneous families from different backgrounds, ethnical and religious backgrounds; we have Albanian men and women with spouses from other countries, with different nationalities. I have often been invited into such families. Regardless of what the man or woman is, what impresses me the most is the fact that the traditions, the customs, the languages are passed on with love and care to their children. I wish all these mothers and fathers a happy life, a warm family and a lot of love for their children.

Dr. Moon reaffirmed her hope that strong family values could foster peace and unity in the Balkan peninsula, and asked President Alfred Moisiu to lead the Steering Committee of the International Summit Council for Peace in the region, offering publicly her support for this initiative. She concluded the Festival by offering a donation to three charities, one run by the Mother Teresa Foundation, a handicapped children's organization, and the World Bektashi Order.



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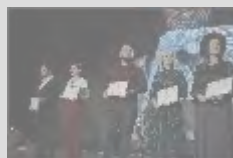


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“Speak out youth!”

Written by Mr. Antto Hassinen, YSP Director, North Europe

27 October 2019



Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) Albania hosted a youth peace festival and rally under the theme “Speak out youth!” Over 2,400 young people – mainly high-schoolers and university students – attended the event and approximately 500 of them came from neighboring countries or elsewhere from Europe. The event saw speakers such as the vice-mayor of Tirana, Mrs. Anisa Ruseti, and International President of YSP, Mr. Koji Matsuda.

The purpose of the event was to encourage youth to believe in their own voice, i.e. in their ability to take responsibility for their country and community through their own efforts. The reason this message is necessary is the general lack of faith among Albanian youth in their own country and their desire to leave the country instead of remaining and resolving the existing problems.

A central part of the program was a speaking contest called S!NERGY in which Albanian youth presented Peace projects they had initiated themselves. In total eight projects were presented that support different Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) including (SDG#3) good health and well-being, (SDG#4) quality

education, (SDG#11) sustainable cities and communities and (SDG#13) climate action. The winning projects got a financial grant for their further development. The purpose of the speaking contest was also to inspire the participating youth to understand their own capability to serve their communities through volunteering.

The festival entertainment saw famous Albanian singers Marcela Cibukaj and Eugen Bushpepa perform in front of the excited audience. The event concluded with a one-kilometer march for peace jointly hosted by Youth and Students for Peace and Universal Peace Federation.



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Welcoming dinner

Written by UPF Europe

26 October 2019



Moderator: Mrs. Carolyn Handschin-Moser

Vice President, Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI)

Mrs. Handschin-Moser is President of WFWP in Europe and Vice President, UN NGO Committee on the Status of Women- Geneva. She is also the Director of the UN Office for WFWPI globally and leads its advocacy team at the UN in Geneva, focusing on peace, human rights/human dignity through the empowerment of women and girls and strengthening the family. She founded the WFWPI-UN Internship program in Geneva in 2005. She has been a co-coordinator of the Middle East Women's Conference Series for 12 years. She is

co-founder of the Geneva Interfaith Intercultural Alliance and coordinator of the youth Model UN Interfaith Council Program.



Invocation: Imam Senaid Kobilica

Head Imam, Bosnian Community, Norway

Imam Senaid Kobilica is the head imam in the Bosnia and Herzegovina community in Norway and chairman of the Muslim Dialogue Network. He has been the leader of the umbrella organization Islamic Council in Norway for many years. At present, he is the leader of the newly founded Muslim Dialogue Network in Norway. He speaks Bosnian, Arabic, Turkish, English and Norwegian, and he has a Master's Degree in Islamic Studies from the International Islamic University in Islamabad. He is very socially engaged and often quoted in the

Norwegian media.



Welcoming Remarks: Dr. Katsumi Otsuka

Chair, UPF Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East

Dr. Otsuka is a citizen of Japan. He holds a degree in philosophy from Kanazawa University and graduated from the Unification Theological Seminary in the United States. As president of the Japanese branch of the student movement World-CARP, he organized several world conventions and initiated solidarity meetings among students and youth from Japan, Korea, Russia and China in the 1980s and 1990s. He served as president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in Japan, as president of the Corporation for

Building the Japan-Korea Tunnel, and as the leader of numerous other organizations, focusing notably on the reunification of the Korean Peninsula. He has served in top leadership and educational positions in South America, Eurasia and Africa. He is currently the Chair of the Universal Peace Federation in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East.



Welcoming Remarks: Hon. Gaqo Apostoli

Minister of Transport and Public Works (1997-1998), Albania

Hon. Gaqo Apostoli holds a graduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and completed postgraduate specializations in Italy. He worked as professor at the Polytechnic University of Tirana. He was elected a member of the Albanian Parliament in three legislatures from 1992 to 2005, and served as member of the Culture, Science and Education Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2001-2005). He served as Minister of Transport and Public Works (1997-1998). An Ambassador for Peace, he was the first Chair of

UPF Albania and served as a member of the UPF Global Peace Council (2008-2009). He is the current Chair of UPF Albania, following his appointment in 2015.

Hon. Gaqo Apostoli welcomed the participants to Albania on behalf of the Executive Committee and of the General Assembly of more than 4000 Albanian Ambassadors of Peace. He reminded everyone of the visit to Albania of Dr. and Mrs. Moon on the 30th October 2005.

In order to express his feeling of belonging to a community that is endlessly growing and that brings us closer to sustainable peace, he offered his rendition of the famous Song, "IMAGINE".



Author: Sheikh Yaakov Salame

Senior Director, Division of Religious Congregations, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Israel

Sheikh Yaakov Salame, a Druze Sheik, is the Senior Director of the division of



religious congregations in the Ministry of Internal affairs in Israel (formerly a division in the Ministry of Religions). His wide range of responsibilities includes facilitating the smooth operation of all religious sites and prayer houses of the various religious communities in Israel, including Christians, Muslims, Druze, and Bahai. Among his many responsibilities are welcoming and caring for key religious figures visiting Israel, as exemplified by his organizing of the successful visit of Pope Francis in 2014.

Religious leadership cannot effect change; hence the necessity of cooperation between leaders from different areas of society. All religions espouse values of peace; the problem is the people who do not understand religions correctly. Therefore, we need to teach religions correctly.

In Israel, Sheikh Salame founded a council of all religious leaders to strengthen the cooperation of religions. This has existed for 10 years. He appealed to everyone to do their part, even in a small way, to lead to world peace.



Author: Amb. Marija Efremova

Vice President, International Association for Cooperation and Cultural Diplomacy-Trieste, Italy

Amb. Marija Efremova is Vice President and co-founder of the International Association for Cooperation and Cultural Diplomacy (IACDC) in Trieste and Attorney of Law in the "De Lege" Law Firm in Skopje, North Macedonia. She obtained her university degree and licenses to practice as barrister and notary in Skopje and received a Master's Degree in International Environmental Law from the Italian Society for International Organizations (SIOI) in Rome. She has

held several important positions in the administration of North Macedonia, including Undersecretary of the Government and Assistant Minister for International Law and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also had several diplomatic posts abroad, including her last assignment as Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Non-resident Ambassador to Ireland and Iceland.

Ten years ago, she met UPF at a conference in London. Since then she has participated in several UPF conferences. UPF has organized conferences and summits all over the world.

She founded a forum to stimulate the appreciation of cultures in building peace. We can always achieve more when we work together.

North Macedonia and Albania are both very disappointed that the European Union rejected their application for EU membership. She said she hopes this injustice will be corrected in the nearest future.



Author: Amb. Christopher Hill

Chief Global Advisor, University of Denver, USA

Amb. Hill is a former career diplomat, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Albania (1991), Macedonia (1996-99), Poland (200-2004), South Korea (2004-05) and Iraq (2009-2010). Prior to Iraq, he served as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 2005-2009, during which time he was also the head of the U.S. delegation to the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue. He also served as Special Envoy to Kosovo. He currently serves as the Chief Global Advisor to the Chancellor and Professor of the

Practice in Diplomacy at the University of Denver. Prior to this position, he was the Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Two places in the world where he has worked and which he cares a lot about are Northeast Asia and

Southeast Europe. Therefore, he is happy to be invited by UPF to this conference.

This conference is not just about Southeast Europe; it is about all of Europe. Southeast Europe has changed a lot since 1991, when he first came to this region. Albania has done things that no one could have expected. For those who are angry about North Macedonia and Albania being rejected by the EU, he wants to say: The best way to become a member of something is to behave like you are already a member.

Albania has its challenges. Not all the politicians like to work together. Let us hope that Albania can overcome this problem. There is no better way to achieve peace than to bring people together. People should be able to disagree but not be disagreeable. In a summit like this, the purpose is not to talk about problems but to find solutions to problems. Every people in every century has had to deal with problems. We need to get the most important thing – our hearts and our brains – around these problems. When you have a setback, you need to get up, dust off your jacket and move forward.



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Session IIA

Written by UPF Europe

26 October 2019



Moderator: H.E. Mirko Cvetković
Prime Minister (2008 – 2012), Serbia

H.E. Mirko Cvetkovic explained that the Podgorica Club was founded on 1st February 2019 by former Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Balkan countries. A small group started the club and now there are 40 members. The club is only for former heads of state; sitting Presidents or Prime Ministers are not accepted. Our club has a rule that a member cannot be actively involved in political life.

The club is devoted to the prosperity and development of the countries of the club and the southwest Europe region. It must respect the values of the nations involved and is devoted to the respect of human rights and the development of our countries.

A message from H.E. Leonid Kravchuk, 1st president of Ukraine, was read, in which he emphasized that justice, peace and security should be a priority for political leaders. He also expressed his gratitude to UPF created by Rev. and Mrs. Moon.



Speaker: H.E. Alfred Moisiu

President of Albania (2002-2007)

President Moisiu, after graduating from the Moscow Academy of Military Engineering in 1958, served in high positions at the Ministry of Defence and received in 1979 his PhD in Military Science. He served twice as Vice Minister of Defence, in 1981 and 1991. After establishing the Albanian North Atlantic Association in 1994, he guided the reform of the Albanian Armed Forces and Albania's integration into NATO. In 2002 he was elected President of Albania by consensus of the ruling and opposition parties. During his presidency, he was active in solving internal political conflicts and strove to develop regional peace initiatives.

H.E. Alfred Moisiu explained that the objective of the Podgorica Club is to do our best to support peace and development in our countries and he thanked the members of our club who accepted to participate in this UPF summit, which is fully in line with the goals of our club and promotes our values.

He explained that this is a "troubled region", in which there have been many wars and much fighting, sometimes for trivial reasons. It's strange how tragedies have enveloped our region. Too often we haven't looked at each other as neighbors, but as dangerous animals to be put down.

He gave the example of a woman he met on a plane. He began speaking with her and asked her about her husband. She replied that he is dead. Before the plane landed, she told him she hadn't been honest with him. She was Croatian and her husband was Serbian. She said he was dead because he is in hiding. At that time, he was in hiding because a Serbian man who married a Croatian woman could be killed.

In this region, no one could explain why there were wars, battles and bloodshed.

We, former leaders of our countries, have been trying to overcome this problem, but it is hard to change the mentalities of the people. However, some leaders are led more by thirst for greed and power than they are by solving these problems that block our development.

If God created us all the same way, why can't we accept each other's differences? Education has a role to play here, but the family is the key to closing the gap of hatred between ourselves and others. We must engage more sincerely to bring people together.

There are people who want to take us back to the ways of greed and power. The fact that we are in this club shows that we want to go another way, and UPF is trying to contribute to this change of direction. It's better not to be a bystander, but to get involved and help this change.

If we can help people to change their attitudes, they will be able to bring change through the electoral process. Some people say that what we do is just talk, which can't change anything, but we must continue and work with other organizations such as UPF.

Thank you for your attention.

The Moderator, H.E. Mirko Cvetkovic, mentioned that none of the members of our club has executive

power and that gives us a freedom of ideas and speech, because we are not involved in governance.



Speaker: Stjepan Mesić

President of Croatia (2000 - 2010)

A Croatian politician, President Mesić served two five-year terms as head of state of his country. He was first elected to the parliament of the Socialist Republic of Croatia in 1967. He served as the President of the Executive Council of SR Croatia (1990) after the first multi-party elections. He was the last President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia (1991) and consequently Secretary General of the Non-Aligned Movement (1991). He served as well as Speaker of the Croatian Parliament (1992–1994), as a judge in Našice and as a mayor of

his hometown of Orahovica.

H.E. Stjepan Mesić began by stating that we must replace hopelessness with hope. To cure a disease, we must first diagnose it and then present the treatment. As I am no longer involved in politics, I can help with the diagnosis, but I cannot take part in the treatment. That is for others to do.

When Yugoslavia fell apart, we fell into a time of war and bloodshed. Things are better now, but for how long? What is the current situation of southeast Europe? There is deep division, threats, military maneuvers, and a new arms race. The break-up of the USSR left eastern Europe in a state of instability. Going from a one-party system to a multi-party system is not an easy change to make.

The collapse of the USSR was more a failure of the socialist system than the victory of the capitalist system. Yet the capitalist system took the attitude of the winner wanting to take its winnings. It expected a leader/follower relationship: a policy of imposition not cooperation, that divides rather than unites.

Then Russia returned to a position of world leadership, which we watch with fear and concern. We still hope for the principles of the Helsinki agreement to be fulfilled, but so far this has not happened. We hoped for a world of cooperation, without hegemony, but we see a world in which the victor goes for the spoils.

It's easy to say that we need political will to change our situation. However, we need more than political will we need to change our mindset, leave behind the thinking of whose system is best. Let each nation decide what kind of system they want to live in. No system is a Godsend.

We need a multipolar world in which there are no subjects or objects; no dominants. The future lies in cooperation, in our common goals.

The world is getting smaller; time is running out. We have population growth and ecological problems. We cannot deal with these problems by means of concrete and barbed wire.

If what I say can be understood, maybe we can find a solution to the problems in our region. My children, your children, all the children of the world are entitled to a better world.



Speaker: H.E. Živko Budimir

President (2011 – 2015), Bosnia and Herzegovina

H.E. Živko Budimir served as President of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2011-2015). Previously, he was a Colonel General in the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina and a Major General in the Croatian Army. He attended the Aeronautical-Technical Military College and the War College of Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia. In 2008, he was elected as a member of the City Council of Mostar, the cultural and economic capital of the country. In 2013, Živko Budimir was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Administration by Sun Moon

University in South Korea for his contribution to world peace.

H.E. Zivko Budimir reviewed the situation in his country and in the region as a whole.

He explained that although the war was stopped in 1995 by the US, his country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, does not yet operate in the way decided by the agreement signed at the end of that war. An international investigation determined that genocide had occurred and a constitution was imposed which has left our country in a difficult situation. A European force was put in place in our country to ensure security, but very few people felt safe enough to return to their previous homes. We cannot say that the agreement has functioned well.

Too many people who committed war crimes have not been brought to justice. They have either influence within the system put into place in our countries or support from foreign powers. They have never been judged for their crimes. Much of the money, which was sent to help our development, has disappeared.

These are 7 deadly sins that are preventing Bosnia and Herzegovina from developing and are encouraging young people to leave our country for a better life elsewhere. Faced with this situation, the international actors have remained passive and silent.

The migrant crisis, caused by the interference of the great powers in the Middle East, is putting a strain on our countries. Montenegro's situation is even more difficult than Bosnia and Herzegovina's. The entire region could collapse into confusion and difficulties.

He fears that the whole region is at risk of entering into another difficult period. We need stable conditions that would allow development in our region. We don't have them now.



Speaker: H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu

President of Kosovo (2006-2010)

President Sejdiu was one of the founders of the Democratic League of Kosovo (DLK) in 1989. He became the DLK President in 2006, a position he held until 2010. He was elected to the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo in 1992 and 1998, becoming that year Secretary General of the Assembly and President of the Committee for Constitutional Issues. He was elected again in 2001, became a member of the Assembly's Presidency, and was re-elected in 2004. In 2006 he was elected President of Kosovo, a position he held until 2010. For 33 years,

President Sejdiu has been a professor at the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Pristina and has published numerous scientific works.

H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu began by explaining that peace is a goal of our time. We cannot talk about peace without talking about human suffering and we cannot talk about human development without talking about peace.

We have the example of the Kosovan people who sought peace through peace. Many people were expelled from their homes; many were killed. The war started by Serbia had the goal of ethnic cleansing. NATO intervened and saved the people.

The independence of Kosovo in 2008 is proof that peace is possible. As the leader of the negotiation team, Mr. Sejdiu worked for the end of violence, but also peace for his people.

More mutual understanding is needed. Redefining borders is not a good idea. We need to cooperation, education and mutual understanding to find peace.

We need a Balkan Schengen zone, with the free movement of people and commerce. However, Serbia continues to oppose any calls for improving relationships between countries. Macedonia and Greece showed an example of cooperation to solve a difficult problem. We can do the same. Peace and development are needed. We need to eliminate the threats that block peace, development and stability.

We are losing too many young people who seek a better life in Europe, because our countries are too slow in their economic development. The people of Kosovo are hardworking but lack the stability which would allow them to be successful. We have to open the doors to everyone, then we can all progress. If we open the doors for some and not for others, development will slow down.



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Session IIB

Written by UPF Europe

26 October 2019



Moderator: Mimoza Hafizi

Former Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Education of Albania

Mimoza Hafizi is a former member of the Assembly and Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Albania for the LIBRA Party. She represented the Socialist Party from 2013 until 2016. On October 2016, together with Ben Blushi, she created LIBRA. She was born on 20 February 1962 in Shkodër. She graduated from the University of Tirana in Physics and is a well known astrophysicist in the country. She later continued her doctoral studies in France, in the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. She is a prominent figure, a well known academic and a MP since 2013 for Shkodër County.

Professor Mimoza Hafizi spoke of an education that aims at opening the minds of the young generation

and helps people to be oriented toward the future, getting away from the hostile past and leading to equal opportunities for all. She emphasized that education for all is the best way to peace and human development as far as it includes teaching of morality and good citizenship, because ignorance leads to misunderstanding, violence, etc. Sustainable education leads the way to innovation and to social development.



Speaker: Hon. Prof. Dr. Enver Hoxhaj

Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Kosovo

Dr. Enver Hoxhaj is the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo. Previously, Dr. Hoxhaj was Minister of Foreign Affairs (2011-2014 and 2016-2017), during which time he played a vital role in consolidating and strengthening Kosovo's bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. He was the first Minister of Education (2008-2010) after Kosovo's independence, playing a crucial role in the modernization of the education system and infrastructure. He was a member of the Kosovo delegation in the UN-led talks for defining

Kosovo's final status (2005-2007) and played a key role during the state-building process before and after Kosovo's independence. Before this, he was a professor at the University of Pristina and a long-standing human rights activist. He holds a Ph.D. in history and politics from the University of Vienna and is the author of numerous journal articles, books and other publications.

Dr. Enver Hoxhaj stated that Southeast Europe is a region that has lacked freedom, peace and stability for a long time and that Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo were left aside by NATO, an organization conducive to development and stability; they are now on a different path to the EU.

He said that peace comes through the political will of the people and also through foreign projects and that peace building is possible with both sides of the same coin, internal and external.

He mentioned that he had been in politics for 15 years and acted in education for peace, as a professor of political studies and hoped that some countries can learn from what was achieved in Kosovo.

As he was part of the Kosovo delegation, he learned conflict resolution, and he emphasized that peace be followed up with dialogue between different parties, because if one country fails at peace, all the countries in the region are affected. Thus there is a need to look at the other nations in the region. Finally, he said that peace building is not a linear process and encounters many challenges along the way.



Speaker: Hon. Nina Nováková

Member of Parliament, Czech Republic

Hon. Nina Nováková is a member of the Czech Republic Parliament. She is a member of the Human Rights Committee, the Education Committee and the Media Committee. As a Member of Parliament she focuses on strengthening family values and improving schools and education conditions for young people. MP Nováková graduated from Charles University in Prague, where she studied education, Latin and social sciences. For many years she taught ethics. She is the founder and chair of the Stara Boleslav City Association, and serves

as a committee member of the Czech Christian Academy.

Hon. Nina Nováková spoke on the way to pass on a culture of peace to children in the schools, which are the only settings that all citizens attend. For the future of Europe it is essential that all people go to school in order to prevent parallel societies to develop that do not understand each other, a problem that would destroy social cohesion and prevent peace.

She mentioned that many families are in a situation where children do not receive adequate care from both parents and are thus denied the necessary conditions of a healthy social development. Although schools

can't replace parents, the role of schools today is not only to educate children but also to raise them up.

She said that European culture provides a good basis for Christian culture, providing there is a basis for love. The culture of peace needs to be spread, and peace being more than the absence of war, it needs to be built and protected by those who have the willingness and strength to build relationships.

She mentioned three groups that are anti-human, extreme bio-centrists, fanatical believers of cyberspace and political totalitarians and that politicians blame humans for destroying nature to the extent that many young people believe humans are bad for the planet and want to reduce the population.

She observed that Europe has a culture of death as it condemns war but allows a war against humans and that the time has come to teach that humans belong to nature and should be protected as one of the species. She believes that pedagogues should talk about basic human rights, in a society that believes in the right to kill human fetuses, and that teachers are in conflict about teaching the new gender agendas but don't stand up against it for fear of losing their jobs.

She pointed out that Southeast Europe and Central Europe have many similarities with a common goal to transform the culture of death into a culture of peace, and that renouncing faith would be the worst. She concluded by saying that passing on a culture of peace in the family and school requires great courage and that parents, grandparents and teachers must support each other.



Speaker: Mr. Ali Laçej

President, Albanian Peace Council

Mr. Ali Laçej, President, Albanians Peace Council, started by saying "Welcome to Albania!" in different languages and that the Balkan nations need education, as the environment is the highest and closest manifestation of the concept of God. He quoted Aristotle's saying that "The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living differ from the dead" and emphasized character education, as a person of good character will do good things and also Francis Bacon's "Knowledge is power" and added that knowledge without wisdom is worse than ignorance itself.

He mentioned Albania's two sayings, that the guest is master and that every person is as valuable as another one. Finally, he pointed out that the quality of life depends on family, health, friends, home, joy, work, leisure and peace and talked about the six pillars of character: respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship and the necessity for the whole human race to adhere to moral values, taught by True Parents, the life coaches.



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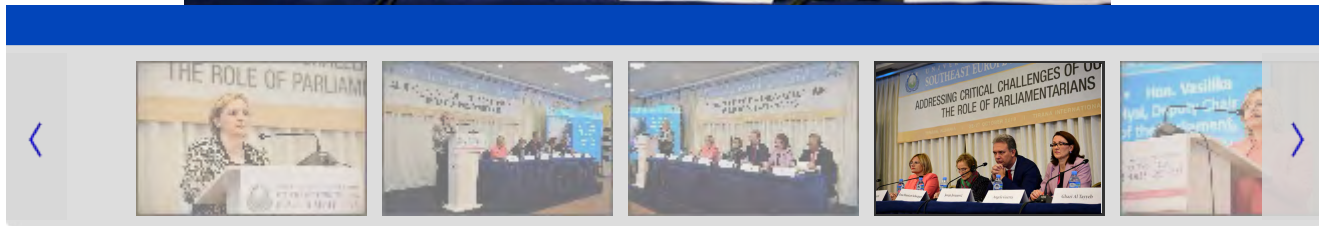


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Session IIIA

Written by UPF Europe

26 October 2019



Moderator: Nafiye Gaş,

Secretary General, Consultative Council for Communities, Office of the President, Republic of Kosovo

Ms. Nafiye GAŞ graduated in Business Economics at the faculty of Economy of Pristina University and holds a master's degree in Economy Sciences- Management Information from Pristina University. She has been Secretary General of the Consultative Council for Communities in the office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo since February 2009. She was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Kosovo from 2001 to 2004, Chairperson of the Health Commission in the Kosovo Assembly from 2003 to 2004 and Vice President of the Kosovo Assembly from 2003 to 2004.

Health Commission in the Kosovo Assembly from 2003 to 2004 and Vice President of the Kosovo Assembly from 2003 to 2004.

Ms. Nafiye Gaş, Secretary General, Consultative Council for Communities, Office of the President, Kosovo, was the session moderator, who began by reading a letter sent from Romano Prodi OMRI who served as the 10th President of the European Commission from 1999 to 2004 and twice as Prime Minister of Italy, 'The Balkans need to achieve accession to the EU as soon as they can by making great efforts with reforms and strengthening the cooperation between the E.U. and the Balkan States.' This related well to the mood of the Albanian people.



Speaker: Prof. Dr Vasilika Hysi

Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Albania

Prof. Dr. Valisika Hysi was a full-time professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Tirana from 1985 to 2009. From 2000 to 2009, she was Executive Chairwoman of the Albanian Helsinki Committee. Since 2002, she has been a member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance based in Strasbourg, France. Elected as a member of the Albanian Parliament in 2009, she was chairwoman of the Parliamentary Commission for Legal Issues, Public Administration and Human Rights, chairwoman of the Sub-Commission for

Human Rights, and secretary of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Legal Reform. Currently, Ms. Hysi serves as Vice-Speaker of the Albanian Parliament.

Speaking of the role of parliamentarians, Hon. Vasilika Hysi, Deputy Chair of the Parliament, Albania, explained how indebted we are to those who are not in positions of power, but have great expertise and support us with wise advice, thereby helping us to overcome the major challenges. The legislative process is a major factor in parliamentarians' lives, but it is not the only one. She referred to the important support given to politicians by international structures, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, that have given comprehensive targets for 2030. She also recognised the significance of integration into the European Union as a major priority supported by 93% of the Albanian population that, therefore, is an obligation for their representatives in parliament. Friendships between parliamentarians beyond nations is important, as it allows for dialogue and understanding. Women have a great role to play to bring a different flavour into politics than men who have failed in many ways.



Speaker: Hon. Albin Kurti

Member of the Assembly, Republic of Kosovo

Hon. Albin Kurti graduated in Computer Science and Telecommunications from the University of Prishtina. In June 2005, he co-founded "Lëvizja Vetëvendosje" (Movement for Self-determination), of which he was the President until March 2015. Albin Kurti is currently serving his third term in office as a member of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. He was the movement's candidate for Prime Minister of Kosovo and was re-elected as President of the movement for self-determination in January 2018. In the early parliamentary elections held on

October 6th, 2019, Albin Kurti won the highest number of votes, which makes him the most likely candidate for the new Prime Minister of Kosovo. Albin Kurti has published over 550 articles and has been invited to give presentations at many renowned universities inside and outside of the country. He has also served as the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs at the Assembly.

Hon. Albin Kurti, Member of Parliament, Kosovo, in a scholarly speech explained that a Member of Parliament is a substitute for the citizens and in some nations is referred to as a 'deputy' or a spokesperson of the people, whereas a Minister is a servant. He is filling in for someone else. The Prime Minister then is the 'prime servant' or first of the servants.

Opportunities for peace then develop from our common ground. Peaceful politics develops from emphasising our common points. We should seek to find these commonalities to have constructive debates within our Parliament on how to serve our people better and, based on that, we can spur peaceful relations

with other nations. Maintaining peace is work, but it is work that we should do together. Peace cannot be achieved without justice. We need to have accountability for war crimes and war criminals.



Speaker: Hon. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges

Former President of the Parliament of Luxembourg and Co-chair of IAPP Europe

Mrs. Hennicot-Schoepges, after a career as a concert pianist and a professor at the Luxembourg Conservatory, stepped into politics. She became the first woman president of the Luxembourg Parliament and held several government portfolios including Culture, Religions, Education, Higher Education, Research and Public Works. As a member of the European Parliament she was appointed Rapporteur to the EP on the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008.

She was the founder of the University of Luxembourg and is currently the Vice President of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin.

Hon. Erna Hennicot Schoepges, President of the Luxembourg Parliament (1989 – 1995), was a Professor at the Conservatory of Luxembourg and, in a distinguished political career, was the First Woman President of Luxembourg's Parliament and an MEP until 2009.

She explained that being elected to Parliament should be a path to serve the people of the nation. It is important for politicians to make a declaration of their revenue and so avoid the appearance of misuse while in a public position.

She added that "We have become old Europe with a decreasing voter turn-out and ageing population. We are waiting for you to join the EU!" She explained that many, including the European Parliament, said it was a mistake to delay the accession talks for Albania.



Speaker: Hon. Jovan Jovanović

Member of Parliament, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

Hon. Jovan Jovanović has been a Member of Parliament since August 2016. He was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of Indonesia, seven Southeast Asian countries and ASEAN (2011-14). He holds Master Degrees in Public Administration and Public and International Affairs from Harvard University (2009-2010) and the University of Pittsburgh (1998-2000), and is an Alumnus of the Center for Democracy, Development and Rule of Law at Stanford University (2005). He is also a Global

Board member at the Platinum Circle, one of the world's leading business groups, as well as Advisor in the 1000 Abrahamic Circles project, a global interfaith community-based project initiated in Indonesia. He has translated several books from English and Polish into Serbian. Mr. Jovanović is a Black belt holder in the Japanese martial arts of Aikido.

Hon. Jovan Jovanović, Member of Parliament from Serbia, is part of a younger generation of Parliamentarians elected in 2016. He was the Serbian Ambassador to Indonesia where he was involved in the interfaith 1000 Abrahamic circle project.

He praised the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union that has been working for 141 years and has 179 nations as members. He also referred to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as important targets for his nation by 2030. He congratulated Mr. Kurti MP from Kosovo on his party's election success and probable elevation to Prime Minister. He looked forward to working together to normalise relations between their nations.



Speaker: Hon. Ângela Guerra



Member of Parliament, Portugal

After obtaining a degree in law at the University of Lisbon, Dr. Guerra graduated as an expert in Contract Law and in Registries and Notary at the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. More recently, she also graduated in Health Management and Administration at the University of Lisbon. She is the current President of the Pinhel City Municipal Assembly and vice-president of the Social Democratic Party Council of the city of Pinhel. She is a Lawyer and has had a law office since 1998 in the District of Guarda in the north of

Portugal, where she also was the President of the Attorneys Association's Delegation in the region for about 10 years. She also served as Director of the Administrative and Financial Department of the Municipality of the city of Almeida. She is currently serving her second term as Member of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, working especially on health, gender equality, internacional cooperation and foreign affairs.

Hon. Angela Guerra, Member of Parliament from Portugal, discussed the role of parliamentarians as the protectors of the International Human Rights framework that seeks to protect human life and the quality of life of all human beings. 'The rule of law allows human rights to be not just a principle, but a real protection.' She added that there are new challenges, such as climate change and AI, that need to be tackled. It remains as a challenge for Parliamentarians. These and other major issues need to be tackled on an international level, which means that we must have stronger and more inclusive institutions.



Speaker: H.E. Dr. Ghazi Al Tayyeb

Senator, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Ret. Lt. General Ghazi Al-Tayyeb occupied various leadership positions in the Jordanian Armed Forces before becoming Commander of the Royal Guard in 1984. Amongst his many important positions, he was Commander of the Special Royal Forces; General Commander and Advisor to the Special Envoy, United Nations Peacekeeping Forces; and Deputy Advisor for Tribal Affairs to His Majesty the King of Jordan. He holds a B.Sc. in Military Science and an M.Sc. in Military Science and Defense Resources from Mouta University, Jordan, as

well as a Ph.D. in Management. He has been a lecturer at a number of universities. Dr. Al Tayyeb is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions. He is currently a senator in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

H.E. Dr. Ghazi Al Tayyeb, Senator from Jordan, explained the importance of Jordan's effort to support United Nations' peacekeeping efforts. We are all part of a multi-cultural world. We have a great opportunity to practice our values with those of other cultures through these peacekeeping efforts.

Jordan has been involved in the peace keeping activities in the Balkans from the mid 1990's until now. It has undergone 38 different peacekeeping actions under the umbrella of the UN. 56 Jordanian soldiers have died during these efforts.



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Session IIIB

Written by UPF Europe
26 October 2019



Moderator: Dr. Kevin De-Carli
Theologian and Historian, Switzerland

Kevin De-Carli is a Swiss theologian and historian. He is a board member of the council of the theological faculty's Center for interreligious studies and interfaith dialogue, and president of the students' body for theological studies at the University of Fribourg. As Rabbi in the orthodox Jewish community in Baden, he is president of the committee for the maintenance of Jewish culture, the workgroup for Christian-Jewish dialogue and the Argovian council for interfaith dialogue. Recent, he participated in the founding of the swiss council of minority religions, with mainly Muslim, Hindu and Sikh participation, to give mutual support and a base for the legal recognition of these religious communities by the swiss government. In the Swiss Army, he is a staff member of the military pastoral care team with the rank of first Lieutenant. He is responsible for the

competence center of military animals and veterinarian service and a board member of the committee to integrate non-Christian religions in the army's pastoral care.

The moderator, Rabbi Mag. Kevin De-Carli, Center for Interreligious Studies and Interfaith Dialogue, Switzerland, in his introduction to the panel, explained that it used to be forbidden for religious leaders to be involved in politics in Switzerland.



Speaker: Hajji Baba Edmond Brahimaj

World leader, Bektashi Order

Baba Edmond Brahimaj graduated from the Military Academy in Tirana and studied law at the University of Tetovo. In 1991, he resigned from the military and committed himself to the pursuit of spiritual ideals. He is an Albanian religious leader and the world leader of the Bektashi Order, an Islamic Sufi order based in Tirana and the Balkans. In June 2011, Baba Edmond Brahimaj was chosen as the head of the Bektashi order by the council of Albanian Babas.

Hajji Dede Edmond Brahimaj, World Leader of the World Bektashi Order, Albania, greeted the audience on behalf of the merciful God and expressed how honored he felt to be part of this important event organized by UPF. He emphasized the extraordinary role of faith whether for Muslims, Christians, or others, as they all advocate the same concept of mercy, which is necessary today in the face of the secular blows that are striking the foundations of religion. He mentioned the minority religions, which share the same earth and sky. All help to face the challenges generated in the modern world, and deal with the boundaries between computers and people. He stressed the fact that overcoming challenges and fighting secularism is only possible if religious leaders take responsibility and inspire the faithful souls. He mentioned the Bektashi movement, which has built many bridges and brought vitality to the Muslim community, in order to join with all religious believers.



Speaker:

Mr. Bujar
Spahiu

Chairman,
Muslim

Community, Albania

Mr. Bujar Spahiu, Chairman of the Muslim Community, Albania, prayed on behalf of God the merciful, for peace to be upon everyone who follows the path of peace, development and love. He mentioned that the title of the conference is appropriate for everyone, for the essence of religion is peace, and it is only through God that we can create peace and harmony among all. He gave the example of Muslims, who seem to move out of this world in respect to God when they start their prayer. When the prophet was asked what is the most liked action in Islam, he said it is providing health to everyone.

Mr. Spahiu encouraged all to build a world of peace and human development, as deserved by all the creatures of the universe, and said that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony, not the kind represented by the small groups of people carrying out extremist actions. He recognized that Albanians have had religious conflicts among them and exhorted the Albanian Muslim community to properly interpret the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed and thus raise their awareness in order to lead believers toward a respectful society.

He mentioned that God created religion to fit all times and people, and thus not to remain static, and called for intellectuals and all believers to grow in a harmonious manner, avoiding being motivated by ego. He then recited the verse *"We have created you all out of a male and a female, and have made you into nations and tribes, so that you might come to know one another. Verily, the noblest of you in the sight of God is the one who is most deeply conscious of Him"*, thus emphasizing the religious obligation for Muslims to accept other people as they are, irrespective of color, religion, etc. He pointed out that the word of God is the first norm of believers and that the Qur'an, as a divine norm, provides the proper vision to avoid problems, such as drugs and alcohol, which harm individuals and societies. When Mohammed was delivering a speech he asked not to hurt anyone, as all will eventually meet their God and have to account for their actions. He concluded by saying that the interreligious harmony in Albania, which has been preserved for centuries, is a model for the world.



Speaker: Sheikh Mansour Diouf

Co-Chair, IAPD-Africa

Sheikh Mansour Diouf is the Co-Chairperson of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) for Africa. Sheikh Mansour serves as one of the leaders of the Murid Brotherhood [Sufis mostly in Senegal and The Gambia]. He is also the Finance and accounting officer of the Senegalese agency for rural electrification in the Ministry of Finance, Senegal.

Cheikh Mansour Diouf, Religious Leader, Tariqa Muridiyya, Senegal, started by greeting all in the way it is done in Islam, which means peace, wishing peace to be with all. He exhorted all to question what is happening in the world of Islam. He stated that what is happening with human beings, such as war, terrorism, selfishness and self-profit, has its origin in human beings themselves, as we are imperfect and forget this.

He quoted the Qur'an, saying that God created us in an imperfect way for us to perfect ourselves. We are not communicating enough and, although we could right away give happiness to others, we are doing the opposite and forget to look at the other as a mirror of our own faults. He added that God created our worst enemy, Satan, who was chased from paradise because of us, and, as a revenge for that, brought us to hell and is staying among us.

He mentioned the chance we have to be believers and expressed how inspired he is by Mother Moon, who tells us to come back to God as the only way to solve our problems. In order to do that, he encouraged Christians and Moslems to get together and stop judging each other for our differences. He illustrated this with a story of Mohammed, who hurt his foot due to a spike, which a woman had put on his way as he was going to pray. Nevertheless, he prayed for her, which surprised her to the degree that she believed he was a prophet of God.

He also declared that God allowed human being to dispose of all created things and wondered why we don't use them for the wellbeing of humanity. He admired Mother Moon, who doesn't just say words but lives by them. He thus encouraged all to follow her example, practice the word and go to paradise right away. He recognized that it isn't easy but that God gave us our conscience and is waiting for us patiently, forgiving everything, so that there is no insurmountable obstacle.

[Rabbi Kevin De Carli expressed his appreciation that Cheikh Mansour Diouf had accepted to turn on and off his micro for him to be able to observe the Sabbath.]



Speaker: Ambassador Jakob Finci

President of the Jewish community of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Mr. Jakob Finci graduated from Faculty of Law in Sarajevo and practiced international commercial law. He was one of the founders of the reborn Jewish



cultural, educational and humanitarian society LA BENEVOLENCIJA, and elected as the first Vice President. He served as the Executive Director of the Soros Foundation - Open Society Fund for Bosnia and Herzegovina and was one of founding fathers of Inter Religious Council of Bosnia Herzegovina, and for two years served as the first President. In 2008 he was named as the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Switzerland, and non resident ambassador to Lichtenstein. Mr. Finci is a member of the Advisory Council of OSCE -ODHIR's Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Ambassador Jakob Finci, Head of the Jewish Community of Bosnia & Herzegovina, expressed his feelings for being the only one standing and working for equality on the Sabbath! He mentioned that his country, although near, was indeed far away because of a lack of direct connection with Albania. He explained that his country is divided into 3 parts, 4 religious communities and hundreds of problems. 25 years ago there was still an unexplainable kind of war, a sort of civil war, an aggression or something else. He regretted that the clergy on all sides had just accepted that war and even encouraged it. During the war, people of the 4 traditional religious communities tried to pray for peace together and peace finally came in 1995, but then all wondered how to bring back the life as it had been before, for 500 years.

After fighting against outside invaders, his country finally became independent. Under socialism, religion was considered the opium of the people, but in 1997 the interreligious council was formed as the first one in the world, which now counts 50 members, but still no-one from Northern Macedonia. The council started having a radio show that explained about life according to the 4 religions, emphasizing the similarities. But although all worship the same God, people pay attention to differences, that amount to only about 10%. For example, the program educated about the particular religious holidays. Then they expanded this to young people, and finally to the women of the different religious communities, who exchanged recipes from each culture; this explains why Bosnians are a little bit too fat!

The number of interreligious councils expanded to 15 different cities, with 3 or 4 religions represented in each. They sometimes celebrated together each other's religious holidays in order to teach secondary school students about the other traditions and are now visiting together the places where people suffered in the war, in order to commemorate them. He concluded that, even though some people say it's too late to do this, in 1970, Willy Brandt asked for forgiveness for the bad deeds of Germany, 25 years after the war; so it's never too late.



Speaker: Mrs. Nikki Nordby Doçi
Life & Leadership Coach, International
Leadership Foundation, Albania

Mrs. Nikki Nordby Doçi, Coach of the International Leadership Foundation in Albania asked to be presented as the wife of the head of the evangelical alliance of Albania. Originally from the U.S., she has lived in Albania for a long time. She testified that one of her husband's greatest joy was to be on the interfaith council among the wonderful people on the panel. As the only female on the panel, she pointed out that women's voice has a great impact and is often hidden behind the man who speaks.

She introduced herself as an evangelical Christian, who focuses on announcing the good news and follows the example of Jesus, who said: "pray for your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Be perfect therefore as your Heavenly Father is perfect". As an example of what evangelicals teach, she told the story of Jesus, who washed the feet of Judas Iscariot the night before his crucifixion. She emphasized the message of reconciliation contained in the Gospel,

especially St. Paul's, and the need to be Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation, which requires first each one to be reconciled to one's creator.

She stated that both men and women are important in society because we complement each other; a group of only men discussing something will always miss something, and a full picture of society isn't possible without including women, who bring an insight and intuition that brothers don't have. She emphasized that it starts in the home and that although working outside the home is her passion, her family is her even greater passion, the next generation being developed there. If they see an example of mutual respect between different religions, they will pass this on. She also mentioned the need to work with governments, so that the things taught at home can be also taught in the schools, and, to conclude, she read 1 Peter 3:8 "Be like minded, be sympathetic, passionate and humble, repay evil with blessing so that you may inherit a blessing" and hoped for all to be people who seek peace and pursue it.



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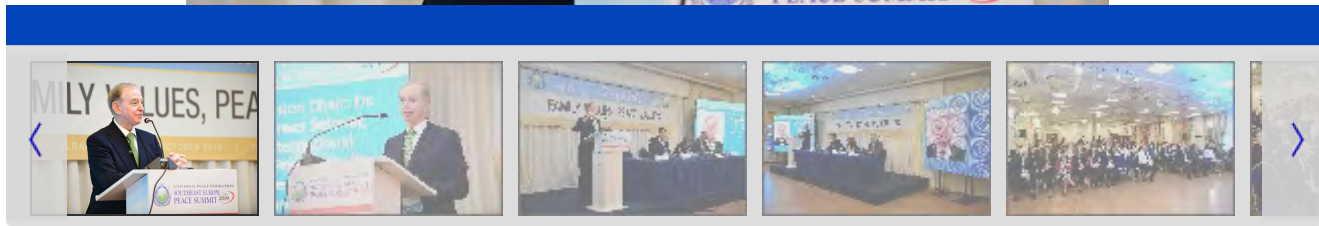
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Session IVA

Written by UPF Europe
27 October 2019



Moderator: Dr. Thomas Selover

International President, Professors World Peace Academy, Korea

Dr. Thomas Selover is President of the SunHak UP Graduate University in South Korea, and is also serving as international president of the Professors World Peace Academy. He received his doctorate in comparative religion and Confucian thought from Harvard University. He has taught at universities and colleges in Canada, the United States, China, and Korea. He and his wife Grace are currently researching the concepts of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values as a moral and practical basis for the human community.

Dr. Thomas Selover introduced the session by stating that family values are a great resource for peace building, but family traditions may be purveyors of bad traditions also. This is also a time when family

values are under attack, including by individualism, which weakens the bonds of family. In UPF, we say the family is the school of love. Each person needs to grow and we learn this in the family. The family is also a school for interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. The prosperity of the family is dependant on all the members. The family is also the transmitter of universal values.

We'll be talking about how to strengthen the family. What kinds of government policies can strengthen the family? How can family values support good government and promote the advancement of both men and women? How can the family inculcate the values of peace?

Dr. Selover read a letter from the founder of Teachers without Borders in Brussels, Dr. Fred Mednick, who could not come. He mentioned that there is no SDG for families, but family values are important. Teachers without borders approaches peace as if it were a family matter. We make peace familiar until it runs in the family. Family values are the ultimate expression of peace.



Speaker: H.E. Dr. Bajram Kosumi

Prime Minister (2005-2006), Republic of Kosovo

Dr. Bajram Kosumi is a politician, writer, publicist, and educator. He received the title of Doctor of Philological Sciences at the University of Pristina. From 1992 onwards, Dr. Kosumi played an important role in Kosovo's politics, including as President of the Parliamentary Party of Kosovo (1994-2000) and member of the Kosovo delegation in the Rambouillet Conference (1999). After the war, he was co-founder of the coalition Alliance for the Future of Kosovo-AAK and was its vice president (2000-2010). A three-time member of the Assembly of

Kosovo and former minister, in 2005, Dr. Kosumi was elected as Prime Minister of Kosovo, a task he performed until March 2006. He is one of the signatories of The Declaration of Independence of Kosovo (February 17, 2008). Since 2008, Dr. Kosumi is a professor at the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and, since 2015, he is Rector of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" Gjilan.

H.E. Bajram Kosumi thanked the session chair and other speakers and expressed his appreciation for the sentence, "The family is the school of love". He explained that the family is also the school of peace. He said that this is important for societies after conflict, such as in Kosovo. People can learn about global peace in their family. The world now is a global metropolis: people are in touch with each other everywhere. The tendency to establish global standards is a good development. In Europe in the last 20 years, especially during the refugee crisis, the democratic values in place since 500 years have been challenged.

Family values can help to bring about equality in terms of "my peace" and the peace of others: global peace. During the [Balkans] war in 1998-99, there was ethnic cleansing, rapes, and all the social institutions failed. Only the family survived. Strong families supported poorer families for many years. There were 700,000 Kosovo refugees that fled during the war. Perhaps even some of you in this room from various countries have experienced the heroic actions of families during difficult times.

Albanian families have a 1,000-year tradition of the family, including extended care for the children until 18 years of age. Even today, this summit organised by UPF is inspired by the idea that we are all one global family. We are all one large family and we want to thank Mother Moon and all her collaborators for organising this summit. President Obama characterised as lone wolves those individuals who prone violence and terrorism. Please be people of peace and not lone wolves!



Speaker: Dr. Saemira Gjipail Pino

Former Deputy Minister of Education; Deputy Chair, UPF Albania

After a long career at the State University of Tirana beginning in 1979, Dr. Saemira Gjipali (Pino) served as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Marin Barleti University in Tirana from 2011 to 2017. From 1990, she became involved in politics and held various positions, including Deputy Minister of



Education, Deputy Minister of Health, and Deputy Secretary General of the Albanian Government. For several years, she was elected and reelected as a Board member of the International Organization of Social Movement Historians (ITH), whose headquarters are in Vienna. Dr. Pino was elected as vice president of the Albanian Sociological Association in 2017. She is the author and coauthor of several publications on gender issues and women's rights. She was appointed as a UPF Ambassador for Peace in 2001 and has been the Deputy Chair of UPF Albania since 2011.

Dr. Saemira Gjipail Pino thanked the organisers and other speakers. She explained that we are born and grow up in a family. We are mainly parents and even grandparents. This is not an easy topic today: how can the family preserve its values in an ever-changing world?

Family and peace: one of the greatest contributions of UPF is the promotion of families, so that we can radiate peace in our local and wider contexts. The family cell itself is changing. Even smaller societies have a common trait which is the family. The world has developed bodies and organisations in defence of the family, but what really protects it is the love within.

Social media tend to drive us apart, even when we are physically closer together. At the dinner table, we are on our cell phones instead of talking to each other. There are many other pressures on the family, such as the pressures of employment which prevent the parents from being with their family. The family members are running to achieve many goals at the same time, including the struggle to keep up financially and socially.

In the last few decades in the Balkans, we have witnessed the collapse of families in the Balkans, especially in Bosnia and Kosovo. Many children were orphaned. We need to look to the past to prevent the recurrence of the same problems. Family values are suffering from the same factors, but also from domestic violence, poverty and corruption, not just the families in the capitals, but also rural families.

Let us reiterate and renew the importance that peace starts within the individual and this will be conveyed to others. This peace will be conveyed within the family, including to our descendants. To heal the world, as Rev. Moon said, we need to turn back to the principles of peace and love that we learned from our fathers when they carried us on our backs.

About 120 years ago, one important Albanian woman pointed out the love that existed within even poor impoverished Albanian families. Many people emigrated abroad to find a better life. We are afraid of old people's homes and want to protect the institution of the family. The strategies of the politicians are not enough, we need to take into account the ramifications of these policies. Each new set of politicians has a new set of strategies.

When I'm at peace, the person next to me will be at peace, as Mr. Kosumi said. We have this interdependence. It's easy to criticise the government, especially when we are not in power. We cannot negotiate with the war mongers. When marriages are established on the basis of intercultural values, intercultural marriages, this promotes peace.



Speaker: Mr. Jack Corley

President, FFWPU and UPF Eastern Europe sub-region

Mr. Jack Corley is an Irish citizen and has worked with the Unification Movement in Europe, the United States, Southeast Asia, the former Soviet Union and China. Between 1990 and 2005 he worked in the former Soviet region as Vice President of the International Educational Foundation and Secretary General of UPF Eurasia, and organized many conferences on character education in the People's Republic of China. From 2006 to 2009 he served as assistant Secretary General of UPF International. He currently serves

as the President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and Universal Peace Federation for the East European sub-region.

Mr. Jack Corley expressed his appreciation for Dr. Pino who, he said, has turned down many high government positions and is a very accomplished academic.

Quoting from Genesis, Mr Corley said that we should "Be fruitful, multiply and have dominion". As Dr. Moon said at the summit, what is missing is God. We have all kinds of human solutions, but how do we actualise the ideal of the family? We all come from a family, unless we are space aliens!

The family decides our character. If it's a loving family, it will be reflected in this. We cannot underestimate the value of the family. Is there anyone here who doesn't want to be happy? We all seek happiness, even the king and the queen.

We tend to pursue material goals rather than spiritual and emotional ones. Barbara Hutton owned the Woolworths stores, which were very popular. She said that even though she was the richest woman in the world, she was also the most unhappy woman in the world. J.P. Getty also said he'd give up all his material wealth for one successful marriage.

What are the 2 forms of education required? They are education of character and education in the areas of material development. There should not be a contradiction between them, but we should keep in mind the priority.

Mr. Corley explained that he comes from a family of 5 girls and 5 boys, very Irish and very Catholic. You learn there how to fight, but also how to forgive. The mothers who are here, if you have many children, you learn to become the greatest peacemakers. Do you ever graduate from being a child to your parents? No, it's a lifelong experience. Sibling rivalry is a big issue in families.

Self-discipline in the sexual area is also important, because people cannot control this just because they sign a marriage contract. The 4th experience of love is when we become parents. Many people are unhappy because their parents were ill-prepared for that role.

We experience 6 levels of relationship in the family, between older and younger siblings, with grandparents, etc. For example, if a boy had a difficult relationship with his father, he tends to be rebellious towards authority. We need to put the family back into order, to bring peace in the world.

Finally, Mr. Corley cited a quote from Confucius 2,500 years ago: "When there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character; when there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home; If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nations; when there is order in the nations, there will peace in the world."



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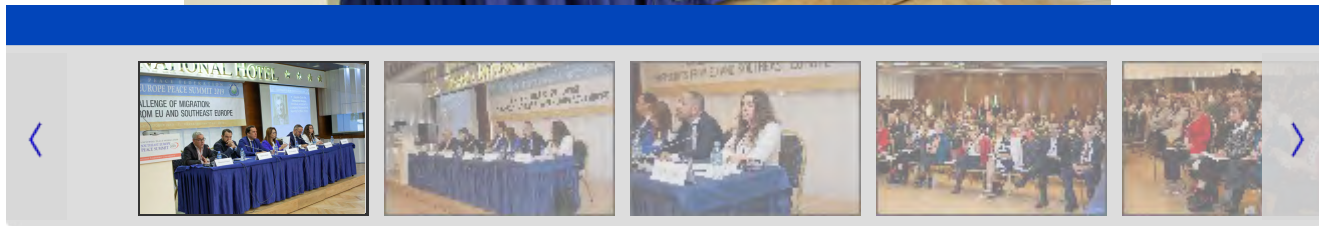


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Session IVB

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



Moderator: Dr. Emmanuel Dupuy

President, Institute for European Perspective and Security Studies (IPSE), France

Emmanuel Dupuy is President of the Institute for European Perspective and Security Studies (IPSE), a think tank focused on track two diplomacy and strategic prospective analysis with offices in Paris, Brussels and Rabat. He is an Associate Professor at the Catholic University of Lille, as well as various universities across the world (Geneva, Hangzhou), specializing in war and security studies. Emmanuel Dupuy served as advisor to the French Secretary of Defence and Veterans Affairs (2008-2010), and political advisor to French military forces deployed in Afghanistan (2011).

Dr. Emmanuel Dupuy introduced the session by explaining that this subject needs dialogue and

understanding, which we will try to bring today. He asked the question as to how the EU has been tackling this issue of migration and explained French President Emmanuel Macron's view on this topic.

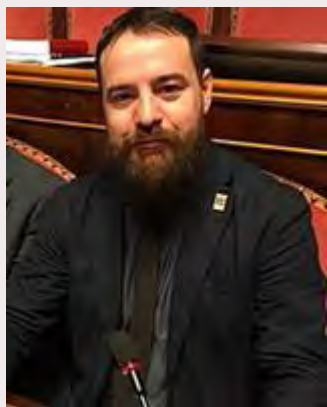
France has enormous land and sea borders, while the E.U. immigration department was only created in 2016 and is understaffed and underfunded. Criminal organizations are thought to have made €4 billion from the crisis of illegal immigration. Pres. Macron vetoed the entry of Albania and Macedonia into the E.U, while two other countries expressed serious reserves, because of criminal activity by nationals of those countries in the E.U. It was under the French presidency that the issue of Balkan access to the E.U. was raised years ago. France has supported this idea until now.

President Macron is not speaking from a geopolitical point of view, but from a domestic one. Immigration has become an important issue in French politics with the upcoming municipal elections next spring. In most European countries there has been less migration in the past year, but in France there has been an increase of more than 20%, including a large number of Albanians and Macedonians. In preparation for the municipal elections, President Macron cannot support the entry of Albania and Macedonia's into the E.U. This decision also reflects President Macron's view that we are not experiencing a growing Europe, but a shrinking Europe. Too many countries in Europe have created strains. He has had diplomatic problems with the Balkans; this region is a sore point for him.

Dr. Dupuy then asked several questions:

1. Has the E.U. has been misguided or not taken seriously the problem of immigration? The situation is not as tense as it was a few years ago. The E.U. has proposed a quota of migrants for countries.
2. Does France have the same vision when it comes to the 28 countries of the EU? Some countries are on the front line with borders open to the flow of immigration. Others, such as France and Spain, receive a lot of immigrants. Northern European countries experience less of a problem. Some eastern European countries have a zero-immigration policy.
3. Are we forgetting that we are facing a population growth problem? Africa and North Africa have enormous population growth. Europe has a very low rate. In Africa, the number of young people is very high; they have no work, no future, and they want to come to Europe.

We need to put an end to irrational threats, such as "*the great replacement*", or the idea that the Islamic population is rapidly increasing and will replace the traditional population of Europe. This way of thinking only encourages the extreme right-wing vote.



Speaker: Hon. Roberto Rampi

Member of Parliament, Italy

Hon. Roberto Rampi serves a second mandate as a member of the Italian Parliament. In 2013 he was elected at the House of Deputies for the Democratic Party. In March 2018 he was elected as a Senator and in October 2018 he was appointed to be a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. A philosopher, politician, journalist and actor in the cultural sector, he has worked for the communication and enhancement of cultural heritage. He is a former councilor for culture and vice-mayor of his hometown

of Vimercate, near Milan. Both in his political involvement and private activity, culture is the guiding principle of his work, owing to his belief in the power of cultural development as a pillar of democracy, peace and prosperity, human rights and positive relationship among different civilizations and religions.

Senator Rampi explained that we speak about migration in the Mediterranean area as the most important thing happening in the world. How can it be that we close our borders? We say to others, "*you have no chance of finding a better life*". This is where we must start. If people feel there is no future for their children, they will do what is necessary to find a better future for them. It's foolish to believe that you can stop parents from leaving to find a better future for their children.

We need to start with a proper frame. We talk about immigration from our European point of view, our

frame of reference. But let's look at the frame of reference of the people trying to come to Europe. Our system is changing Africa in a bad way. We can do something really good for them. The future of Europe is Africa. What can we do to help them?

The general point of view is that global development is taking place in America, Asia, Europe and Africa. The connection between Europe and Africa is historical. We came from there. Our ancestors came from the south of the Mediterranean. We need to remind people of this. We are all connected. We need to develop a common future; health, education, the economy, etc. This is the only solution to the migration problem. But, in fact, migration is not the problem. Our laws make migration illegal, so they can only travel using criminal organizations. That is why immigration becomes a problem.

Europe has created a dream and everyone needs a dream. I agree with Mrs. Moon who said yesterday that we need a spiritual outlook, not just material one. We are looking at our future as something that belongs only to us. We should look at our future as something we have in common with Africa; we can progress together.

As regards the entry of Albania into the E.U., each month that goes by with the situation being pushed back is bad for everyone. In Italy 25 years ago, we experienced an "Albanian invasion." Now it is forgotten. It was an invasion to some people. We have to change our mentality, even though politicians like to play on these fears.

The moderator, Dr. Dupuy, endorsed Senator Rampi's viewpoint by explaining that the UN says few migrants leave by choice, most leave because of war. Now climate change is a big factor, not enough water, etc. The population of Europe is decreasing; we need a common market with countries to the south of Europe. Let's unite the Balkans with Europe to move things forward and then take in the countries south of the Mediterranean.



Speaker: Dr. Neven Cvetičanin

President, Forum for Strategic Studies of Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

Dr. Neven Cvetičanin is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade and President of the Institute's Forum for Strategic Studies. He obtained degrees in philosophy, sociology and political sciences. He has published several books and dozens scientific articles on political ideology, political philosophy/sociology, international relations, global analysis, the strategic geopolitical developments in the 21st century, the politics of the

Western Balkans, etc. Between 2012-2014, he served as member of the Serbian National Assembly and was a member of the parliamentary Committee for Education, Science and Technological Development, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Constitution and Legislation.

Dr. Cvetičanin started by giving a more general perspective of migration. Faced with the influx of migrants, whether EU or non-EU, we need organized procedures; organized migration rather than uncontrolled migration. The opinion polls show that many people are more concerned about migration than other subjects. However, it is difficult to discuss this issue without narrow concepts and narrow mindedness creating confusion.

Some of our challenges stem from a lack of political perspective and a lack of strategic insight. The E.U. needs to be, but is not for the present, a key player in the global issues of migration, and the situation in Syria. What is needed is policy perspective, how to work with a wide range of political parties, from the greens to the extreme right. Europe needs statesmen not bureaucrats.

To bring order to this issue, we need statesmen, rather than administrators, who pay attention to strategic issues rather than the next election. The Balkan countries could be a partner on the issue of migrants. The Balkans could be a control point of entry to the E.U. For the moment, we don't know how to deal with migrants. The E.U. has to define what it wants and how to implement it.

Several strategies could be used to reinforce the physical borders, such as by adding 10,000 more border guards by 2020, and to improve the low rate of return of illegal migrants. The main question, however, is how to allow them in without causing problems in the E.U. countries? A reflection is needed on the number of migrants that can be received and the resources needed to take care of them.

We also need to bring order into the subject of migration by boat. Agreement is needed among E.U. member states on how to deal with this problem. We need new men of vision like de Gaulle and Adenauer, who stressed European cooperation rather than national interest, and the predominance of European universal principles over national interest. Above all, the need for strategic thinking is vital for European leaders.

The moderator, Dr. Dupuy, added that we might not be able to compare our present leaders to those great leaders of the past. The reality in Africa is no jobs, lack of water and lack of education. The majority of African migrants move within Africa. An African Schengen is also needed.



Speaker: Maître Houda Haouami

International Lawyer, Tunisia

Maître Houda Haouami is an International Lawyer and a Human Rights Defender. She is an observer of non-equal cases with the "American Bar Association Human Rights Center" and with the "International Senior Lawyers Project" in the Middle East. She is a women's rights activist and the Head of the Local Women Organization, "Woman and Progress Plus". She is a member of the "Women Mediterranean Leaders", a programme of "Sciences Po Paris". She is also a member of several Mediterranean Networks. She is a former researcher in Defense issues, with the Think Tank Carnegie Middle East Center, based in Lebanon. She has acted as a consultant for various United Nations Agencies such as the ILO in Geneva and UNDP in Tunis.

Maître Houda Haouami explained that migration has always existed. Throughout history, people have left the countryside to go to the big cities. Migration can be a positive force, especially for Europe with its low birth rate. However, not all migration leads migrants to safety and security. How difficult it must be make such a choice and move into the unknown. Migrants suffer dangerous trips organized by illegal smugglers and, upon their arrival, they are seen as criminals and treated as people without rights.

Access to asylum status has become rare and those who do not get asylum status are abandoned, without any help or support. These people need a voice. Politicians and NGOs need to work together. A rational, nuanced discussion is needed. Serious discussion by political leaders is necessary to deal with this problem. It is a real challenge to help those who risk their lives to migrate in order to find a better life.

Lagos is growing too rapidly; disaster in the making if this situation is not dealt with well. The out of control urbanization is creating a growing crisis. We need to help countries such as Nigeria deal with these problems. Dubai is a good example. It was once a small harbor, now a city of 9 million. Some areas are running low on water. How can we help them? If we don't, mass migration will increase in Africa, which will lead to more migration to Europe.

Where can we get the money for these projects? We live in a capitalistic world and capitalists live to make money. How can we bring migrants into the capitalistic system? What is the difference between a migrant and an expatriate? Is it just that we look down on one and look up to the other?

The moderator, Dr. Dupuy, expressed his agreement that money is needed: China is investing a lot of money in cities in Africa. He lamented that, in the E.U., we have a commissioner for European traditions, but we don't have one for migration.



Speaker: Peter Van Der Auwerert

Western Balkans Coordinator and Global Lead Transitional Justice and Crisis-Related Land Issues, UN Migration Agency (IOM), Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Herzegovina

Mr. Peter Van der Auweraert obtained his Law Degree (Distinction) from the University of Antwerp, Belgium and his Master's Degree in International Law (LLM) (Merit), from the University of London, United Kingdom. After holding various positions in the field of human rights and International Public and Criminal Law, he was the Executive Director of Avocats Sans Frontières (Lawyers

without Frontiers) between 2001 and 2003. Since 2005, he has held a number of important positions within the International Organization for Migration (IOM). He is currently the Western Balkans Coordinator and Global Lead Transitional Justice and Crisis-Related Land Issues for IOM, based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, leading the field offices in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, managing 450+ staff and a budget of 40 million USD, and leading IOM's work on transitional justice and crisis-related land issues globally.

Mr. Peter Van Der Auwerert made several important points, expressing the view of the United Nations immigration agency.

1. The Balkans is a route for people moving from one part of Europe, Greece, to other parts of Europe. The Balkans is a land route for reaching Europe. The Balkans could become a transition zone for migration to Europe.

He said, *"I agree with my colleague that we need to bring order into the chaos of migration"*. Many migrants have illegal jobs while waiting in Italy but cannot reach them. We should legalize them and let them work. Each Balkan country pushes people back to the country to their south, but the migrants will not give up and go home, they will try again and again. More collaboration between Balkan countries is needed. The closure of European borders is a political fantasy which does not work.

2. The role of the Balkans should be to provide shelter and medical care to the migrants before they move on toward Europe. The big drama is not that migrants are arriving, but that they are leaving their countries. Their goal is Europe, not Russia, China or Turkey.

There is a labor market in Europe that needs workers. If they get to Europe, they can have a better life. And if they are from the Balkans, they are Muslim, but they are white. I'm sorry if that sounds racist, but they are *acceptable*. White Muslims are more *acceptable*.

There are companies in the Balkans that need workers and they cannot find them. Why are people from the Balkans leaving their countries? Corruption is rampant in too many Balkan countries, among doctors, universities, engineers, etc. Political stagnation is a huge problem. Some people in power have been in that position since the end of Yugoslavia and some even had power in Yugoslavia before the breakup.

3. We have to open legal avenues to migrants. The massive immigration seen on TV is a disaster. The public is given a very negative image and politicians become negative about migration.

Legal migration is necessary, but there will always be people who do not fit into the system. They have to be sent back to their own country. It sounds heartless, but it is necessary. Tackling illegal immigration is tackling the underground economy. People opposed to migrants, hire them illegally. Let us turn illegal jobs into legal ones, and close the underground economy.

The moderator, Dr. Dupuy, explained that the French system takes in migrants and makes them into legal workers, where they contribute to the economy rather than being a drain on it.



Speaker: Dr. Vjollca Hajdari



Political
Expert and
Ethnologist,
Germany

Dr. Vjollca Hajdari started by discussing the migration of Albanians into North Macedonia.

She explained that Europe broke its promise of letting Albania and Macedonia into the E.U. with four other western Balkan countries, according to the "Thessaloniki Agenda", and asked the question, "Will this decision create a new wave of immigration"?

The E.U. declared Albania to be a safe country, thereby nullifying requests for asylum. Safe pathways could be created for refugees, by expanding visa options, introducing student exchanges, creating new training programs and more legal channels for employment.

Albania has an enormous brain drain problem; engineers, researchers, veterinarians, economic specialists, teachers, artists, etc., are leaving Albania. Thousands of doctors and nurses are working in Germany. Germans are visiting Albania and Kosovo to find more doctors and nurses. Albania is one of the countries with the largest brain drain in the world.

Dr. Hajdari proposed several solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity and reduce the emigration problem in Albania

1. The improvement of the health system.
2. Investment and support for profession educational training.
3. Networking with the Albanian diaspora, in small and large companies, allowing for the exchange of experience and knowledge gained in developed countries.
4. Promoting agriculture and rural development, as well as tourism in the countryside.
5. Renewal of the urban and rural infrastructure, including the water system, involving drinking water and water treatment.

In this way, we can create a more positive image of Albania.

The moderator, Dr. Dupuy, concluded by saying that people are willing to leave their home country, but really want to go back. We need to organize better both the migration of people seeking a better life, but also of those who choose to return to their home country.



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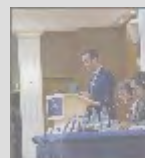


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Session IVC

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



Moderator: Mr. David Fraser Harris

Secretary General, UPF Middle East and North Africa

From 1990 to 1997, Mr. Fraser Harris served the International Religious Foundation (IRF) as the director of its European office in Rome. In this capacity he was responsible for the promotion of IRF's interfaith programs in Europe, which included both conferences and the international projects of the Religious Youth Service, many of which were held in Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall. From 1997 to 2012 he and his family lived in Damascus (Syria), where he taught English and travelled frequently to support UPF programs in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and other parts of the region. He continues to support such programs from his home near Edinburgh.



Speaker: Dr. Marijan Orsolic

Interfaith Department, Diocese of St Polten, Austria

After studying Franciscan theology in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Marijan Oršolić worked in the "Interreligious Council BiH" and "DELTA for Balkans" as a project assistant. He is one of the founders of the well-known Bosnian web-portal "Prometej". After finishing his doctoral studies in Catholic Theology in Vienna and winning the Best dissertation award of the University of Vienna, he worked in the diocese of St. Pölten as a pastoral assistant in the Cathedral Parish, R.E. teacher in HTL St. Pölten and as a member of the Committee for

World Religions. Recently, he was appointed as the new head of department for interfaith dialogue in "Pastoral Services" of the diocese of St. Pölten.

Dr. Orsolic, originally from Bosnia, studied Franciscan Theology in Austria, a theology well-known for its openness to others. In response to the tragic conflict in Bosnia from 1992 to 1995, which resulted in more than 400,000 people being killed or injured, he returned to a 'paralyzed and traumatized society'. His Doctoral presentation describes a number of moving examples where people have come together in an attempt to heal the wounds, in a 'land of broken bridges'.

One of these is 'Pontanima', derived from pons meaning bridge, and anima meaning soul. A remarkable Catholic Franciscan monk, Father Ivo Markovic, created a multi-faith choir to begin to unite people through the universal power of music. With not enough Catholics to form a choir, Father Ivo invited members of other faiths to join, and Pontanima was born.

Growing from 12 to 60 members, the choir has performed more than 350 times, all over the world including at the UN Headquarters, and progressed from Catholic to Orthodox to Jewish, Islamic and African styles. Meeting many challenges, such as singing songs of 'the enemy', it has allowed so many friendships to be made, relationships to be rebuilt, and the beginnings of the re-humanization of an entire people.



Speaker: Mr. Yossie Mousalli

Director, "Hashfela" Interfaith Study Group, Israel

Mr. Yossie Mousalli has been an educator and inter-religious activist from the age of 14. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he has lived in Israel since 1986. He has created several groups in Israel and abroad promoting inter-religious dialogue. He has been leading the learning group "Hashfela" in the Modiin-Ramla area since 2014. His narrative of dialogue and acceptance is based on developing empathy between people, starting from a deep learning process that includes not only cognition, but also sharing emotions.

Mr. Mousalli began his interfaith journey in Buenos Aires, aged just 16, where a Jewish rabbi started interfaith dialogue and a 'new way of communication' during the dark days of the military junta. He moved to Israel when he was 19 years old, and described the variety of 94 known interfaith groups there, ranging from musical to medical. He shared his own story "...one story, not representative, but filled with happiness and sadness, hope and frustration".

He began to bring together Jews, Muslims and Christians, both publicly and in secret, primarily to learn how to listen to each other, and not knowing where it would lead. He discovered that "there are no borders to human suffering". In a society where there is constant conflict between our values and politics, he strove to isolate the listening and learning process from that paradigm.

It became a group cognitive process, but with a non-academic, emotional approach where people genuinely learn together. He found that the real 'enemy' in the Arab-Israeli conflict is "our inability to release our thoughts in an empathetic setting and environment, in such a way as to bring healing, compassion, and to grow together with 'the other' ". He summarized empathy as:

- Firstly - understanding that the other person has feelings and emotions.
- Secondly - feeling what they feel.
- Thirdly - wanting to improve their lives and situations.

He concluded with the wonderful term, 'Moral Imagination', as a creative driving force in all that he has tried to do.



Speaker: Dr. Genti Kruja

Secretary General, Interreligious Council of Albania

Dr. Genti Kruja graduated with a Bachelor in Sociology from Istanbul University, and obtained his Master's Degree and Ph.D. in Sociology-Philosophy on Inter-Religious Dialogue and Tolerance from Tirana University. From 2010 to 2016, he was Director of Culture and Inter-Religious Dialogue for the Albanian Muslim Community. He was also the director of "Drita Islame" magazine from 2014 to 2016, and since 2012 he has been Editor in Chief of "Zani i Naltë" Journal. He is also a member of the Institute of Sociology of Albania. He is currently the Head

of Department of Islamic Science and a lecturer in Sociology at Bedër University, as well as Secretary General of the Albanian Inter-Religious Council. He published the book "Albanians faced with inter-religious challenges; Trends and Challenges" and is the editor of 30 other books.

Dr. Kruja gave an excellent, historical panorama of the peaceful coexistence of religions, particularly Islam, Catholicism and Orthodox Christianity, since the Islamization of Albania many hundreds of years ago. Christian monks lived peacefully among Muslims in the 16th Century, Muslims helped Christians to both build, and re-build, churches and cathedrals at various times, and in 1920 a Christian priest represented Albania, a majority-Muslim country, at the League of Nations following World War I.

During World War II, several hundred Muslims were able to save the lives of 100% of the Jewish population in Albania. Despite the country coming under communist rule for many years after WW II, in 1993 and 2014, both Catholics and Muslims greeted Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis, respectively, when they visited the Albanian nation.



Speaker: Mrs. Patricia Earle

Director, Women's Federation for World Peace, West Midlands, United Kingdom

Patricia Earle is the Director of the Women's Federation for World Peace in the West Midlands region of the United Kingdom and, with her husband, a representative of the Universal Peace Federation. She has been working in Birmingham for peace in the community, and around the world, since 1991. She founded a Women's Peace Group in 1993, and regularly hosts events in her home, bringing together hundreds of women from different nationalities, religions, races and cultures around the themes of peace, friendship and social action. Patricia is married with 4 children, all working in the National Health Service and caring professions.

Patricia is married with 4 children, all working in the National Health Service and caring professions.

Patricia Earle, having worked for the past 27 years in peace and interfaith activities in the city of Birmingham, described the origins of her Women's Peace Group in the early 1990's, at the time of the Bosnian War, when WFWP organized a 40-day chain of prayer across European nations. Beginning with a small number of Christian women, in recent years more than 100 women have been meeting on a regular basis, consisting of 1/3 Christian, 1/3 Muslim and 1/3 other faiths. At each meeting, someone shares about an issue of common concern, and there is always a practical outcome, whether money raised to support the work of the speaker, or women volunteering their time to support a particular cause. The largest project has been the building and maintaining of an Interfaith Children's Home in India.

However, the main impetus for practical action comes from the time of prayer during each meeting, and the

common experience of the Divine, which is love, and has no name. The meetings also allow friendships to be formed, fear removed, stereotypes changed and barriers broken down, creating a safe space for women to share their heart and feelings, all of which helps to create the motivation to put interfaith into action.



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Session VA

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



Moderator: Mrs. Carolyn Handschin-Moser

Vice President, Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI)

Mrs. Handschin-Moser is President of WFWP in Europe and Vice President, UN NGO Committee on the Status of Women- Geneva. She is also the Director of the UN Office for WFWPI globally and leads its advocacy team at the UN in Geneva, focusing on peace, human rights/human dignity through the empowerment of women and girls and strengthening the family. She founded the WFWPI-UN Internship program in Geneva in 2005. She has been a co-coordinator of the Middle East Women's Conference Series for 12 years. She is

co-founder of the Geneva Interfaith Intercultural Alliance and coordinator of the youth Model UN Interfaith Council Program.

In her opening remarks, Carolyn Handschin welcomed the full house on behalf of the organizers, thanking the many who contributed to the preparations, especially WFWP Albania. She reminded the audience that we are here to advance together, saying that the EU has no monopoly on solutions and referred to the debates during the WFWP events that brought women Parliamentarians and civil society together in the Albanian Parliament and Kosovo Parliament in 2018 and 2019.

The solidarity among women leaders, and their concern about how to promote women's participation while taking consideration of the outgoing men in office, was striking and something European women leaders seem to be less concerned about. Mrs. Handschin explained that the organizers tried very hard to include a male voice in the panel, believing that it is important not just to talk among ourselves and not to repeat the same mistakes attributed to male dominance in politics. That speaker, an important male representative of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the Balkans, was unfortunately called away to a mission just before the conference.



Welcoming remarks: Prof. Julia H. Moon

President of the Women's Federation for World Peace International

An internationally renowned ballerina, she is also the chairperson of the Universal Culture Foundation, coordinating the operations of the Universal Art Center, the Universal Ballet Academy, the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, D.C., and the Julia Company, aside from the Universal Ballet Company. She is currently the President of the Women's Federation for World Peace International.

Women are those that suffer the most in conflicts and wars, losing husbands and sons, along with the possibility of being victims of violence themselves. We are here to find new pathways to peace. Therefore, it is high time that societies are not led by the logic of power, but by the logic of love and reconciliation! It is through love and forgiveness that wounds can be healed. Professor Moon also emphasized that women develop their talents in the caretaking of their family and household, organizing the life of their children. These qualifications need to be used for the wider society: The ability to embrace, have empathy and compassion that can heal the world!



Speaker: Hon. Mrs. Ardiana Jaku

Member of Parliament, Albania

Hon. Ms. Ardiana Jaku is currently a Member of the Albanian Parliament. She previously served as Vice-Minister of Health and Social Protection (2017- May 2019) and as Regional Director of Social Services in Lezha city (Nov. 2013 – Feb. 2017). Before being involved in politics, she held various leadership positions in civil society and has qualifications in management and finance. Mrs. Jaku has a degree in Finance and is married with two children.

Ms. Jaku has always been concerned with social wellbeing and equality between men and women! She said that the laws needed to be adapted to counteract gender-based discrimination. Women are the main caretakers in the household and too often victims of domestic violence, she said, and hence we need to improve the support for victims and ensure the consequent pursuing of the perpetrators, so that women and girls are better protected. 61% of work is done by women, while on average they only provide 26% of the family income. Therefore, Ms. Jaku started a plan of action to promote the entrepreneurship of women.

She also developed a system of early diagnoses and treatment of cancer (especially of breast and womb cancer) and founded new pediatric hospitals. Hon. Jaku very energetically strives to promote a society of justice and well-being for all! She said, "Quotas are not enough, it is the quality that is the most important". She also asked us not to forget that for every woman to step in, a man has to step back! How can we help

them to keep their dignity?



Speaker: Dr. Céline Guérin

Neuroscientist and Certified Peak States Therapist, Switzerland

Céline Guérin completed her Ph.D. in Neurosciences in 2008 in the CHUV, the hospital of Lausanne in Switzerland. Her willingness to explore consciousness and human behaviors brought her to work in a Psychiatric Institute and to experience alternative healing techniques such as meditation, EFT and hypnosis. Today she specializes in relationship issues, self-esteem, stress management and sexual abuse and is working in the Sophia Health Centre in Lausanne as a certified Peak States® therapist. This therapy is the accomplishment of 30 years of research led by the ISPS-Institute for Study of Peak States (of Consciousness) and is based on a psychobiological model explaining how our emotions and physical sensations are correlated to biology.

Dr. Guerin shared how she at a young age, while watching the news, was always asking herself, “Why does history always repeat itself, why do people continue to make the same mistake over and over again?” She learned that all you can do, as Mahatma Gandhi always said, is to change yourself! M. Gandhi said, “If everyone were to transform into a better person, the world would become a better place.” So, we need to understand more about ourselves; why are traumas so deeply rooted in us? As a neuroscientist she found that heavy traumas are changing our epigenetics; changing our DNA. This implies that, if they are not healed, they will be transmitted to the next generation and, consequently, we inherit from the past. Again, what can be done about that? Dr. Guerin explained that there are three answers: consciousness, a relationship issue and, very important, meditation! She brought meditation into psychiatric institutions. As traumas are experiences with strong emotions, as in the case of (sexual) violence, they need a therapeutic relationship to be healed, but also meditation, to heal the inner wounds. And very important, it is a personal decision to want to be healed, to heal!

She calls her healing center the “Peak State Therapy for Peace Centre”, because it is when one can feel deep and positive emotions of joy, happiness, freedom that one can heal. Dr. Guérin said that 70% of healing takes place once a person can speak about his/her painful experiences and are able to share what they have gone through. “Healing for Peace” is finding peace within ourselves and with people who have a strong influence on us and, indeed, when there is love between nations.



Speaker: Ms. Bettina Kircher

Independent conflict consultant and mediator, Germany

Ms. Bettina Kircher obtained her M.A. in Regional Sciences and is a Lecturer at Helmut-Schmidt-University in Hamburg. She also serves as a facilitator and trainer for the German Staff and Command College, Armed Forces and Police, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance / International Security Sector Advisory Team, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), etc. She has more than 8 years of working experience in conflict and war zones with the International committee of the Red Cross, UN Peacekeeping and E.U.

Common Security and Defence Policy missions, predominantly in Sub Sahara Africa and Latin America.

Mag. Bettina Kirchner gained her experience during the 8 years she spent doing mediation work in conflict areas and war zones. Her strong recommendation is an international security team with a mandate to act! In a war, women are even more affected than man, being prone to multiple acts of violence; but boys and men are also misused - having to wear a gun, being forced to fight, or boys being forcefully recruited as soldiers at an early age. There is nothing good that comes from war!

Her first mission was to go into the jungle to meet the guerrillas to protect civilians from more killing in the Ivory coast. In the beginning, it took months to explain to the authorities that she wanted to meet them,

because they are people, and someone has to start talking to them. Then, it took weeks to get permission to enter the area. Then, informal negotiations could start. She wanted to show that they are human beings and it is possible to negotiate with them. She explained that after some time during which no unlawful killings took place, peace negotiations could start. To reach successful and sustainable peace and reconciliation, income-generating projects can also be important. Often it is social desperation or imbalance that leads to violence. Lasting peace can only be reached with participation from the field, the people themselves, plus the strong involvement of women; let the people find the solution themselves and work for it and, together, create a common goal and vision!

There should be not any kind of abuse or neglect remaining; if this continues, then it might lead to violence again. We should dare to talk to the enemy! As Betty Williams and Desmond Tutu said: "It is easy to talk to your friends, but it is important to talk to your enemy - and make him your friend!"



Speaker: Dr. Zilka Spahić Šiljak

Director, Transcultural Psychosocial Educational Foundation, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dr. Zilka Šiljak holds a Ph.D. in gender studies and her scope of work includes addressing cutting edge issues involving human rights, politics, religion, education and peacebuilding, with more than fifteen years' experience in academic teaching, and work in governmental and non-governmental sectors. She teaches Cultural Studies at the University of Zenica and at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of the University of Sarajevo. Zilka is a former research

associate at Stanford University and Harvard University. Her publications include *Bosnian Labyrinth: Culture, Gender and Leadership* (2019); *Living Values: Global Ethos in Local Context of BiH* (2018); *Shining Humanity – Life Stories of Women Peacebuilders in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (2014); *Contesting Female, Feminist and Muslim Identities. Post-Socialist Contexts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo* (2012); and *Women Religion and Politics*, 2010.

Prof. Zilka Šiljak started by describing herself as a Muslim feminist. She explained that peace is not the mere absence of war or violence, but that we need a positive peace: This means the rebuilding and healing of broken relationships. We need a culture of trust and overcoming historical barriers.

Women are differently affected by war than men. A woman's first interest is the wellbeing and socialization of her family. Through motherhood, the high potential of the heart is reached. This is why women can reach out to the hearts of people. What is learned in the family can be extended to the wider society. Men are more the negotiators.

During or after wars, it is often the women who are the first to reach out to the "enemy", being ready to "cross the border" again! Women have a strong desire for peace, and peaceful surroundings for the sake of their children. The fact is that women often lack confidence! This needs to be rebuilt. Therefore, it is important to make the achievements reached by women visible.

Often it needs one year of intense training for a woman to feel that she can do it; can start something. Therefore, they start social or educational projects together. Women need peace and peace needs women! It needs women and men equally; that men to be the supporters and allies of women and vice versa. This is why gender mainstreaming is important to keep the momentum of development in our societies going. Thank you very much for your attention!



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Session VB

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



Moderator: Peter Zoehrer

Executive Director, FOREF-Europe, Austria

Peter Zoehrer is the Founder and Executive Director of Forum for Religious Freedom – Europe (FOREF Europe), which was registered as an official association in 2005. He initiated the FOREF website in 1998 after the Austrian government introduced new laws, severely curtailing the rights of religious minority groups. It has since become a respected religious freedom monitor and medium-forum for members of religious minority groups, their opponents, public media, legislators, government agencies and Human rights defenders.

Peter remains the driving force behind FOREF, which has scored numerous victories in helping victims of religious intolerance to regain their rights and be vindicated from injustice, discrimination or persecution.



Speaker: Mr. Thomas McDevitt

Chairman, The Washington Times, USA

Mr. Thomas McDevitt is Chairman of the Washington Times; He has served in a number of leadership roles since joining the Times in 1994, including Business Director the TWT National Weekly, General Manager of TWT's Magazine Division, Marketing Director, Vice President and President/CEO; former Senior VP of Marketing and Communication, Points of Light Foundation founded by President Georges H. W. Bush. Mr. McDevitt also serves as Chairman of UPF-USA and as President of UPF International.

Dr. McDevitt expressed that the media represent a critical area of work and asked the audience to consider what they can contribute to form a new media culture leading to world peace based upon the core pillars of interdependence, co-prosperity and universal values. The core values of *The Washington Times* are faith, family, freedom, service and citizenship, he said: these principles guide the company and are embedded in its DNA. According to Dr. McDevitt, *The Times* is read by all the power elites in Washington; both sides of the aisle [in Congress] read *The Times* because of its trustworthiness. *The Times* recently was declared the No. 5 most trustworthy news outlet in a poll in the United States. Dr. McDevitt showed a photo of U.S. President Donald Trump on board Air Force One sitting at a desk with his arm on a stack of newspapers, and *The Washington Times* was the top newspaper.

The International Media Association for Peace is a non-profit media association that will cover the entire world. There will be a conference in Seoul next February for 500 media professionals. He asked the audience to imagine a global network of media professionals who share a common value perspective, driving toward peace. He said he believed there is a time coming soon when we can create a new tipping point and look at the big questions. We will see what other people don't see, hear what other people don't hear. Media professionals can be the leading professionals to change the behavior of the world.



Speaker: H.E. Dr. May Chidiac

Minister of Administrative Reform, Lebanon

For more than 25 years as a journalist, May Chidiac fought for the freedom of the Lebanese people when few dared to speak up against the prevailing state of tyranny, and that, through her show, "Nharkom Saiid" (1998 - 2005). Six months after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005, she was attacked by a car bomb causing her to lose her left leg and arm. After ten months of numerous surgeries and rehabilitation, she returned to the TV screen in a primetime political talk show called "Bi Kol Joraa", or "With Audacity".

She has also continued her teaching career as Professor of Radio/ TV at Notre Dame University-Louaizeh till the present. Throughout her career, Dr. Chidiac has received numerous international awards and prizes. In January 2019, H. E. Dr. May Chidiac was designated Minister of State for Administrative Reform in the government of H.E. the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Saad Hariri.

H.E. May Chidiac expressed that we are witnessing the burgeoning of freedom around the world. Nevertheless, freedom of the press is deteriorating in unexpected places, such as Europe and North America. Every step toward justice requires sacrifice and suffering. She explained that fourteen years ago, she paid a high price for exposing the dirt and she is still receiving insults and threats on social media for speaking freely. Every year she awards journalists for audacity in reporting. "Freedom never dies", she said, "and it will never die for me".

Dr. Chidiac expressed that she thought that non-violent protests could exist only in books, but 100,000 people are now protesting Lebanon. For the first time people are not afraid to speak out. She also

mentioned incidents of violence against journalists in Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia, including murder. Journalists in Europe have also been killed or attacked.



Speaker: Prof. Predrag Vujovic

Founder and President, Public Relations Business School, Serbia

Professor Vujović is a leading expert in communication in the ex-Yugoslavia region. He holds degrees in Marketing, Journalism and Communication, and a Ph.D. in Public Relations. Specialized in Italy and the Netherlands, he ran large PR projects such as the Winter Olympic Games, as well as communication and PR projects for several governments and leading international and domestic companies and media. For the last three years he has been the EU Key communication expert in Serbia. He lectures at the universities of Belgrade, Podgorica, Zagreb, Sarajevo and Milano. Founder and President of the Public Relations Business School, with more than 2.500 PR specialists, he won two highly recognized Golden World Awards for Excellence from the International Public Relations Association. His campaign for Traffic Safety was proclaimed as the best Non-profit Campaign in Serbia 2008-2017.

Dr. Predrag Vujović began by expressing that many changes are taking place in the media. The Internet, online media, and social media have a large influence on public opinion. Millennials and Generation Z are not influenced by the mass media. Nowadays, there is only one newspaper in Serbia judged to be neutral and free. The media world depends on those who have power.

Dr. Predrag Vujović explained that UPF has a number of potential strong points, including family values, character education, living for the sake of others, interculturalism and multiculturalism. All the principles of UPF are principles of communication. UPF is a communication centered organization and UPF's principles are the main principles for everyone.



Speaker: Mr. Lutfi Dervishi

Host, Talk Show "Perballe", Public Television, Albania

Mr. Lutfi Dervishi is the host of the political talk show "Perballe" on public television. He is also a lecturer at the University of Tirana, teaching investigative journalism to master students in the Journalism Department and trainer in the Albanian Media Institute. His training activities include journalism, communication, public speaking, transparency, and media ethics. He is well known for debunking fake news on social media in Albania. He worked previously as a news director on public television and "Vision +" and RTSH. Mr Dervishi was Executive Director of Transparency International Albania from 2008 to 2013. He is well known as a public speaker and has delivered keynote addresses to many conferences and universities in Albania and abroad. He is also very experienced in journalism as a political commentator of the main TV stations in Albania. With 25 years of experience in the media, he also has extensive practice in print, broadcast and social media. Mr. Dervishi is also a contributing editor to the Tirana Times Newspaper.

Mr. Lutfi Dervishi referred to the Japanese film *Rashomon*, in which four persons recount different versions of a murder. He went to explain that all of the news on television is about political conflict and asked the question, "Is this the way the media should operate in the future"? If you ask about the situation of the media in Albania in one word, the answer is "good", he said, whereas if you ask about the situation of the media in two words, the answer is "not good."

Why is this? It is because Albania has 25 newspapers, 56 TV channels, 67 radio stations and 200 cable portals. In terms of quantity, we are good. In terms of quality, we are not good. TV shows a lot of information, but not much news. It is good, because we have a very good code of ethics, but it is not good, because it's only on paper; it's not practiced.

The best days of journalism were in the early 1990s. If we do not analyze the changes in the media, we risk not understanding the future. Some things that were unthinkable 10 or 15 years ago are now unavoidable. Who thought that we could not separate the message and the messenger? In social media, more important than the content are the “clicks” or how many “likes” one receives. The audience has changed its behavior. The media have gone from a watchdog role to a lapdog role. In the 21st century, we need to make a paradigm shift from problem-oriented to solution-oriented. We need more fact-checking. Agencies check the quality of our food, but we need someone to check the spiritual quality of the media. Will journalism serve the power or will it serve the truth? The truth will set everyone free.



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Session VC

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



This session was graced with the presence of a number of regional former Heads of State in the audience. The panel was composed of three former Ministers of Finance as well as those with experience in international financial institutions.



Moderator: Mr. AbdulBasit Syed, International Ambassador, Croydon, U.K.

Founder, World Humanitarian Drive, United Kingdom

AbdulBasit Syed was born in the Dravidian state of Tamilnadu, India. From the age of 16, he got involved in social welfare activities, from blood donation camps to relief campaigns during natural disasters such as tsunamis, floods and earthquakes. He is helping to setup a pharmaceutical unit in Myanmar to produce inexpensive generic medicines and recently started his own foundation "World Humanitarian Drive" (WHD) in the UK to promote peace within

communities. He is on the Executive Board for Tamil Peravai, which supports education scholarships and humanitarian efforts in India. Abdul Basit Syed is the current officially appointed "International Ambassador of Croydon, U.K." to promote Trade, Culture, Peace and Harmony. to promote values of Peace, Education, Harmony and Trade. He is on the senior Board of Management for various businesses and NGOs worldwide.

The Session Chair, Abdul Basit Syed, asked the rhetorical question: "What does a peace organisation have to do with trade? Promoting integration of economies opens ways for peace. The Balkan region is moving from war to peace through trade."

He continued, "This sends a strong message to the rest of the world that this region has achieved the maturity to cooperate and collaborate beyond borders. There is huge potential in this region with a European culture, a favourable tax regime and high skill level." He commented that investment and the rate of new business startups is not sufficient at the moment. "A safe, sustainable growth with a stable Government and inclusive economics are needed. Growth should benefit all of society. The economic strategy should advance structural reforms beyond borders. Peace between nations in the West Balkans is providing economic developments for all."



Speaker: Prof. Arben Malaj

Former Minister of Economy and Finance, Albania

Prof. Dr. Arben Malaj graduated in Finance at the University of Tirana, Albania. From 1997 to 1998, he served as Minister of Finance, from 2002 to 2003 as Minister of Economy and from 2004 to 2005 as Minister of Finance. From 2005 to 2006, he attended the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) as Senior Fellow at M-RCBG, focusing on research into Western Balkans European integration. Prof. Malaj is currently serving as the President of the Institute for Public Policy and Good Governance. Since 2016, he has been a Member of the Supervisory counsel of Bank of Albania. He is also teaching in different public and private universities.

Prof. Arben Malaj began by congratulating the Universal Peace Federation for choosing the land of Mother Theresa to convene this conference. She was famous for saying we may not be able to do big things, but we can do the small things every day. He also referred to Winston Churchill's quote that, "the Balkans creates more history than it can consume."

European integration through negotiation and cooperation is a good model for former Communist nations. The present and the future inspire us to collaborate for a better future. It is intrinsically linked that 'without peace there is no prosperity and without prosperity there is no peace'. We must increase the range of opportunities for all our citizens throughout the Balkans for peace to be strong.

The multi-lateral successful collaboration can overcome the difficulties of the past and bring sustainable development. Robert Schuman saw that cooperation between European nations would bring the peace in Europe that had been so elusive and allow development. Where there can be trade wars, there also can be trade collaboration through which development can be facilitated.



Speaker: Hon. Dr. Azra Hadziahmetovic

Member of Parliament, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Dr. Azra Hadziahmetovic was born in Foca, B&H, and obtained her Ph.D. in International Economics. Since 1979, she has worked at the University of Sarajevo, School of Economics and Business. she is now a full professor in the Department of Economic Theory and Policy and gives lectures in the field of macroeconomics, European Economy, Economic Diplomacy, Foreign Trade and World Economy. A former Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, she served several times as a member of parliament in B&H and in the Council

of Europe. She also served as a Governor in World Bank and Alternate Governor in the IMF. She is a member of the Committee for Economic Science ANUBiH, the Academic Network of the WTO and the Global Development Network.

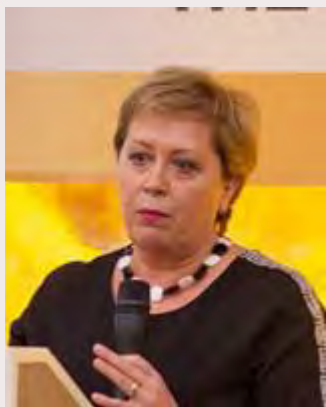
Hon. Azra Hadziahmetovic explained that In 1992, due to the conflict, 70% of houses, 60% of hospitals as well as infrastructure, were destroyed. In 1999 - 2008 the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe was agreed and implemented with the EU.

In 2006-7 most of the West Balkan nations joined the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). With trade liberalisation there has been increased stability. There are economics of scale developing. This is necessary for EU integration and EU membership.

The Free trade agreement was an important part of accession to the EU. Lord Peter Mandelson (the EU Trade Commissioner at the time) agreed that CEFTA will not only offer real economic benefits, but also send a signal that integration in the region is possible and open the way for accession to the EU.

More ambitious targets have naturally developed, as well as more important trading partners. Western Balkan regional economies have not fulfilled their potential in exports to the EU yet, but are making effort to catch up.

CEFTA has had a very good benefit to the region, but the regulations of the EU and other regional Governments take a lot of businesses time. A higher export led and FDI driven growth is part of the strategy of 2020, but the nations of the West Balkans are falling behind.



Speaker: Mrs. Jolanda Trebicka

Project Coordinator, Municipalities for Europe - EU Project, Albania

Mrs. Jolanda Trebicka is an expert on governance and public sector reforms. She has 20 years of professional experience in the area of economic and institutional development and has been working for 13 years for the Government of Albania. From 2000-2006, she was employed by the World Bank as a Public Sector Management Specialist. Since mid- 2006, Jolanda has worked in all countries of the Western Balkans and various Central Asian countries on different technical assistance programs financed by the E.U., UNDP, DFID, IMF and WB. As an external expert on SIGMA/OECD, Jolanda has been assisting different countries, such as Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Georgia, Ukraine and Egypt, in their process of improving central policy development systems. Currently, Jolanda is the Team Leader of the EU financed technical assistance project "Municipalities for Europe", a project that is assisting the municipalities of Albania to achieve better governance in the European integration processes at the local level.

Mrs. Jolanda Trebicka started by expressing that the business community is demand driven and pushes the government to make changes in its policies to allow business to thrive. The lack of opportunities pushes people to engage in illicit activities to support themselves where there are no jobs. A terrible example is that some joined ISIS because of a lack of money. They knew they would be paid if they joined.

There are two reports on the Albanian economy for the years 2012 – 2019. There was progress during these years. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) grew by 80%. New enterprises started and progressed. However, intra-regional trade had 0% growth over this period! This is of great concern because of the need for regional integration. Why are we at a zero level of growth and still at 9.6 % cooperation instead of 14.3% (the target for this year, 2019).

How much does the Government dialogue with business? She found through surveys that business does not believe Government is listening to their concerns. Business can break barriers to trade, but only Government has the role to remove them through negotiation and legislation.

Speaker: Hon. Dr. Haki Shatri



former Minister of Finance, Republic of Kosovo

Hon. Haki Shatri was born in Tomoc, Istog, Kosovo. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Pristina and completed his postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Zagreb in Croatia. After obtaining his Ph.D. from the European University of Tirana, he conducted research at the Riinvest Institute, the oldest “think tank” in Kosovo operating since 1995. Dr. Shatri was a Member of the Assembly of Kosovo for Five years and Minister of Economy and Finance in the Government of Kosovo

from 2004 to 2007. He is currently serving as an Advisor to the Prime Minister of Kosovo.

Hon. Haki Shatri explained that from 1989, Kosovo was under the administration of the United Nations. This was the time rebuilding started. Ten years later there was a transition to becoming a nation. Free market principles are embedded in the Kosovan constitution, however, we still have too many people under the poverty line.

Free market liberalisation has been implemented in stages with the support of the EU and advice promoting regional integration, especially during 2016 – 2021. There is a strong pathway of reforms to be implemented.

Public budget debt is approximately 1bn euros, which is about 70% of GDP. This is close to the border where it could become a problem. 25% of Kosovans live abroad and support their families at home through remittances. Remittances from the diaspora in 2017 were just under 800 million Euros. FDI is at a comparably low level. We need to make it easier to invest.

We are a good case to attract foreign capital if you consider that tax on profits is between 0% - 10%. On the other hand, the non-liberalisation of visas by the EU is a big problem. It is an obstacle to trade.



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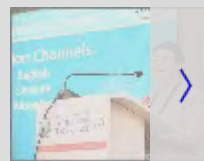
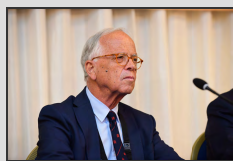


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Closing plenary

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



Moderator: Mrs. Marilyn Angelucci

Secretary General, FFWPU Middle East, Turkey

Marilyn Angelucci was born in the United States and graduated there with a B.A. in Psychology and M.A. in Religious Education. She and her husband Umberto Angelucci have been working for over twenty years in various organizations in three different continents and seven different nations. She is now serving as Secretary General of Family Federation for World Peace in the Middle East, educating young people and families and strengthening family values. Marilyn and Umberto are living in Istanbul, Turkey, and are the proud

parents of two wonderful sons and now have four young grandchildren.



Speaker: Dr. Werner Fasslabend

President, Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, Austria

Dr. Werner Fasslabend was a Member of the Austrian Parliament between 1987 and 2006. From 1990 until 2000, he was the Federal Minister of Defense. From 2004 to 2015, he was the president of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party. Currently, he is president of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES).

Dr. Werner Fasslabend started by saying that in 1992, when he first came here, no-one could believe that such development in the Balkans could be possible. The first task in developing peace is to paint a realistic picture of the present situation. In some ways, the situation has not become easier in the last few years. The decision about the integration of Albania and North Macedonia was not helpful. We had based our hopes on this and it is psychologically very difficult and could cause us to become despondent and lose our ambition.

In North Macedonia, they were even willing to change the name of the country to get this integration. In Serbia and Kosovo, most specialists think the relation has become more distant. In Montenegro there has been no breakthrough. In Bosnia, it's in a more difficult situation than before the elections. There is no single solution in sight. Every state has a different problem.

What are the lessons we can draw from this?

- 1) Peace and stability can easily be destroyed and it's difficult to build it up again. It's 28 years since the war.
- 2) There are many interdependencies: peace and stability versus economic development. There is no investment if there is no stability.

During the migration crisis, we saw that there is an interdependency between the E.U. and South East Europe. Our regions where there is potential growth will increase this interdependency.

What could be the way out? An optimistic and realistic one.

The realistic way would be to prevent the worst and shape the possible. What would be the worst outcome? The destruction of Bosnia for example. There are many possibilities. How do we prevent such crises?

What is possible? To continue in the same way the countries have done in the last few years, whether they join the E.U. or not, and try some new initiatives for cooperation in the region. The regional market will become more important if the integration with the E.U. is not possible.

Austria has two big neighbours, Germany and Italy, and 5 small neighbours. These small neighbours with a population of about 30 million people have more importance for Austria's exports than the U.S., China and all the big powers put together, because cross border trade is so important.

There is also a role for civil society and religion. Religion will play a big role in preventing a crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. No-one else can create such a climate of reconciliation. This conference is a very worthwhile contribution to peace and stability in the region.

In the past, South East Europe had a higher level of development than the rest of Europe. We need to work on the reality, and the old adage, "help yourself and God will help you", will work in this situation.



Speaker: H.E. Bujar Nishani

President (2012-2017), Albania

H.E. Bujar Nishani completed his higher education at the Tirana Scanderbeg Military Academy and his graduate studies in Defense Resources Management in California, United States. He also studied jurisprudence at the Justice Faculty



of Tirana University where he earned a Law Degree in 2004. In 2005, he earned a Master's Degree in European Studies at Tirana University' School of European Studies. In 2005 and 2009, Mr. Nishani was elected as a Member of Parliament in Tirana. From March 2007 until September 2009, he served as Minister of Interior; from September 2009 until April 2011, he served as Minister of Justice and in April of 2011 he was reappointed to the position of Minister of Interior, where he remained until June of 2012, when was elected by the Albanian Assembly to the office of Head of State. In July 24th, 2012, Mr. Bujar Nishani was sworn in as the President of the Republic in front of the Assembly of Albania.

H.E. Bujar Nishani expressed his appreciation for the possibility to share his recognition for the contribution of this forum to South East Europe. He said he appreciated this tradition that UPF has established of bringing together people from so many places and backgrounds, etc.

Talking about peace and stability in South East Europe is also important for the Western Balkans. History has been ruthless, but remains a greater teacher for the future. The Balkan wars brought much division and hatred, just two decades ago, due to ethnic and religious hatred. Fortunately, this region has managed to find peace and stability through mutual respect.

However, today we are experiencing different challenges again, such as lack of respect, which lies at the bottom of such challenges. Democracy and its standards are the main targets of destabilising aggression. It is responsibility that will renew our society.

The young people aspire to a better economy. The European Integration Process, in which all the countries in our region are involved, is the only path forward. It is the most important process of this century. Not only because of the geopolitical connection of the region with the continent, but because all the people see this as a natural way forward.

We can be a contributor to this family. The E.U. needs strong allies in terms of democracy and developing its economy, etc. Unfortunately, democracy is the main target of destabilising societies. Fostering a culture of corruption, political control of justice, etc., are causing division. As history teaches us, nothing can be guaranteed. Keeping alive the culture of retribution is also a threat to peace in our region. Nourishing the thesis of division between Kosovo and Serbia is another threat.

There is no country in our region without ethnic minorities in them. Finding a common solution is the best way forward. As president, I met thousands of time the Heads of State of this region. The first time was difficult, but by the 10th time or so, we spent more time taking coffee together and now we have a good friendship. Keeping alive the spirit of friendship and talking with each other and mutual respect will lead to a common solution.

Democracy remains in my judgement the key to facing the challenges. By consolidating democracy as a value, we can ensure stability in this South East Europe region.



Speaker: Dr. Michael Balcomb

Regional Chair, FFWPU Europe and the Middle East

Dr. Michael Balcomb currently serves as the Regional Chair of the Family Federation for World Peace for the combined 72 nations of Europe, the Middle East and Eurasia. Previously he served as the President of the Family Federation USA from 2013 to 2017. He was born in Abeokuta, Nigeria in 1957, educated in England and the United States, and joined the Unification Movement in California in 1976. He and his wife Fumiko have five children — two girls and three boys — aged from 30 to 20, all still living in the US.

Dr. Michael Balcomb explained that he had had a meeting with Mother moon earlier that morning, during which she asked him to express her gratitude for everyone's participation during the past few days. He also cited the three main points from Mother Moon's message the previous day that stuck in his mind:

- We have to be humble before God.
- We should spend less time talking about ourselves and listening to others.
- We need to invest in the young people of this region.

“This doesn’t mean you should join her particular faith”, he emphasized, “or that we should expect some divine inspiration”. Mother Theresa pointed out that the voice of God can be heard where you least expect it. We are here as the sons and daughters of the almighty God and we should treat each other in this way.

At the time of Watergate, the nation was trying to tear down its president and Father Moon gave the message “Forgive, Love and Unite”. It’s easy to forgive someone who is repentant, but what about the ones who are not. Many people spent years in prison. The father of Mirilda Tilly, director of media relations, was in prison for 18 years. We have to find a way to forgive the unforgivable.

President Moisiu said there are 27 million people in the Balkans and 27 million problems and points of view, but what if they were 27 million solutions!?

Dr. Balcomb concluded by saying that, “If the families of Albania can be strong, we can resolve the problems of family breakdown in this region and we have couples coming from all over Albania to the Blessing ceremony this afternoon. Let’s not just be spectators, but also see the possibility of multiplying this kind of activity in your nations: there are more than 40 nations represented here. The E.U. decision was wrong, but we need to show this in a good way. Now we have a chance to put this into practise”.



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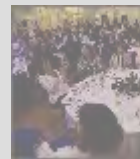


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Closing dinner

Written by UPF Europe

27 October 2019



Speaker: Dr. Afsar Rathor

President, Growth For Peace, Austria

Dr. Afsar Rathor worked as a senior executive in the United Nations responsible for implementing multimillion dollar projects with various UN organizations in Africa, the Caribbean, South America and East Europe. He has extensive experience in the fields of conflict management and peace, project management, poverty alleviation, environment and energy. He left the UN after serving for more than 27 years, in order to dedicate himself to implementing projects in developing countries, funded by International NGOs, in the fields of

poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, education and project and disaster and conflict management. He has conducted several seminars and lectures on leadership, development, project management, the role of research and higher education at universities in developing countries and the E.U. He is also the

President of the organization "Growth For Peace".

Dr. Afsar Rathor started by expressing his appreciation for the professionalism he has seen in UPF and the way they have organized all these conferences, which are building bridges among groups. He explained that it was an amazing experience for him to take a tour of the Balkan nations with UPF during the Balkans Peace Road 2019 and to meet people who were advocating for forgiveness.

He came from a family that has also seen atrocities, in which they had three sayings:

- Forgive
- Forget
- Start a new chapter

Mother Moon said this is a blessed country. What is the way forward into the future?

Referring to Dr. Fasslabend's speech, he mentioned tourism. In 2018, the people of the world spent \$3.6 trillion on tourism. Dr. Rathor also lives in Austria, which has a lot of tourism.

He also mentioned the trade war between the US and China and explained that investors are looking for investments around the world. Albania could be successful in producing Halal food and seafood.

Mother Moon hinted at future opportunities for the Balkans. Nelson Mandela did not fear forgiveness for the sake of peace.



Speaker: Hon. Kimmo Sasi

Former MP and Minister, Finland

Hon. Kimmo Sasi is a Finnish politician and lawyer. He obtained his MBA in Helsinki and Master of Law at Columbia University, USA. A member of the centre-right National Coalition Party, he served as a member of the Parliament of Finland from 1983 to 2015. He served as Minister of Foreign Trade from 1999 to 2001 and as Minister of Transport and Communications in the government of Finland from 2002 to 2003. He was chairman of the parliamentary committee on constitutional affairs from 2003 to 2011, and served as chairman of the standing committee on finance from 2011 to 2015. He served as President of the Nordic Council in 2012.

Hon. Kimmo Sasi from Finland expressed that we have arrived at the right moment in Albania. The European Union made a mistake by not opening negotiations on the membership of North Macedonia and Albania.

The president of Finland once said, "If you have disintegration, you need integration". Every European country has had to meet certain conditions to join the EU.

To get together here with ruling leaders has been very important.

What a human being desires is cooperation and trust in one's own family. When you have learned to act properly in your own family, you can do so in the larger society.

Ms. Teuta Avdyli, an Albanian lady living in London, expressed that she was very moved that Mother Moon chose Albania out of all the countries in Europe.

"It doesn't matter if a nation is poor or rich", she said, "we all need God. As Mother Moon said today, only with God can we become a great nation. This confirmed my feeling that Mother Moon is the Daughter of God".

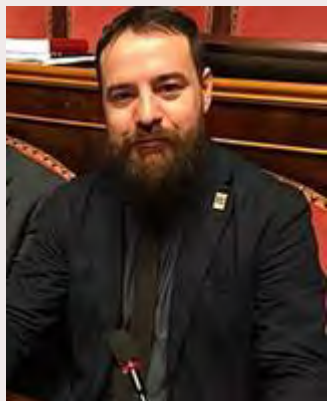
When she met the organization in London, she felt that she belonged to UPF. She was the victim of a lorry

(truck) accident, in which a lorry drove over her legs three times.

No one is like anyone else. Each one of us is a masterpiece.

She thanked thank UPF for its hard work and dedication in putting together this amazing event.

We are about human love. We live to make others happy. We should keep smiling, live intentionally and practice what Mother Moon said, that is to be humble before God; put God first, and put ourselves second.



Speaker: Hon. Roberto Rampi

Member of Parliament, Italy

Hon. Roberto Rampi serves a second mandate as a member of the Italian Parliament. In 2013 he was elected at the House of Deputies for the Democratic Party. In March 2018 he was elected as a Senator and in October 2018 he was appointed to be a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. A philosopher, politician, journalist and actor in the cultural sector, he has worked for the communication and enhancement of cultural heritage. He is a former councilor for culture and vice-mayor of his hometown

of Vimercate, near Milan. Both in his political involvement and private activity, culture is the guiding principle of his work, owing to his belief in the power of cultural development as a pillar of democracy, peace and prosperity, human rights and positive relationship among different civilizations and religions.

Senator Roberto Rampi expressed that he really feels we are a family. He explained that this was his ninth time “going around the world” with UPF and every time he meets special people who give him something special for his life, his work. We are all really part of a family in all the world.



Speaker: Mr. Jacques Marion

President, UPF Europe and the Middle East

Mr. Marion is a French citizen, born in Cameroon. He worked for twelve years with Unification Movement programmes in Northern, Central and Southern Africa. Between 1998 and 2006, he worked in China as a Vice President of the International Educational Foundation, based in Beijing. From 2006 to 2013 he served as Secretary General of UPF Eurasia, based in Moscow. He is currently the president of UPF Europe and the Middle East and the president of UPF France.

Mr. Jacques Marion, president of UPF Europe and the Middle East, started out by thanking all those who came to the Southeast Europe Peace Summit. In addition, he singled out the following persons:

- President Moisiu: Some leaders told us that the reason they chose to work with us is because they respect President Moisiu. Without him, we could not have access to all these leaders.
- The Podgorica Club. The founder could not attend this summit because he had just had surgery, but he asked all the other members of the club to attend our summit.
- Mr. Gani Rroshi – The Secretary General of UPF Albania.
- Hon. Gaqo Apostoli, the Chairman of UPF Albania: Through his connections a lot of people came, including many speakers.

He said he was very happy to hear Mother Moon speak about the Balkan Peninsula. The Balkans have something that Europe should learn about, a tradition that Europe can learn from. “This is a very important place and there is a lot of potential here”, he said.





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Intervention by H.E. Alfred Moisiu

Intervention by H.E. Alfred Moisiu

Written by H.E. Alfred Moisiu, President of Albania (2002-2007)

26 October 2019



Honored Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon,

Dear Mr. President of the Republic of Northern Macedonia,

Dear Mr. President of the Republic of Kosovo,

Distinguished members of the Podgorica Club,

Dear parliamentarians and delegates from 50 different countries of the world

Ambassadors of Peace, friends and guests,

As co-chair of the Organizing Committee of the Peace Summit for Southeast Europe, it is an honor and a great pleasure for me to welcome you to my beautiful country, Albania.

The theme of our conference is "Peace, Security and Human Development". So, important issues for peace and security in the Balkan region will be discussed. The conference is of particular importance because it takes place on the territory of the Balkan Peninsula, which, as Wilson Churchill stated "The Balkans generate more history than they are able to consume ". So it is a region that has had a very turbulent historical past, but also in today's conditions of prolonged peace in Europe still have troubling problems. Ambassadors of Peace of the Republic of Albania, in Kosovo as well as in other areas where Albanians reside, together with their neighbors around, always in their activities, their main goal has been to contribute the best towards understanding and strengthening friendly relations between the peoples of the Western Balkans.

For the organization of this important conference, I would like to thank Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who with her utmost commitment, not only asked for it, but strongly supported it, being present in this activity. I also thank the Albanian Government with Prime Minister Edi Rama for their willingness to support the Summit. Also present at this meeting are current leaders of the region and a considerable number of former heads of state and former prime ministers of the Balkans, whom I thank for being here with us today. In the meantime, I would like to emphasize the special contribution of the Podgorica Club, which joined this initiative, by having the issue of peace and security in the region, as the main guidelines of its activity.

Thank you all for supporting this activity.

The history of the region is full of quarrels, clashes, crimes, revenge and misunderstandings between peoples driven and inspired by various nationalist leaders and by some regressive forces of religious nature. So even though two decades have passed since the last wars that took place in our region, we still do face

great challenges that must be overcome.

We live in a century today when humanity is trying to put aside these kinds of harmful acts between each other, aiming at the normal and contemporary development of their countries, for a more calm and peaceful life. This is precisely the task facing us as ambassadors of peace trying to bring peoples closer together and, especially, trying to get rid of old hatreds by working with dedication for the future of the younger generations, so that they may not inherit these mentalities, but think more about a better future.

However, despite the existing concerns, some problems that still hamper regional understanding remain to be resolved. Specifically, the agreement between Northern Macedonia and Greece is a serious and very important step. Successfully resolving inherited problems between these two countries is an indisputable merit of the current leaders of Northern Macedonia, who for this purpose had to make a national as well as a personal sacrifice. This is an example that everyone from the political class of the region should learn from.

In the meantime, unfortunately, we see that relations between Kosovo and Serbia, as mentioned before by president Thaçi, are still pending, creating a situation that holds potential risks. So far, despite their efforts internationally, a normal and lasting solution to the situation has not been achieved. Political current leaders should put an end to the tensions between the two countries. They must, with courage and accountability to their peoples, find solutions and make the right decisions, overcoming the remnants of past concepts of nationalism. People want peace and tranquility to live a normal life. So, politics must address the problems in a fair and acceptable way.

The situation in Bosnia, of course, also needs to be addressed as well; otherwise, the situation may get worse.

As is well known, an important step for the Western Balkan countries is integration into the Union European and this is as much a challenge as an opportunity. However, we are aware that, despite the homework and problems that each country is facing, we still lack the cooperation at the right level as a region. So we have to face international pressure in order to raise our standards. In the meantime, I think that there is a need to increase understanding within each other, in order for each of us to overcome our own problems.

Therefore, the purpose of this Summit is not only to meet and discuss, but also to find the common basis to address and solve problems that concern us. Our work has consistently been and remains the goal of leaving young people and generations to come the legacy of peace-keeping and peace-thinking work, in order to provide them with a better future.

For this reason, the Summit also includes organizing a gathering of about 2000 young people from Europe and The Balkans, who will exchange ideas with each other and develop joint projects.

But we need to build the future of our region based on strong family traditions that are an important part of our cultures in the Balkans. It is said that "Without a strong and stable family we cannot have stable societies and nations". So this is an issue included in the summit program. I hope by the end of this Summit, the exchange of positive experiences during discussions, as well its conclusions, will be beneficial to our peoples.

To conclude I would like to say a few words to introduce the keynote speaker of our meeting.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation. Together with her husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, she has devoted her life to peace, founding many organizations and initiatives in a wide range of fields.

Dr. and Mrs. Moon both come from Korea, a land that suffered war and division in the 20th century. Both were born in North Korea, experienced oppressive political systems and the suffering life of refugees during the Korean War. This is a reason why they dedicated their life to peace and reconciliation throughout the world.

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon is a devoted wife, the mother of 14 children and the grandmother of more than 40 grandchildren. At the heart of her and her husband's lifelong ministry is the ideal of the family as the

foundation for harmonious societies and the cornerstone of world peace.

Together with her husband, they have travelled around the world to engage world leaders to contribute to peace and reconciliation. I had the opportunity to meet them for the first time in October 2005 when, as the president of Albania, I welcomed them during their inaugural tour of the Universal Peace Federation.

From the time when the most memorable and respected Dr. Sun Myung Moon passed away seven years ago, Mrs. Moon has invested all her energy to continue his legacy and develop the organization.

Dear participants, I am happy and honored to introduce to you this remarkable woman, Dr Hak Ja Han Moon.



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Intervention of Hon. Elisa Spiropali

Intervention of Hon. Elisa Spiropali

Written by Hon. Elisa Spiropali, Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament of Albania

26 October 2019



"Racism, religious intolerance, the destruction of nature and other disasters that occur in our world come about as a result of the serious problems in the human heart. This is where we have to look for the solution of world problems. Hatred in the human heart must be replaced by love."

Ladies and gentlemen,

With these wise and heartfelt words from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, let me express my consideration for this spiritual leader of the Universal Peace Federation. Admirable is the way she is trying to keep the light on on the way to peace, many years after the passing of her husband's, Rev. Sun Myung Moon's passing, through whom she developed the dream and the motive of life.

Undoubtedly, Reverend Moon was a visionary leader able to foresee the challenges of the future and envision innovative strategies to make sure that we move towards true peace.

It is my pleasure and honor to be present at this World Peace Summit, which is taking place in Albania, where racism finds no foothold; where religious intolerance is replaced by religious harmony - an identifying characteristic unmatched anywhere else in the world.

Albanians regard religious tolerance as a fundamental value, more deeply rooted in their moral and social tradition and values than experienced as social practice, belief or policy. Although Albanians greatly appreciate the role of religious community leaders and of the clerics that promote religious tolerance in the country, the key instruments that enable tolerance are related to values, such as respect for individual freedoms and the prevalence of national traditions and awareness beyond religious beliefs; these are the factors enabling religious tolerance. Together, people of all faiths regardless of religion are interconnected by the universalism that faith (in God) grants: Love.

Given the religious diversity of Albanian society, maintaining social cohesion, tolerance and religious harmony even in turbulent times has been a remarkable achievement. Religious tolerance is an Albanian trait, or a social and cultural model, that can be "exported" towards other national and cultural contexts. In view of the above logic, a claim arises internally; to try to find ways to create a better world - a better world, not as an expression of the egoism as "only for myself," but a better world, as a legacy to the generations to come.

The Universal Peace Federation has done this at its best, by holding regular International Leadership Conferences, which are naturally bringing together world leaders around a common vision of peace. To this end, on February 8, 2019, on the occasion of the 2019 World Summit in Seoul, South Korea, was convened the International Peace Summit Council (ISCP) initiated by UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

It's an international network of heads of state and governments who, through dialogue and cooperation, explore solutions and make recommendations to address critical world problems, including climate change and environmental issues, religious conflicts, poverty, war, corruption and family. The ISCP is committed to building a world of peace in which everyone can live in freedom, harmony, cooperation and prosperity. The ISCP upholds the essential principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values and acts as a facilitator and adviser for achieving peace and development.

What we all need to know is the importance of patience in order to achieve peace. No matter how difficult it may be, the path to peace opens with constant perseverance. Be assured of this. With participants from key sectors such as politics, business, the media and religion, these summits have been able to come up with a number of new ways to promote peace, not only nationally but also globally. However, the most important thing is how we receive these messages and learn among ordinary people in different countries and include them in movements. It is impressive how UPF works by addressing issues that are crucial at the global level such as peace.

At this Peace Summit held in Tirana today with its on-going, unstoppable mission to promote the universal values, that we are so much in need these times... when we often, with or without cause, lock ourselves in dark spaces without ever trying to think of the limpidity of what permeates us as "God's Creatures," (God's children) - kindness, altruism - by attaching ourselves to harmful habits to quickly reach success, cutting off the way to the easier path.

Therefore, in order for us not fall into a trap, the learning process must be continuous, a food for the soul, such as the example of this Summit that brings together people who can share their experiences to embody and facilitate empowerment on a path that is not at all easy, but accessible, such as: PEACE! Our country has gone through many challenges, through multiple tunnels of sometimes hallucinatory and other times illuminating contrasts, from the country - once the most isolated place on the globe - to today's country so close to the European family.

It is easy to say in a descriptive sentence, but this has involved years of hard work, trials, struggles and dreams that were shaped precisely by good wishes, by the inner energy of ordinary people.

From yesterday to today, the changes are radical. But does that make us complacent? No! Not at all! We think the opposite. For as long as we breathe, for that long will the problems remain, according to an old proverb. The essence is what can we change, where rather than receiving, we should give, and rather than complaining, we should work harder. The topics to be discussed in this Summit are current, reflecting the need to be together indiscriminately, such as:

- "Towards Peace in Southeast Europe",
- "Peace Education and Human Development",
- "Family values, Peace Values ", etc."

A culture of peace will be achieved when citizens of the world understand global problems; when they'll have the skills to resolve conflicts constructively, when recognizing and living up to international standards of human rights, gender and racial equality; when appreciating cultural diversity; and when respecting the integrity of the Earth. Such a lesson cannot be achieved without self-sufficient and systematic education for global peace".

And with this part of the Hague Appeal for Peace Statement, I conclude my speech by thanking you for your attention and wishing this Summit success going forward.





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Intervention of H.E. Hashim Thaçi

Intervention of H.E. Hashim Thaçi

Written by H.E. Hashim Thaçi, President, Republic of Kosovo

26 October 2019



Dear guests,

This year is 20 years since the end of the war in Kosovo. The peace achieved with the intervention of the North Atlantic Alliance in the spring of 1999 was, above all, the result of a visionary policy of the United States of America and the European Union. This vision ended once and for all the successive tragedies in these parts of the Balkans and Europe, with the hope of transforming that year's peace through a stability pact and a fresh start for the entire region. The European Union's Thessaloniki Summit in 2003, following this major strategic move by Washington and Brussels, formally opened the European Perspective chapter for all Western Balkan countries.

Kosovo became an (independent) state in February 2008. Along with the first recognitions of Kosovo's independence, came the message of a European perspective for the newest state in the region and in Europe. What happened next involved transforming peace into a permanent state and the long-term stability between the state and the people of this part of Europe. No one in the region or in Brussels can boast of the results of this common project. 20 years ago, peace brought tremendous enthusiasm to all of us, whether politicians or citizens of this part of Europe.

I do not believe that there was a politician or citizen of Kosovo, or anywhere in this part of the Balkans, who could have assumed that 20 years later, this whole region would not become part of the European Union. Who would have believed that the relationship between these states and peoples would not have followed the example of France and Germany in the first 20 years after the end of World War II. In the summer of 1999, no one could have imagined that 20 years later we would still not have a political agreement with Serbia on mutual recognition and no circumstances for good neighborly relations. Great opportunities have been missed to reach this agreement, and we have always been ready to reach out.

Sustainable peace in the Western Balkans largely depends on lasting peace between the state of Kosovo and that of Serbia, that is a comprehensive agreement between Kosovo and Serbia, which cannot end without their mutual recognition as two independent and sovereign nations. This agreement, however, is also known to have a very significant political and economic impetus on the part of the European Union. We are aware of Brussels' speculations, suspicions, and setbacks regarding the Western Balkan nations. We in Kosovo are paying a heavy price for the postponing of the visa liberalization decision for the citizens of Kosovo, so we have been wronged, as have also been Albania and Northern Macedonia. But I am sure that none of this, whether it be for Kosovo, or for our friends in Albania or in Northern Macedonia, raises any questions or doubts about what we should do and how we should treat the European Union from now on.

We seek to become member states of the European Union as soon as possible, because we envisage no other political or historical destiny; indeed, we are not even seeking a different fate or future. Here, I have to refer again to my deep conviction that it would be best for all Western Balkan states to join the European Union together. Of course, in the meantime, they would have to settle all disputes among themselves as nations, that is, our disputes. I am convinced that the Kosovar political scene has the common will to continue talks with the Serbian high authorities as soon as possible, with the strong push of the United States of America and the European Union, for a comprehensive agreement. We don't have time to lose. The time and the international circumstances that are unpredictable are not our allies. There is no alternative beyond dialogue; on the contrary, it also speeds up the process of Euro-Atlantic membership. Once again, thank you very much for your attention and congratulations on this Summit. Thank you!



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Intervention of H.E. Stevo Pendarovski

Intervention of H.E. Stevo Pendarovski

Written by H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, President of North Macedonia



26 October 2019

Distinguished attendees, esteemed Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen, it's a great pleasure for me to address this European Peace Summit in South East European Tirana, in friendly Albania. Let me thank our Albanian hosts, for their hospitality, and the organizers for the important discussion topics on the agenda. I believe that the international Summit Peace Council will become part of the regional platform of current and former politicians who will offer solutions for peace and development in our region to open a substantial dialogue.

The general topic of our panel is Peace in Southeastern Europe through interdependence, mutual prosperity and respecting universal values. These three paradigms are so frequently used that they have become part of every day political and diplomatic journal. There is no conference, forum or summit which doesn't mention at least one aspect of this triad. There is no meeting where we fail to focus on peace and stability and overall development and cooperation in the region. Hence my intention today is not to repeat what we already all know and agree on. Instead I would like to begin my address by stating that these days in the region and especially in North Macedonia and Albania, we are facing a situation that occupies our personal and professional attention and rightly leads to disappointment; not only for ourselves, but also for our partners and allies.

The failure of setting a date for the start of the accession of North Macedonia and Albania, as well as the absence of visa liberalization for Kosovo at the last EU Council, despite the delivered results, has the potential to undermine support for the European values in our countries and societies. Starting from this point today, I would like to talk about the responsibility we, as politicians and leaders, have in these moments, both in terms of peace and in terms of prosperity and respect of universal values in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm deeply convinced that the trends to peace and stability start at home, in our societies. When institutions cannot respond to the needs of their citizens, and only then, they induce fear into our foreign policies and security. Over the years, the countries in the region have often been held hostage by corrupt and disoriented political leaders, in association with oligarchic business groups. We were confronted with anti-liberal and basically anti-democratic tendencies, and trapped between the citizens' aspiration for democratization and totalitarian practices still alive among certain segments of the administrations. Such regimes and leaders have lead to disastrous consequences for the region and have become an obstacle to the normal development of good neighborly relations.

For me, as I have witnessed many events in the recent past, the leadership crises that we have faced in many years are overwhelming. There is virtually no peace project in the Balkans that is an authentic

product of the Balkan leaders without the serious involvement of the international community. Peace in Bosnia, Kosovo, the Auhik agreement of Kosovo independence, the Prespa agreement in my country, were all achieved the with serious involvement of international actors. Although the picture is slightly and slowly changing, the challenges remain.

In the last few years, the civil society in Southeast Europe has become real and resilient and represents the pluralism of different interests, identities and ideas for peace and policies. Today, we have political needs in the region with an undeniable democratic capacity but, on the other hand, we must not forget that the wave of populism and radical nationalism that Europe is facing is still finding a fruitful ground in the Balkans.

Therefore, as leaders taught by historical experiences, we have a huge responsibility to resist the current negative trends and to lead our societies based on European values. I strongly believe that for the further democratization of the societies and states in the region, we increasingly need interactions between the political leaders, as well as between individuals and groups in all spheres, to produce lasting peace in the region, as well as the conditions for further sustainable economic and democratic development, which will result later in more comprehensive connectivity.

From my point of view, the basic narrative that we should continue to propagate in the Balkans as responsible leaders is that democracy and universal values must prevail over populism, inflammable rhetoric and ethnic exclusion. With such a narrative, we should continue to create an atmosphere of trust, friendship and understanding that will be enable us to make steps to realistically solve problems. The first step is the readiness for a rational response to the outstanding open issues in the region, rather that going for further tensions and divisions.

My persevering in promoting such an approach towards the problems: we are actually introducing the European standards into our societies, despite the fact that, for many, the European perspective for the region, in the light of Brussels' latest decision, is fading away. A very important segment on which peace and stability depend is investing in young populations, enabling them to play a greater role in creating their own future.

The young generations in the region have expectations and dreams and there's a growing number of those who pursue their expectations and dreams in European societies. Unemployment and youth frustration with the lack of a future is a time bomb for all of our societies and certainly a fertile ground for actors with radical agendas. Our constant task must be to educate young people that respecting and understanding one another and coexistence are an investment in a more prosperous future.

Third and no less important, and I would say the most topical, is commitment to stay on the Euro-Atlantic path, which for our region has no credible alternative. I'd like to give strong support to the NATO and EU integration processes of all countries in the region and once again thank the European leaders who have not stopped supporting us in the past few days to start negotiations with the European Union. In my opinion, the integration processes are transforming our states, creating partners that have clear, open, transparent, democratic, accountable and most importantly predictable policies.

Hence, our vital interest, as the geographically central state in the region, regardless of the latest developments, is to begin negotiations with the European Union, just as some of our neighbors did not so long ago. Whether or not we succeed in our endeavors, I'm convinced will depend primarily on ourselves. We will succeed only if we make peace our primary responsibility and the prosperity of all of us and of our region the primary goal of all the responsible politicians. Thank you for your attention.



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