

# Report on Albanian UPF National Assembly

Hotel Tirana International, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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Dear Ambassadors for Peace and friends of UPF,

Warm greetings from Albanian UPF!

We are very happy to report that on the occasion of UPF's 15<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary, we organized a beautiful event to commemorate this historical day. Around 130 Ambassadors for Peace from Albania and Kosovo gathered at Tirana International Hotel under strict safety regulations of covid19 pandemic.



The event was moderated by. Dr. Saemira Pino, member of UPF board and former Minister of Education and Health. She emphasized the important contribution UPF has given during these years around the world and in Albania.

The Chairwoman of Albanian Peace Council Hon. Rajmonda Stefa, welcomed participants and presented few of highlights of UPF's journey during last 15 years.





One of the keynote speakers was H. E. Alfred Moisiu, Former President of Albania (2002-2007), now the Chairman of ISCP Balkans. On his speech President Moisiu said *“I say with pride that I have been part of the journey of the Universal Peace Federation since 2005, when its founders, Rev. and Mrs. Moon, visited Albania as part of their inauguration tour in 100 countries around the world, and I received them at the government residence in Durrës on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Rev. Moon impressed me from our first meeting with his far-sighted vision and his special approach to preserving and strengthening family and religious harmony. After completing my term as President, with pleasure I have been part of national, regional and world activities by engaging in high-level conferences and summits and I say with conviction that the Universal Peace Federation in these 15 years has managed to become an influential factor in the international arena.”*

The second keynote speaker was H. E. Prof. Fatmir Sejdiu, Former President of Kosovo (2006-2010). In his address President Sejdiu said the following: *“I believe it is very important to express our appreciation for the great work UPF has done for Albania and Kosovo during these years. I have to say the work of UPF is extraordinary. I have attended many international events and they all were great, but we also should be proud of the high-level events we have organized here. I believe that with the capacities that UPF has, with the new generation of leadership coming up, its spirit will continue and surely we will address important issues which are important and will be helpful also to the state institutions...”*



The third keynote speak was His Eminence Father Edmond Brahimaj, the world leader of Muslim Order of Bektashis whose HQ are in Albania. In his speech on this occasion he said: *“It is an honor and privilege for me to address this wonderful audience and convey the support of millions of bektashies around the world. The events organized by UPF for sure will be remembered for long time, not only for their sizes, geography and topics they addressed, but especially for the substance of the messages conveyed for all generations.”*

The Chairman of UPF Europe, Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, sent a video message to greet all participants. Dr. Otsuka mentioned that *“I am deeply appreciating your splendid contribution for the development of the UPF foundation in Albania and Kosovo. I want to salute your great work for establishing the Local Peace Councils in all 61 municipalities of Albania. I strongly believe that all of you have an extremely important roles, not only in the Western Balkans, but also in the entire Europe. I cannot forget what Mother Moon, the Co-Founder UPF, said last year at the Tirana Summit where she emphasized the role of Albanian Ambassadors for Peace and Albania towards building peace in the region and Europe. 15 years have passed since UPF was founded in 2005 and it has been expanding very fast all around the world. I hope that the Albanian and Kosovo UPF chapters will keep playing leading roles as front runners, holding high the torch of UPF”.*



Afterwards, words of appreciation and reflection on the work of UPF during the past 15 years were given by UPF leaders in Albania and Kosovo including prof. Flamur Shehu, Dr. Niko Veizaj and Mrs. Majlinda Mema as Vice Chairs of UPF Albania, Dr. Astrit Memia and Dr. Nora Malaj Deputy Chairs of National Assembly and Hon. Hydajet Hyseni former MP and the first Chair of UPF Kosovo.



One the second part of the even we held the National Assembly of UPF Albania and organized the election of new leadership for the next two years. The Assembly session was moderated by Hon. Gaqo Apostoli, Chairman of UPF Albania who asked several regional chairs of UPF Peace Councils to share their experiences and make some analysis of the work done in the last 3 years.



At the end of the event, the Assembly elected the new leadership of UPF Albania as follows:

The Leadership of UPF Presiding Council:

- Dr. Eva Çipi – Chairwoman of UPF Albania
- Prof. Flamur Shehu – Deputy Chairman
- Mr. Abdulla Domi – Deputy Chairman
- Mr. Myzaljen Hoxha – Deputy Chairman
- Dr. Nora Malaj – Deputy Chairwoman

The Leadership of UPF National Assembly:

- Hon. Rajmonda Stefa – Chairwoman of UPF National Assembly
- Dr. Niko Veizaj – Deputy Chairman
- Dr. Astrit Memia – Deputy Chairman
- Mrs. Majlinda Mema – Deputy Chairwoman





After finishing his mandate as Chairman of UPF for 4 years, Mr. Gaqo Apostoli will serve as Coordinator of Albanians' Peace Council in other countries where there is an Albanian community. In his address Mr. Apostoli said: *"The fact that Mother Moon declared our nation as the Heavenly Albania during the Tirana Summit 2019 gives is a divine blessing and I strongly believe it is the merit of all of you who have worked hard with dedication, desire and love, sacrificing for the sake of others without expecting any material gain. For this I thank You from the bottom of my heart. The process of change in leadership will further enhance individual and collective energies, increase the synergy of the FPU management team and bring bigger results."*

The newly elected Chairwoman of UPF in her greeting address after being approved by everyone said the following: *"True Parents are two people who have dedicated their whole life to world peace, and in this journey they had to go through everything; experiencing rejection and persecution by all on one side, and reaching out and education world leaders on the other side. They have been working for peace, cooperation and conciliation and what they have achieved is almost a miracle, I would say. All of us should feel proud to be Ambassadors for Peace and work together with Mother Moon at this time to advance the mission of peace. I want to thank you all for trusting me to lead UPF during this mandate and I believe we will work together as a team, as we have done so far under the great leadership of Mr. Apostoli."*

**Reported by UPF Albania**

## **Strategic meeting of UPF Presiding Council, Albania**

**On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**, 36 days after the National Assembly, amidst pandemic, the newly elected Presiding Council of UPF held its first meeting to discuss about the plan of activities for 2021.



20 members of the Presiding Council and secretaries of Regional Peace Councils met at the office of UPF. The main activities which were decided for the remaining 2 months of 2020 and 2021 were:

**1. The promotion of the Memoir of Mother Moon “Mother of Peace”**

The first event to promote Mother Moon’s memoir was held on October 31<sup>st</sup>, at Tirana International hotel where 130 participated and around 60 AfPs.



**Goals were set up to organize 21 events** to promote the book. Already 5 locations were decided.

**2. Expanding Local Peace Councils and educating Ambassadors for peace on national level**

In the meeting was decided to encourage each Local Peace Council to organize at least 1 event during 2021. While regional Peace Councils will organize more than one.

**In total the goal is to organize 70 events on local and regional level.**

**3. Establishing Albanians’ Peace Councils in Europe and other places.**

Mr. Apostoli will develop a strategy how to move forward with Albanians’ Peace Councils.

**Already the preparations are going on for the Peace Council to be established in Germany.**

**4. Events for Albanians’ Peace Council in the Balkans**

Coordinators of Albanians’ Peace Council in the Balkans, Mr. Ali Laçe and Mr. Hydajet Hyseni are making preparations to organize an event in Albania in May 2021.

**5. Online Activities**

Due to covid19 pandemic and restrictions, most probably we will focus more on doing our events online. For this reason, we will prepare a protocol for giving the title Ambassador for Peace through online events. For this we have to make sure the technical aspect and serosity of people.

**6. Events organized by the UPF Commissions**

Based of UPF International initiatives, we established 8 UPF commissions and in the meeting was decided that each commission should aim to organize 1 event during 2021 with focus on their respective area; parliamentarians, academicians, media, religious leaders, youth, art & economy.

**7. Events in partnership with other NGO and institutions**

One of the goals of UPF is to build partnerships with other organizations, NGO and central or local government. For this we will aim to find partners who share same or similar goals as UPF.

**8. Applying for Grants, developing projects**

One of the commissions of UPF Albania will focus on developing projects and apply for grants on different institutions, national or international. **Our goal is to gain one project during 2021.**

**9. Publishing a Periodical Magazine of UPF Albania**

During the meeting it was decided to publish a magazine on UPF activities, twice a year. It will be available online and printed version. **The first copy will be published by end of 2020.**

**10. Producing emblems with UPF logos**

In order to make UPF more known, we decided to research for and produce emblems with UPF logos for Ambassadors for Peace. Printing masks with UPF logos was a proposal in the meeting.

**11. Preparing Visit Cards for UPF Board Members and ID Cards for Chairs of Peace Councils**

A proposal of the meeting was for Secretariat of UPF to prepare Visit Cards for all UPF Board Members and also to prepare ID Cards with individual photos for 61 Chairs of Peace Councils.

**THE GOAL OF UPF ALBANIA IS TO ORGANIZE 100 EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY DURING 2021, AND IF THE PANDEMIC WILL NOT RESTRICT US, WE WILL BE ABLE TO APPOINT 500 NEW AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE DURING 2021.**

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