

## UPF Burkina Faso Conference Promotes Social Cohesion

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**Pô, Burkina Faso** – In the city of Pô, the capital of Nahouri Province, UPF-Burkina Faso (UPF-BF) organized a peace conference on December 27, 2025, with the objectives of promoting peace and strengthening social cohesion, as well as expanding the national network of ambassadors for peace.

The event brought together a wide cross-section of society, including administrative authorities, traditional leaders, religious figures, women leaders, youth representatives, and economic actors. This gathering formed part of UPF's contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in response to current challenges related to reconciliation, national unity, and social harmony.

The conference opened in an inclusive atmosphere, with a welcome address by the representative of the chief of the Canton of Pô, who emphasized the importance of dialogue and community responsibility. This was followed by an official opening speech from the high commissioner of Nahouri Province, who called on participants to become active contributors to peacebuilding efforts at both local and national levels.

A video presentation by the secretary general of UPF-BF, **Mr. Thomas Diarra**, guided participants through UPF's history, vision, and mission, its founding principles and global peace initiatives. This was followed by a presentation on the Five Principles of the Ambassadors for Peace, delivered by **Mr. Parfait Dena**, secretary general of UPF-Mali, who encouraged participants to embrace ethical leadership,

dialogue, and service to their communities.

A major highlight of the event was the ceremony of distinction, in which certificates of recognition were presented to key institutions, including the Royal Palace, the High Commissioner’s Office, and the Municipality of Pô, in appreciation of their commitment to peace and social cohesion. In addition, 21 new ambassadors for peace were named, representing a diverse group of leaders, including prefects and mayors, traditional and religious leaders, women leaders, economic operators, and youth leaders, reflecting UPF’s inclusive approach to peacebuilding.



One of the new ambassadors for peace shared a moving testimony, stating: “This distinction commits us to becoming true artisans of peace. It also calls on us to take ownership of civic education programs and promote responsible citizenship within our respective communities.” This reflection echoed the shared sentiment among participants and reinforced the sense of collective responsibility present throughout the event.

Overall, the atmosphere of the conference was marked by respect, engagement, and a strong spirit of collaboration.