

UPF-International Peace Summit 2023: Executive Summary

Thomas G. Walsh
May 6, 2023

Seoul, South Korea -- Peace Summit 2023 gathered global leaders in Seoul, Korea, from May 2 to 6 to discuss the many crises facing the global village and a pathway to peace.

The conference theme, "Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace," called on the more than 700 participants from 68 nations which may include day guests from overseas to consider innovative approaches to leadership and action based on the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values.

Welcome Dinner

The welcome dinner took place in the Lotte World Hotel, Seoul on May 2, 2023. Emcee **Mrs. Blessie G. Dhakal**, the International Coordinator of IAFLP, gracefully welcomed the participants. Many of them had just arrived from long journeys. They were happy to greet old friends, take pictures, and sit down to a superb dinner.

Archbishop Johannes Ndanga, Special Advisor, IAPD Africa, Zimbabwe, then offered the invocation, beautifully describing our relationship with the created world. **Prof. Dr. Sanjay Pratap Singh**, Vice Chancellor, The Assam Royal Global University, India, shared some words of greetings. He emphasized that it was the good legacy of UPF Co-Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon that caused so many good people from around the world to gather as one family in that very room.

H.E. Anote Tong, President (2003-2016), Kiribati; Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate (2015), followed by talking about the ecological crisis that caused flood water to reach the door of his own home on Kiribati. **Soprano Kim Jeong-jin** performed three lovely songs including, "Oh sole mio," and "Over the rainbow," before **Dr. Thomas Walsh**, UPF International Chairman, gave an overview of the program and highlighted some of the special features of Peace Summit 2023.

Opening Plenary

The Summit was inaugurated with a beautiful choral performance by the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea. Religious leaders from across the world made their entrance and conducted a water ceremony, including: **Baba Kalidas Dahal** from India, **Father Dr. Emerick Bissila Mbila** of the African Union, and **Ven. Won Young Jin** of Korea.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, chair of UPF International and co-chair of the Organizing Committee of Peace Summit 2023, expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone for their willingness to participate and work collaboratively and multilaterally for world peace. "It has become increasingly clear over the past decades that interreligious peace is a critical and necessary aspect of any effort to achieve the goal of lasting world peace."

Dr. Yun Young-ho, the other Organizing Committee co-chair, emphasized the need for continental unity as a necessary strategy for world peace. "Now is the moment for all of us to courageously unite our hearts and minds, transcending the boundaries of nations and continents, to manifest a heavenly unified world characterized by interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values, in the pursuit of the common good," Dr. Yun said.

By video, **H.E. Donald Trump** (USA), **H.E. Hun Sen** (Cambodia), and **H.E. Macky Sall** (Senegal) sent congratulatory remarks. In person, congratulatory speakers included **Hon. Newt Gingrich**, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and **H.E. Aziz Rajapaksa**, the deputy speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament.

A spirit of peace and harmony filled the ceremony. Keynote speeches were delivered by **H.E. Brigi Rafini**, secretary general of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); **H.E. Maithripala Sirisena**, the former president of Sri Lanka; and **Mr. Jim Rogers**, an advisor to UPF.

Hon. Mike Pompeo, the former U.S. secretary of state, said, "I had the privilege to serve for 1,000 days as America's most senior diplomat. I saw that organizations like UPF, the work of Mother Moon matters. We should not lose hope. We should not stop the climb. We will reach the summit and God will be with us."

H.E. Yves Leterme, the former prime minister of Belgium, said, "Countries that are interconnected, with economic openness and interfaith openness, don't go to war."

In the Founder's Address, **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** said: "All of you gathered here today are righteous people whom Heaven has blessed. I pray that we will all join hands together in the historic and providential ranks of those who are blessed and realize the dream of one family of humankind under the Heavenly Parent of Peace."

Marking the inauguration of the **Elders' Roundtable**, Dr. Moon bestowed appointment certificates upon 12 distinguished members of the council. The eminent individuals are connected by continent as the highest-ranking members of the Elders' Council.

The opening plenary joyfully concluded with a presentation of plaques of appreciation, festive songs and a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dr. Moon.

Inaugural Elders' Roundtable

In celebration of those appointed as the highest ranking members of the world Elders' Council, Dr. Moon hosted the inaugural meeting of the Elders' Roundtable.

Congratulatory remarks were given by **Mr. Kim Ho-il**, the chairman of the Korean Elders Council, and **H.E. Alfred Moisiu**, the former president of Albania, followed by impressions from **H.E. Maithripala Sirisena**, the former president of Sri Lanka, **Hon. Newt Gingrich**, former U.S. Speaker of the House, **H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni**, former president of Benin, **Hon. Sang-hoon Lee**, former Korean minister of national defense and chair of the National Elders' Roundtable, and **H.E. Anote Tong**, former president of Kiribati and Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate. **Dr. Moon** expressed her hope that the elders making up this roundtable would share their wisdom of life and practice true love for the sake of our entire humanity.

Concurrent Sessions by Region

Eight sessions comprised the Summit. One set featured perspectives from the major regions of the world: one with a focus on Africa, another on the Asia-Pacific region, then Europe and the Middle East, North America, and Latin America. Moderated by the UPF chairs and regional secretaries general of each region, expert panelists offered their recommendations for a way forward beyond conflict and division and toward harmony and cooperation.

Kosovo's Prime Minister **Albin Kurti** said: "We believe that development and growth without human rights, without political pluralism, without democracy, without rule of law, is not sustainable, is not fair and it's harmful for human dignity. We must have human dignity, freedom and rights and liberties for the people, but also overall economic growth which becomes well-being for the citizens."

Concurrent Sessions by UPF Associations

Another series of sessions featured insights and recommendations from the various sectors of our society, including the political, the religious, academia, the media, and business. These sessions were organized by the international coordinators of each of UPF's associations, including ISCP, IAPP, IAPD, IMAP, IAED, and IAAP. This approach to peace is collaborative and multi-sectoral. All sectors of society are needed to build a world of peace.

UPF's International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP), supported by the HJ Academic Foundation, hosted an international academic symposium on the theme, "Peace Ideology and Vision for a Peace Movement on Each Continent." Scholars from around the world presented on the peace movement, peace ideology, the role of religion in each continent, and the role of the UN and the Universal Peace Federation.

6th Think Tank 2022 Forum

Under the theme "Toward Peace in the Indo-Pacific," **Dr. Michael Pillsbury**, senior fellow for China Strategy at the Hudson Institute, a conservative American think tank based in Washington, D.C., served as the main speaker for the **6th Think Tank Forum**, which was co-hosted with *The Washington Times* and *Segye Ilbo*.

Dr. Pillsbury gave a penetrating analysis of the region's situation and proposed an interesting scenario for discussion: "If Xi Jinping used force or coercion against Taiwan, it could affect the decision-making of North Korea. The Chinese could even encourage North Korea to create a second front for the Americans, so there'd be two wars going at the same time."

Among the other speakers: **Dr. Kim Geun-Sik**, who chairs the Unification Committee of South Korea's ruling People Power Party; **Dr. Chheng Kimlong** of Cambodia's Asian Vision Institute; Korean parliamentarian **Hon. Lee Jung Mun**; and former U.S. Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo**, who said Henry

Kissinger-era China policies "may have made sense in 1972 or even 1982," but are no longer appropriate because of recent Chinese actions such as its aggressive stance toward Taiwan.

IAYSP Conference

The International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) gathered young leaders from around the world for in-depth discussion following keynote addresses by Sunhak Peace Prize laureates **H.E. Anote Tong**, the former president of Kiribati, and **Dr. Sakena Yacoobi**, the executive director of the Afghan Institute of Learning. The laureates presented on "The Climate Crisis and the Role of Future Generations" and "The Reality of Afghan Refugees and the Role of Youth." The commentator was **Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye**, a senior consultant to CEN-SAD's regional youth programs.

Closing

UPF Chair Dr. Walsh reiterated the impact of UPF and its track record and reputation as a serious discussion platform for global intellectuals to brainstorm, exploring the direction humanity should take and put into practice. Speakers underscored the important recognition that a collaborative and multisectoral approach to peace is needed, especially through cooperation between nations. The program concluded with mutual expressions of gratitude for the hospitality provided by UPF and everyone's contribution to making Peace Summit 2023 a meaningful step toward a world of peace.

This is an ongoing report. Check back for updates.

Media Articles (partial list): ["China's Disinformation Successes Causing Policy Paralysis"](#) by [Andrew Salmon](#) - The Washington Times, May 4, 2023

["Pompeo: U.S. Must Recognize China-North Korea Nuke Connection"](#) by [Guy Taylor](#) - The Washington Times, May 4, 2023

["South Korea Imperatives to Help Ensure Peace on the Peninsula"](#) by Newt Gingrich - The Washington Times, May 15, 2023

Press release:

[Pre-event](#)

[Post-event](#)

[Schedule Booklet \(Includes welcome letter but not all speaker updates\)](#)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE WITH VIDEO LINKS

Wednesday, May 3

Session I: [Opening Plenary](#)

Session II: Concurrent Sessions

1. [Focus on North America](#)
2. [Elders Roundtable](#)

Session III: Concurrent Sessions

1. [Focus on Asia Pacific](#)
2. [Focus on Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

Session IV: Concurrent Sessions

1. [Focus on Africa](#)
2. [Interreligious Association for Peace and Development \(IAPD\)](#)
3. [International Association of First Ladies for Peace \(IAFLP\)](#)

Thursday, May 4

Session V: [Think Tank 2022 Forum](#)

Session VI: Concurrent Sessions

[Focus on Europe and the Middle East](#)
[International Association of Academicians for Peace \(IAAP\)](#)
[International Association of Youth and Students for Peace \(IAYSP\)](#)

Session VII: Concurrent Sessions

[International Media Association for Peace \(IMAP\), International Association for Peace and Economic Development \(IAED\)](#)
[International Association of Academicians for Peace \(IAAP\)](#)
[International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace \(IAPP\)](#)



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China's disinformation successes causing policy paralysis

Democracies must work smarter to best Beijing, forum told



A security guard stands near a sculpture of the Chinese Communist Party flag at the Museum of the Communist Party of China on May 26, 2022, in Beijing. China's military flew 38 fighter jets and other warplanes near Taiwan, the ... more >

SUBSCRIBER-ONLY

By Andrew Salmon - The Washington Times - Thursday, May 4, 2023

SEOUL, South Korea — Policymakers must defy increasingly effective and sophisticated Chinese disinformation efforts to get a realistic grasp of the issues and keep East Asia's hot spots from exploding into war.

Amid an intensifying Chinese-U.S. battle for influence raging across multiple domains — ideological, political, economic and military — this key message emerged from the “Toward Peace in the Indo-Pacific” forum, organized Thursday in the South Korean capital by the Universal Peace Federation.

Given East Asia's economic dynamism and the potential for conflict in numerous areas, the region's importance is obvious even to distant leaders.

“Developments in the Indo-Pacific are having an impact on Southeast Europe,” Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti told the UPF forum. “India, China and Indonesia account for more than half of the world's population ... 60% of world GDP is concentrated [in the region], and it is home to seven of the world's largest armies.”

Asian conflicts sometimes struggle to reach the front pages while carnage engulfs Ukraine, but analysts say several crises are quietly simmering and threatening to boil over.

Former Austrian Defense Minister and parliamentary speaker Werner Fasslabend said three Indo-Pacific flashpoints — the divided Korean Peninsula, Taiwan and the South

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QUESTION OF THE DAY

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- ☐ MOST OF IT
- ☐ SOME OF IT
- ☐ NO, DUMP IT
- ☐ UNSURE, HAVEN'T READ IT

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three Indo-Pacific flashpoints — the divided Korean peninsula, [Taiwan](#) and the South China Sea — are “probably the hottest spots you can find in coming years.”

SEE ALSO: Risk of war with China over Taiwan is real, intel leaders warn

“What can be the means to secure peace?” Mr. Fasslabend asked.

The forum’s organizer, the UPF, is a global body founded by Hak Ja Han Moon, the widow of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The couple also founded The Washington Times.

China’s genius for disinformation

Forum participants agreed that [China](#) stands out as the key to all three crises, either as a potential brake on North Korean aggression or as an accelerant in the clash with the U.S. and its allies over [Taiwan](#) and control of the South China Sea. [China](#)’s increasing efforts to shape the narrative with disinformation, an art at which [China](#) has historically excelled, are making all three problems harder to solve.

[China](#)’s “gray zone” tactics in the information wars are nothing new in the land that birthed master strategist Sun Tzu.

“Chinese strategy has a tremendous concern with manipulating the other side’s view,” said [Michael Pillsbury](#), an analyst who has worked on [China](#) policy with multiple U.S. administrations.

SEE ALSO: Pompeo: U.S. must recognize China-North Korea nuke connection

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Pompeo: U.S. must recognize China-North Korea nuke connection



Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2023, Friday, March 3, 2023, at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File) [more >](#)

NEWSMAKER

By Guy Taylor - The Washington Times - Thursday, May 4, 2023

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. should view China and North Korea as “part and parcel of a single entity,” said former CIA Director and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who thinks the Biden administration must be more clear-eyed about the links between Chinese and North Korean nuclear weapons programs.

U.S. intelligence officials have expressed increasing alarm at the aggressive expansion of China’s nuclear weapons arsenal and infrastructure in recent years. Since the beginning of 2022, North Korea has stepped up its schedule of ballistic missile launches and exercises ahead of a widely expected nuclear weapons test.

“We should think about their nuclear programs as being related,” Mr. Pompeo told The Washington Times. He said the U.S. and its allies “should hold the Chinese Communist Party responsible for [North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s] nuclear behavior as well.”

Mr. Pompeo, who was at the center of the Trump administration’s high-stakes attempts to negotiate an all-or-nothing denuclearization deal with Mr. Kim, made the assertions in a wide-ranging interview with The Washington Times while attending a conference on the situation in East Asia this week in South Korea.

He spoke just days after the Biden administration announced that it would soon dock a nuclear-armed U.S. submarine in South Korea. The move is a response to the growing nuclear concerns over North Korea and China’s aggressive moves toward Taiwan.

In the interview, Mr. Pompeo weighed in on Russia’s war in Ukraine, critiqued President Biden’s wider foreign policy and commented on his decision not to seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2024.

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The 59-year-old West Point alumnus and former congressman from Kansas said he and his wife, Susan, carefully weighed all aspects of the decision, including “family” and “personal issues” before deciding “it just wasn’t our moment.” He also left open the possibility of a future run.

“There’s still a long ways to go,” he said. “Perhaps one day the Lord will say, ‘Nope, you should go run for president.’”

Although some conservatives have expressed doubts about the strong U.S. support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, Mr. [Pompeo](#) said he visited Kyiv last month to “express my gratitude for the amazing work that [Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy] and the Ukrainian people have done to push back against the evil that [Russian President] Vladimir Putin has inflicted on them.”

The war can end only with “a negotiated solution,” he said, but he stressed that reaching such a solution will require the West to maintain its resolve in providing Ukraine the necessary resources to “push back” the Russians.

“There’s a [Ukrainian] counteroffensive that sounds like it will begin before too terribly long,” Mr. [Pompeo](#) said. “I pray that they are successful.”

Time to ‘arm Taiwan’

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South Korea imperatives to help ensure peace on the peninsula

Stopping cybercrime and creating anti-missile umbrella over it and Japan



Illustration on protecting South Korea with missile defense system by Greg Groesch/The Washington Times more >

COMMENTARY

By Newt Gingrich - Monday, May 15, 2023

OPINION:

Callista, my wife, and I recently visited South Korea to participate in Peace Summit 2023, an event hosted by the Universal Peace Federation. The federation is a remarkable organization with activities in nearly 140 countries, and the summit was an amazing experience.

Visiting Seoul is always fascinating, and this year it was especially educational.

We joined a Washington Times Foundation delegation in a special briefing by key South Korean intelligence experts. As you might expect, South Korea pays extremely careful attention to Kim Jong Un and the North Korean dictatorship. Their common understanding of the Korean language and culture makes them the preeminent analysts of Pyongyang.

Based on their briefings, two large but vital projects became obvious.

First, there is an enormous cyber theft hole in the sanctions levied against North Korea. This is providing an astonishing amount of money to the Kim dictatorship to finance its missile and nuclear weapons programs.

Second, the recent North Korean missile firings have put renewed emphasis on analyzing the country's non-nuclear ballistic threat to the Republic of Korea.

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QUESTION OF THE DAY

Let's consider each challenge.

We were told North Korea is earning an estimated \$1.2 billion a year through cybercrime. This is an enormous funding source for Mr. Kim’s military research and development program.

There should be an all-out effort by the combined U.S., South Korean and Japanese intelligence services to lock down North Korea’s ability to steal on the internet. If Mr. Kim can count on more than \$1 billion a year in theft, the effect of other sanctions is dramatically weakened. Closing this loophole is vital to slowing down the North Korean military program.

Second, the scale of the North Korean missile program is growing and involves conventional as well as nuclear weapons.

As Time magazine reported on April 12, North Korea completed a record 68 missile tests in 2022, “and there are no signs that the country plans to let up.”

The magazine reported that in early April, North Korea shot an intercontinental ballistic missile toward the East Sea, which separates the Korean Peninsula from Japan. It was the 12th missile test this year.

“North Korea has reportedly fired 26 projectiles, including short-range and intercontinental ballistic missiles, over 11 test launches in just the first three months of this year,” Time reported.

North Korea could do enormous damage to [Seoul](#) with conventional missiles. [Seoul](#) is an extraordinarily modern city of nearly 10 million people and is only 31 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. The human casualties would be devastating.

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Peace Summit 2023: Toward A World Culture of Peace

Universal Peace Federation Assembles Global Leaders

To Develop New Model for Leadership, Action

TARRYTOWN, N.Y.—Global leaders are gathering in South Korea to discuss contemporary challenges to global well-being and ways to advance toward a “world culture of peace,” the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) has announced.

The UPF **Peace Summit 2023** will be held **May 2-6**, with events in Seoul and nearby areas. Delegations from more than 150 countries, including heads of state, first ladies, and government leaders, will join parliamentarians, religious leaders, media professionals, business leaders and academicians to explore prospects for greater regional cooperation and increased efforts toward peacebuilding.

“We stand at a critical juncture in history, with rising threats to peace emerging across the globe; our awareness of this unstable context underscores the importance of our work during Peace Summit 2023,” said **Dr. Thomas G. Walsh**, Chairman of UPF International.

The events will be live-streamed from South Korea, beginning at 9:30 a.m. KST on May 3, and will be accessible simultaneously in time zones around the world and in different languages. In the United States, the Opening Plenary will begin on May 2 at 8:30 p.m. EDT and 5:30 p.m. PDT and can be viewed here: <https://media.peacelink.live/>

A highlight of this year’s Summit is the inauguration of a new initiative called the **International Elders Roundtable**. This global project is designed to capture the wisdom and experience of elders to establish peace and stability in the society and the nation.

“Youth and adults have vision and enthusiasm, but elders provide a path by their experience and knowledge. Hence, for there to be eternal peace and prosperity, there must be cooperation between elders, adults, and youth in our society,” said **H.E. Maithripala Sirisena**, former president of Sri Lanka, who was at planning meetings for the Elders initiative.

Peace Summit 2023 regional sessions will focus on peacebuilding in North America, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe and the Middle East. There is a track for youth and students, as well as breakout sessions around UPF’s seven primary associations.

Laureates of the **Sunhak Peace Prize** will speak at a special luncheon in their honor.

A major UPF project, **Think Tank 2022**, focuses on bringing peace to the Korean Peninsula, East Asia and the Indo-Pacific Rim Region. On May 4, at 9:00 a.m. KST, a session featuring **Dr. Michael Pillsbury**, senior fellow for China Strategy at the Hudson Institute, will be among those to address the topic of peace in the Indo-Pacific. In the United States, this event will be on May 3 at 8:00 p.m. EDT, 5:00 p.m. PDT at this link: <https://media.peacelink.live/>

Additional highlights are celebrations around the 80th birthday of UPF Co-Founder **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** on Friday May 5. As part of that celebration, Dr. Moon will officiate a Culture of Peace Dedication Ceremony at the new Cheon Won Gung building. This huge multimedia exhibit hall and temple is intended to be a “homeland for the world and hometown of the heart for all people,” UPF’s late Co-Founder **Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon** said in 1997.

Peace Summit 2023 is part of UPF’s ongoing series of peacebuilding activities, which are held under the theme of mutual prosperity, interdependence, and shared universal values. UPF, an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, is known for its Rally of Hope series, the International Leadership Conference series, and, since early 2021, the Forum series of **Think Tank 2022**. The latter project was created to engage more than 2,000 global thought leaders on how to achieve a breakthrough for peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Details about **Think Tank 2022** Forums can be found at UPF.org.)

As part of **Peace Summit 2023**, organizers will convene several high-level sessions around the work of UPF’s peacebuilding associations. These include:

- International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) and the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP)
- International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)
- Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)
- International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED)
- International Media Association for Peace (IMAP)
- International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP)
- International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace (IAACP)

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UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

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Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Peace Summit 2023 ***World Leaders Meet to Discuss Building a Global Culture of Peace*** ***‘Countries that are interconnected don’t go to war’***

Washington, DC— World leaders attending the **Peace Summit 2023** in South Korea this week passionately decried the human suffering and conflicts they see in or around their nations, but they also insisted that with greater determination, cooperation, and shared values, they can bring new levels of peace.

It’s time for “continental movements of peace to counter the aggressive movements of war,” said **Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba**, former Zambia vice president and founder of the National Christian Coalition, one of the nearly 700 dignitaries from 70 nations who attended the May 3 **Peace Summit 2023 Opening Plenary**, hosted by the **Universal Peace Federation (UPF)**.

The world is “at a turning point,” with people going in the direction of “freedom, peace, and democracy on one hand, and invasion, war, and autocracy on the other,” said Kosovo **Prime Minister Albin Kurti**. He and many speakers spoke about “hotspots” such as Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine, North Korea’s firing of missiles, and China’s aggressive behavior around Taiwan and the South China Sea.

“How do we get to the objective...to deliver peace on terms that God would love and appreciate in a way that is decent and good,” former U.S. **Secretary of State Mike Pompeo** said during the Sixth *Think Tank 2022* panel discussion. Co-hosted by *The Washington Times* and *Segye Ilbo*, the panel featured author and China expert **Dr. Michael Pillsbury** and focused on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific.

Peace in Korea may look elusive, “but we cannot give up on the dream” to end the 70-plus year division, said **Dr. Yun Young-ho**, Co-Chair of the Peace Summit 2023 Organizing Committee.

The Summit included reports about international peacebuilding in political, academic, media, business and religious spheres. UPF Co-Founder **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon** said, “The term peace feels so close, yet is so far. Uniting with God, we can find a better future. Let us join hands, let us join our hearts, and let us join together to solve problems afflicting humanity. And let us not just rely on our own ideas, but let us unite with God, our Creator and Heavenly Parent.”

During the Summit, past laureates of the **Sunhak Peace Prize**, the prestigious award honoring contributors to peace and human development including **Dr. Sakena Yacoobi** from Afghanistan and **H.E. Anote Tong** from Kiribati, gathered for a special dinner in their honor.

Another Summit highlight was the creation of an **Elders' Roundtable** in which statesmen and women from around the world will have a forum to offer their shared wisdom and experience for the realization of peace in the world.

Interfaith cooperation and protecting religious freedom were major themes of the three-day Summit. It began with an interfaith water ceremony and invocation to heaven with clergy from El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Korea, South Africa, United States, United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe.

"It has become clear that interreligious peace is a critical and necessary aspect of any effort to achieve the goal of lasting world peace," said **Dr. Thomas G. Walsh**, UPF Chairman and Co-Chair of the Peace Summit 2023 Organizing Committee. "Religious liberty is at the core of all liberties. If you can't worship God in your own way, then what freedom do you have?" said former U.S. **House Speaker Newt Gingrich**.

Cambodian **Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen**, Senegal **President Macky Sall**, and former U.S. President **Donald J. Trump** offered congratulatory remarks by video.

H.E. Brigi Rafini, former Niger Prime Minister and Secretary General of the 29-country Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), praised the coming Africa Summit 2023. Some countries are a breeding ground for extremist groups, but Africa's large population of young people could become a force for peace if they are well-educated, raised with good character and universal values, and provided opportunities to work in land management and other "green entrepreneurship" jobs, he said.

"We have more in common than our differences," said **Rev. Dr. Cynthia Jackson**, Senior Pastor at Allen AME Church in New Jersey, USA. Countries that are "interconnected," with economic openness and interfaith openness, "don't go to war," noted former Belgian **Prime Minister Yves Leterme**. Former Guatemalan **President Jimmy Morales**, in a video message, advocated for countries to use technology "to reduce the digital divide gap and use it as a development tool to reduce poverty and bring humanity together."

The event included sessions to discuss the contemporary challenges to global order from regional perspectives: North America, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East, and Africa.

UPF's primary associations also held breakout sessions with featured international experts and heads of state, first ladies, parliamentarians, religious leaders, media, academicians, and business leaders.

The Summit also included a celebration cake-cutting in honor of Dr. Moon's 80th birthday. Other activities will feature a dedication ceremony at the new Cheon Won Gung temple envisioned by the late **Rev. Sun Myung Moon** as a "homeland for the world and hometown of the heart of all people."

Background on Peace Summit 2023 is at <http://www.thinktank2022.org> and upf.org.

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UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
PEACE SUMMIT 2023
Toward a World Culture of Peace



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Seoul, Korea
May 2 - 6, 2023



UPF World Summit Series



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Founder

*WORLD SUMMIT
PROGRAMS
HAVE BEEN HELD
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD,
BRINGING
TOGETHER
THOUSANDS OF
LEADERS FROM ALL
WALKS OF LIFE*



Africa Summit 2018: Dr. Moon with President Macky Sall

There is a growing awareness among people throughout the world of the urgent need for innovative vision and courageous leadership if we are to resolve the critical issues of our time.

UPF's World Summit programs have been developed to address this need. The World Summit series gives emphasis to the development of a new model or paradigm for leadership and good governance at this time in history; a model that is innovative, principled and effective in solving global problems.

The World Summit program introduces essential, universal values, principles and practices that are necessary to create a world in which people of every region, race, nationality, culture and religion live together in peace. We consider the root causes of conflict and the ways we can move together from states of conflict, inequality, poverty and enmity toward reconciliation, cooperation and prosperity as one human family under God.



Participants at a World Summit



Welcome!



Excellencies and Honored Participants,

We are pleased to welcome you to Peace Summit 2023 convening on May 2-6, 2023, in Seoul, Korea. The theme is “Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace.”

The challenges to global order will be examined region by region by world leaders and experts, including heads of state and government, parliamentarians, government ministers, religious leaders, media professionals, business leaders and academicians – Africa, Asia Europe and the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

In addition, delegations from more than 150 nations will discuss the challenges towards building a world culture of peace through UPF’s family of associations – International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP), International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD), International Media Association for Peace (IMAP), International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP), and International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED).

The Peace Summit will also inaugurate a new initiative called the “International Elders’ Roundtable for the Realization of a Heavenly World.” The initiative, under the auspices of UPF’s International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) and Think Tank 2022, will tap into the wisdom and experience of the elders in society. At an exploratory program held on February 24, the merits of the project were accepted and recognized as an important instrument for peace.

Former U.S. Speaker of the House Hon. Newt Gingrich said, “Elders are the guiding lights of wisdom for the realization of peace in the world.” Former President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, said, “The reason [for this initiative] is very clear and loud: Youth and adults have vision and enthusiasm, but elders provide a path by their experience and knowledge. Hence, for there to be eternal peace and prosperity, there must be cooperation between elders, adults and youth in our society.”

As a special bonus, this Peace Summit will also commemorate the 80th Birthday Celebration of our Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and will mark the dedication of the Cheon Won Gung Peace Center, a new facility dedicated to the ideal of establishing a heavenly culture of peace.

We are honored by your participation in this important event and sincerely express our gratitude for joining us.

Respectfully yours,

Yun Young-ho Ph.D.
*Director General,
Universal Peace Federation;
Organizing Committee Chair,
Peace Summit 2023*

Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D.
*Chairman,
UPF International*

Universal Peace Federation



Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Founders, UPF International

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is a global network of individuals and organizations dedicated to building a world of peace centered on universal spiritual and moral values. UPF and its global network of Ambassadors for Peace bring universal,

and reconciling the divided human family.

International Leadership Conferences, symposia,

consultations. These are complemented by “track two” diplomacy and grass-roots programs that build support for a culture of peace.

UPF is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



UPF World Summit 2020 in Seoul, Korea



Ambassadors for Peace

Launched in 2001, Ambassadors for Peace are the world's largest and most diverse network of peace leaders. They come from all walks of life representing all races, religions, nationalities, and cultures, and commit themselves to:

- Stand on the common ground of universal moral principles, committed to overcoming barriers and promoting reconciliation and peace.
- Constitute a global network of leaders representing the religious, racial, and ethnic diversity of the human family as well as all disciplines and sectors of human endeavor.
- Engage in peace initiatives and programs that promote reconciliation and cooperation beyond traditional boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity, and nationality.
- Promote and practice the ethic of “living for the sake of others” as the guiding principle for building world peace and a global community.



Guiding Principles

- We are one family under God.
- The highest qualities of the human being are spiritual and moral in nature.
- The family is the “school of love and peace.”
- By practicing the ethics of living for the sake of others we can reconcile the divided human family.
- Lasting peace cannot be achieved through political compromise alone but must involve a commitment to personal change.

Areas of Focus

- Interfaith activism for peace
- Establishment of an Interfaith Council at the United Nations
- Humanitarian Relief
- **evention**
- Marriage and Family
- Environmentalism and Conservation

All Day	Arrivals	
5:00 PM	Registration	<i>Crystal Ballroom, Foyer</i>
7:00 PM	Receiving Line	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>
7:30 PM	Dinner and Orientation	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

7:00 AM	Breakfast	<i>Sapphire Ballroom, B1</i>
9:30 AM	Opening Plenary	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>
	Keynote Addresses and Founder's Address	
12:30 PM	Lunch	<i>Charlotte, B1</i>
2:00 PM	Session II: Concurrent Sessions	
	A. Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace: Focus on North America	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>
	B. Elders Roundtable	<i>Emerald Room, 3F</i>
	C. Korean Elders Roundtable (Part I)	<i>Ruby-Jade, 3F</i>
3:00 PM	Break	
3:30 PM	Session III: Concurrent Sessions	
	A. Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace: Focus on the	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>
	B. Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace: Focus on the Latin America and the Caribbean Region	<i>Emerald Room, 3F</i>
	C. Korean Elders Roundtable (Part II)	<i>Ruby-Jade, 3F</i>
5:00 PM	Break	
5:30 PM	Session IV: Concurrent Sessions	
	A. Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace: Focus on Africa	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>
	B. Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)	<i>Emerald, 3F</i>
	C. International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP)	<i>Ruby-Jade, 3F</i>
7:00 PM	Dinner	<i>Charlotte, B1</i>
	Sunhak Laureates Dinner	<i>Topaz Room, 3F</i>

THURSDAY, MAY 4PEACE
SUMMIT **2023**

7:00 AM	Breakfast	<i>Sapphire Ballroom, B1</i>
9:30 AM	Session V: Think Tank 2022 Forum: Toward Peace in the	<i>Crystal, 3F</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch	<i>Charlotte, B1</i>
2:00 PM	Session VI: Concurrent Sessions	
	A. Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace: Focus on Europe and the Middle East	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>
	B. International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP)	<i>Emerald Room, 3F</i>
	C. International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP)	<i>Ruby-Jade, 3F</i>
3:30 PM	Break	
4:00 PM	Session VII: Concurrent Sessions: UPF Association Reports	
	A. Toward a World Culture of Peace: The Role of the Media and the Economy: International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) and the International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED)	<i>Crystal Ballroom, 3F</i>
	B. International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP)	<i>Emerald Room, 3F</i>
	C. International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)	<i>Ruby-Jade, 3F</i>
6:00 PM	Dinner	<i>Charlotte, B1</i>

FRIDAY, MAY 5

6:00 AM	Breakfast	<i>Sapphire Ballroom, B1</i>
7:00 AM	Departure for Cheongpyeong	
9:00 AM	Culture of Peace Dedication Ceremony for the Cheon Won Gung Temple	
1:00 PM	Lunch	
2:30 PM	Return to Hotel	
5:00 PM	Optional Programs	
7:00 PM	Closing Dinner	<i>Sapphire Ballroom, B1</i>

SATURDAY, MAY 6

6:00 AM	Breakfast	<i>Sapphire Ballroom, B1</i>
All Day	Departures	



INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT COUNCIL FOR PEACE



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR PEACE



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Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives (1995-1999)

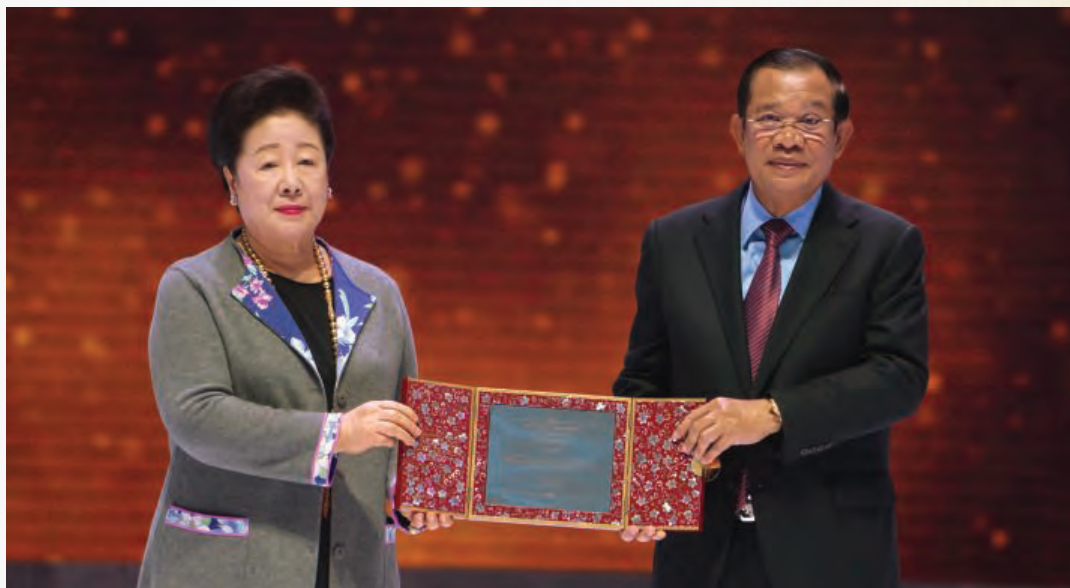
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The Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation was established in 2015 to promote and develop the Sunhak Peace Prize, an annual award given to individuals or organizations that have contributed substantially to peace and human development, for the sake of future generations. The Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation has its administrative headquarters in New York. The Foundation appoints an independent, international, and interreligious Committee of judges who evaluate candidates who have been submitted by members of the Sunhak Peace Prize Nominators from around the world.



The founder of the Sunhak Peace Prize, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, with H.E. Samdech Hun Sen and the 2022 Founders' Award

CORE VALUES: A LEGACY OF PEACE

The Sunhak Peace Prize was established to honor the lives and legacy of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, both of whom devoted their lives to peace. In 2015, the Sunhak Peace Prize was awarded to President Anote Tong of Kiribati, and to Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta of India. The 2017 laureates were Dr. Sakena Yacoobi of Afghanistan and Dr. Gino Strada of Italy, while the 2019 laureates were Dr. Akinwumi Adesina and Ms. Waris Dirie. The 2020 laureates were H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal and Bishop Munib Younan of Jerusalem while H.E. Ban Ki-moon was awarded the 2020 Founder's Award. The 2022 laureates were Dame Sarah Gilbert and Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance while H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia was awarded the 2022 Founder's Award. The peaceful world envisioned by humankind can only be built upon an all-encompassing foundation where peace among nations exists politically, militarily and religiously, and is realized by protecting family values, the sanctity of marriage, and the value of filial piety through the maturity of human character.



Dialogue and Alliance

Dialogue and Alliance is a journal of the Universal Peace Federation. Its purpose is to increase interreligious cooperation and to promote world peace.



For more information visit:
UPF.org/resources/dialogue-and-alliance

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

[JUN 1: EUME: "The Role of Parents in Creating a Peaceful and More Secure Society and World"](#)

[JUN 1: UN Global Day of Parents - "Mothers and Fathers: Essential for Societal Stability and Flourishing"](#)

[JUN 3: Peace Road 2023: Austria-Hungary-Slovakia](#)

[JUN 9: EUME-IAAP: World Peace Facing the Curse of Endless Approximation](#)

[JUN 10: Mutual Prosperity - Rethinking Our Economic Models](#)

[JUN 13: EUME: No Peace Without Women](#)

[JUN 21: Academic Council of the UN \(ACUNS\) - Annual Meeting](#)

[JUL 14: 2023 International Youth Service Project](#)

LANGUAGES

[Français - French](#)

[Español - Spanish](#)

[русский - Russian](#)

[Italiano - Italian](#)

PEACE SUMMIT 2023: OPENING PLENARY

Written by Yvo Bruffaerts, Coordinator, UPF-Western Europe
Wednesday, May 3, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—The Peace Summit 2023 on the theme of “Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace” convened on May 2-6 in Seoul, Korea.

The opening plenary of Peace Summit 2023, an international conference gathering former heads of state and leading political as well as religious leaders from around the world, was held in Seoul on May 3, 2023. The event started with a wonderful performance by The Little Angels.

An **Interfaith Water Ceremony** was conducted by six prominent religious leaders.

Welcoming address:

Dr. Thomas Walsh, *Peace Summit 2023 Organizing Committee Co-Chair*

Dr. Walsh noted that both UPF co-founder Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon at the UN Millenium General Assembly in August 2000, shared their vision about a renewed United Nations, which would have political and religious leaders working together. Since then, it has become clear that interreligious peace is essential to achieve lasting world peace.

UPF has emerged as a highly respected international and interreligious NGO that works across all sectors of society, to build networks not only among current and former heads of state and parliamentarians, but also among religious leaders, leaders in the business sector, the media, academia, the arts and culture. Underlying this work is a recognition that peace has to be approached comprehensively and holistically.

Dr. Walsh concluded by saying that there are increasing threats to peace emerging around the world, which underscores the importance of UPF and Peace Summit 2023. He therefore invited cooperation for the sake of our children and future generations.

Opening address:

Dr. Yun Young-ho, *Peace Summit 2023 Organizing Committee Co-Chair*

Dr. Yun said that rather than seeing a world of lasting peace based on values of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, the fight for hegemony around the world is increasing. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon offers the fundamental solution to the realization of permanent peace, with the vision of one human family, with God as the Heavenly Parent. By working according to His values, a heavenly unified Korea and unified world can be realized.

Dr. Yun gave an overview of the various associations under the UPF umbrella, as well as the world summits held or planned in various continents. Much attention has gone to Africa, a continent with a young population and abundant resources. In Asia, where fierce competition for supremacy is taking place among the great powers, continental projects are also being carried out.

The realization of a world of permanent peace is impeded due to national patriotism and egoism. With human-centered wisdom only, a major and much needed shift in values is impossible. Now is the time for all to unite and to create a “divine unified world” in which coexistence, co-prosperity and public justice are realized through continental solidarity beyond national boundaries. Dr. Yun expressed his hope that Peace Summit 2023 may become the starting point for continental solidarity for a divinely unified world.

A video was shown featuring congratulatory messages by the President of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, and Former US President Donald Trump.

The following congratulatory addresses were given by persons present at the Summit:

Hon. Newt Gingrich, *Speaker, House of Representatives (1995-1999), USA*

Mr. Gingrich noted that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean-American alliance to defend freedom and safety on the Korean peninsula. However, the process of bringing North Korea into a family of freedom and peace may still take several decades. We shouldn’t give up hope, seeing the progress South Korea has made since 1950.

About the assault on religious liberty in Japan, and in particular on the Unification Church, he said: “We are watching a process that frankly amazes me, in which a 40-year campaign by the Communist Party of Japan against the church, a campaign by lawyers to get rich at the expense of the church, and now a news media that has aligned itself with the hard left, are all leading to the potential of the Prime Minister literally violating the constitution of Japan. [...] America, as you know, is very far from being perfect, and we remind ourselves of this every morning, as we argue loudly among ourselves. But you can be of any religious background in America and win an elected office. You can be of any religious background in America and be appointed to be a judge. You have an opportunity to advance in a way that respects your right to approach God. And my only hope [...] is that here I can appeal to the Japanese government to decide that protecting religious liberty and protecting the rights of

individuals is central to our future.”

Hon. Ajith Nishantha Rajapakse, *Deputy Speaker, Parliament, Sri Lanka*

Mr. Rajapakse said that the government of Sri Lanka has a Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, as it is aware of the importance of being a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-religious nation. While Buddhism is embraced as the main religion of Sri Lanka, various minority cultures are not only tolerated but also welcomed. The Sri Lankan government therefore has extended its solidarity for UPF's Asia Pacific Union which was created at the suggestion and according to the vision of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. It is believed this project will pave the way for advancing the common cultural values of Asia, i.e., altruism, filial piety, marital fidelity, and a global mindset to protect Planet Earth.

Keynote addresses:

H.E. Brigi Rafini, *Prime Minister of Niger (2011-2022), CEN-SAD Secretary General*

Mr. Rafini remarked that the theme of Peace Summit 2023, “Contemporary Challenges to Global Order, Towards a Global Culture of Peace” was particularly well chosen at a time when many conflicts are shaking the world and endangering social cohesion, stability and peace. In this context, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) has developed the Regional Youth Program in close contact with governmental and non-governmental actors from the 25 member countries. The program aims at mobilizing youth for the improvement of social, economic and environmental conditions, centered on the principles of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values advocated by UPF and its associations. The Regional Youth Program is based on three pillars: First, citizenship education, also called education for good character and peace, which aims at developing a sense of virtues and universal values. The two other pillars, i.e., green entrepreneurship and sustainable land management, aim at creating decent job opportunities for young people, proper living conditions and restoring ecological balances. Mr. Rafini expressed his gratitude to UPF for the invaluable technical and financial support provided to the program.

H.E. Yves Leterme, *Prime Minister (2008, 2009-201), Belgium*

Mr. Leterme reminded us of the free trade agreement (FTA) signed between the European Union and South Korea in 2010, one of the most important agreements ever concluded by the union. It resulted in a more than 80% increase in international trade between the EU and the Republic of Korea. He believes that, in addition to political dialogue and the all-important interfaith dialogue, there is a need for more free trade and economic cooperation by enterprises on a level playing field. This, after all, brings openness and interconnectedness, and provides a good basis for sustainable peace.

The beginning of the new millennium saw a golden period of economic development. Since then, however, populism has increased, and the economy is often considered as a zero-sum game in which the advantage for one comes at the expense of the other. Moreover, there was COVID-19, which put a brake on economic cooperation and development. Mr. Leterme believes that beyond the all-important interfaith dialogue, mutual economic openness, common interests and interconnection are an excellent guarantee for peace.

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, *President (2015-2019), Sri Lanka*

Mr. Sirisena said that many crises, conflicts and social unrest can be found in economically backward countries or regions. Therefore, creating a sustainable foundation of economic development is the best way to establish lasting peace. Studies have shown that communism, nationalism and monarchical authoritarianism in this past century, have failed to make the world a better place. Mr. Sirisena believes humanitarianism and the promotion of human welfare should be central to politics. He also mentioned the huge current economic crisis facing Sri Lanka. However, thanks to an agreement with the IMF and the policies of the current government, it looks like macroeconomic stability will gradually be restored.

Hon. Mike Pompeo, *Secretary of State (2018-2021), USA*

Mr. Pompeo said that the work of UPF is more important than ever to bring individuals together to work towards peace rather than conflict. He also mentioned *The Washington Times*, founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, which has been a tremendous force in the USA for religious freedom, as it understands the importance of faith to create peace and to promote family values across the world.

He added that during his recent meeting with President Zelenski, apart from talking politics, they also prayed together, with a central understanding that it is God who will bring peace to Ukraine. He said: “We must never lose sight of the peace objective, so that every human can live with the basic dignity that God created and imbued in each and every one of us.” He reminded us of the signing of the Abraham accords. Arab nations previously hostile to Israel decided to move towards peace, based on a common set of understandings.

Mr. Pompeo concluded by saying: “We need to promote the love that Mother Moon knows, the faith that Mother Moon knows. Religious freedom is under assault in many places. We watch in our own country as believers are called extremists. Speaker Gingrich spoke to the fact that in Japan today, religion is under assault under the guise of a leftist ideology. We, those of us who are here today, can never forget the centrality of the belief to simply love your family, help your neighbours, work alongside those who believe in your faith and help those who have no faith see that only through Him can the peace and prosperity of the world ultimately be achieved.”

Mr. James Rogers, *UPF Advisor*

Mr. Rogers, in his rather light-hearted speech, said that, remarkably, a few decades ago, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon started a peace movement in Korea at a time when the country was torn by a war that many now consider to have been senseless. It is certainly one of the most successful peace movements in the world today. If Martians landed on the Korean Peninsula, he said, they would not understand why people speaking the same language, eating the same rice with the same chopsticks, are trying to shoot each other. Eventually, he said, the DMZ, which is currently dividing the Korean Peninsula, will be opened and there will be a big party at the DMZ, largely thanks to the work and vision of UPF and its co-founders, Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. If peace is achieved in the Korean Peninsula, there will be peace throughout Asia and beyond.

Founder’s address: Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

Dr. Moon stated that even though humanity has yearned and worked to realize a world of lasting peace, human history is rife with conflict and war. God created our first ancestors in His image and gave a period of growth so that humanity could become fruitful. Unfortunately, the first ancestors fell. Throughout history religions have emerged trying to guide humanity along the path of virtue and morality. We

can see many righteous people working tirelessly to fulfill their God-given mission. Yet, human beings alone cannot solve the world's problems. Heaven has been waiting for humanity to recognize that God, our Creator and Heavenly Parent, is the true owner of the Universe, and that He has been waiting for the advent of True Parents to guide humanity on the path of salvation. Also, the dream of Heavenly Parent is for humanity to meet the True Parents, to receive Heaven's Blessing and to live in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

The wish of humanity is being realized today. Many temples to God the Creator have been dedicated among many religions in search of the essence of the Creator. The dedication of the Cheon Won Gung temple is now about to happen.

Heaven's work to save humanity can also be seen in the testimony of the sacred religious texts. Heaven sent Jesus among the people of Israel. In Genesis we read that God created man and woman. Jesus came as the only begotten son but was unable to fulfill the full scope of his mission. Therefore, he prophesied his return. Christianity began 2000 years ago with a long wait for Christ's return.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon called upon the audience to join their hands and hearts to solve the problems afflicting humanity today, not to rely on their own ideas but to unite with God the Creator.

In conclusion, Dr. Moon expressed her deep gratitude for the many words of congratulations received on her 80th birthday. She informed the audience that she wanted to make a donation of \$800,000 to a noble cause for the sake of humanity. Dr. Moon wishes we may all realize that we live at a miraculous time, that we may receive Heaven's blessings and be proud of the new history of peace we are creating.

The International Elders' Roundtable was launched as a highlight of Summit 2023. This global project aims to capture the wisdom and experience of elders to create peace and stability in the society and nation. "Youngsters and adults have visions and enthusiasm, but seniors show a way through their experience and knowledge. Therefore, for there to be eternal peace and prosperity, there must be cooperation between seniors, middle-aged people and youth in our society," said **H.E. Maithripala Sirisena**, former President of Sri Lanka, who was present at planning meetings for the Elders Roundtable initiative.

Three Initiatives for regional cooperation were launched symbolically by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon: an Africa Summit, an Asia Pacific Union Secretariat, and a Sri Lanka IAPP and IAPD Asia Pacific HQ.

Dr. Hak Ja Han's 80th Birthday celebration concluded the opening session. Mother Moon cut a large birthday cake, and flowers and gifts were offered.

Video - <https://vimeo.com/823259743>

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May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION II-B: ELDERS ROUNDTABLE

Written by Alan Sillitoe and Mélanie Komagata, UPF Europe and Middle East
Wednesday, May 3, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—One of the first events of Peace Summit 2023 was the inauguration of the Elders' Roundtable.

The new initiative, called the "International Elders' Roundtable for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World," was launched under the auspices of UPF's International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) and Think Tank 2022.

The Elders' Roundtable will tap into the wisdom and experience of society's elders. At an exploratory program held on February 24, the project was recognized as an important instrument for peace.

The inauguration of the Elders' Roundtable took place during Session IIB of Peace Summit 2023, which was held from May 2 to 5 in the Lotte Hotel World (Jamsil Lotte Hotel) under the title "Toward a World Culture of Peace."

The approximately 50 participants who gathered in the Emerald Room on May 3, 2023, were worldwide elder statesmen as well as local and overseas VIPs.

Young-il Shin, a former announcer with the Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), was the session moderator. He explained that the 12 members of the Elders Roundtable will fulfill the role of "senators" who will properly lead various fields, such as politics, the economy, religion, media, and academia.

The theme of this first Elders Roundtable conference, Mr. Shin said, was solidarity among elders from each continent for the establishment of lasting peace. Through their age and wisdom, these elders aspire to a world of symbiotic coexistence in which conflicts and divisions between men and women, between generations, and between nations can be overcome.

He then welcomed UPF co-founder **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon**, who convened and presides over the Elders Roundtable, as she entered the room.

The first congratulatory message was given by **Hon. Ho-il Kim**, the chairman of the Korean Senior Citizens' Association representing 9 million elders in Korea, who was appointed as the chair of the Elders Roundtable.

Offering his best wishes to Dr. Moon for her role in achieving world peace, Hon. Kim expressed his fervent hope that humanity would rid itself of envy, jealousy, and strife, that there would be no more wars, and that peace would be pursued so that we might all be one and cherish and love one another. This would be possible, he said, when the spirit of Jesus' love is engraved in the hearts of all human beings around the world. He concluded by expressing his sincere hope that today's Peace Summit would be the beginning of a period in which all of us would work hard for global peace.

H.E. Alfred Moisiu, the president of Albania (2002-2007), thanked Dr. Moon for this new initiative and mentioned that all people, but in particular the people of the Balkan Peninsula, have a special respect for elders, because they have the experience of life and therefore can find solutions to various difficult situations.

Today the world is experiencing troubled times, President Moisiu said, mentioning the war in Ukraine and the complicated issue in Taiwan. He admitted, however, "We in the Balkans are not known for peace." Therefore, it's crucial to exchange ideas that bring peaceful solutions.

The question is how to resolve these problems without shedding blood and without destruction, while thinking of future generations. We should not leave them an awful and bitter inheritance, President Moisiu said. He emphasized that the family is the building block of society and said that he often uses the adage "Each generation grows on the shoulders of the previous one."

Among those attending the Elders Roundtable inauguration, he said, there were many former heads of state who are no longer in public office, but this doesn't mean that we cannot use our experience to benefit our countries and our societies.

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, the president of Sri Lanka (2015-2019), called the Elders Roundtable a means of appreciating the talent, knowledge, experience, and commitment of experts in the fields of public service and public administration. Therefore, he said, the roundtable is more an association of distinguished diplomats and eminent statesmen than a forum for senior politicians.

President Sirisena explained that he had reached the 55th year of his political career. In the years before he became president, he was a member of parliament for 34 years and held several ministerial positions, during which time special projects were implemented.

Among the ministerial positions he held, the ones he preferred were those of minister of agriculture and irrigation and minister of health, not only because of the

great public service he was able to perform but also because of the enormous challenges he faced, which were helpful for his later work as president. Therefore, he suggested that modern statesmen be trained in the ability to face multiple challenges.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi, who once said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world,” the president expressed the importance of leaders being role models for others.

Hon. Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (1995-1999), said that the Elders Roundtable would be useful if elders can be brought to think about the lessons of their long lives. One of the things elders can offer is the wisdom that grows out of seeing what has worked and what hasn’t.

These insights could save younger people a lot of pain and time, the former speaker said. To achieve peace and freedom, it is necessary to possess wisdom. In a dangerous world, idealistic hope doesn't get one very far, but informed hope could create a much better future, he said.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the co-founder of UPF, spoke about the Apostle Paul. He was originally a citizen of the Roman Empire, and, after the crucifixion of Jesus, he arrested Christians. However, when Paul heard a voice from heaven, he became a disciple of Christ. Today we also believe that we have heard a voice from heaven.

Dr. Moon emphasized that God the Creator is our parent. Until now, we were unable to feel that humankind are our brothers and sisters. However, with the dedication of the Cheonil Sanctum to Heavenly Parent, from now on all 8 billion human beings can become one. If we have Heavenly Parent as our parent, we will become one human family centered on Heavenly Parent, she said.

In conclusion, Dr. Moon expressed her hope that the elders making up this roundtable would share their wisdom of life and practice true love for the sake of all humanity.

H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni, the president of Benin (2006-2016), thanked Dr. Moon as the “Mother of Peace” for convening this summit. He explained that he is a Christian and a member of the Union of Evangelical Churches of Benin, but he understood that all confessions were welcome here.

After listening carefully to Mother Moon’s speech, he completely agreed with her message, he said. To build a world of peace, development, joy, and progress, we must love God before anyone else. If we have love, the tension we experience in the world, which brings peace into question, would not exist, he said.

President Boni said that we should love God and love others, as the “Mother of Peace” expressed. He explained that through the Human Fall cited in the Bible, Satan invaded the heart of humans, preventing a peaceful world from coming about, and that it was up to us to choose either the side of good or the side of evil.

He emphasized that, in his religion, Jesus died on the cross to save us and that we can go to the Father only through him.

Africa is undergoing a spiritual revival, the president said. Potentially the richest in terms of its surface area, being bigger than China, India, and Brazil, Africa has immense natural resources, but has a lot of poverty due to poor governance.

In conclusion, he applauded the work of “Mother Moon.” He said we can solve the crises in the world through spiritual work, because the “spiritual takes precedence over the real.”

Hon. Sang-hoon Lee, the 26th South Korean minister of national defense (1988-1990) and chair of the National Elders’ Roundtable, alluded to the current situation in Ukraine. He expressed his sincere hope that this organization, led by the “Mother of Peace,” would work vigorously to bring the war in Ukraine to an end as soon as possible, so that peace can return to the world.

H.E. Anote Tong, the president of Kiribati (2003-2016) and a laureate of the Sunhak Peace Prize (2015), explained that although the Elders Roundtable seems like a new initiative, “This is our tradition [in Kiribati]; we have elders who rule and guide our society, and they are more effective than the police!”

In addition to the war in Ukraine, there recently has been a lot more tension in the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

President Tong emphasized that in order to convey the message of peace, we have to give each other a lot more respect; then we might succeed on the wider global scale.

In conclusion, he invoked the philosophy of the late UPF co-founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon by saying, “Let us not be so selfish. Let us live for the sake of others.”

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION III-A: FOCUS ON ASIA PACIFIC

Written by Greg Stone, deputy secretary general, UPF-Asia Pacific
Wednesday, May 3, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—Session IIIA of UPF's Peace Summit 2023 was held on May 3, 2023 at the Lotte Hotel World in Seoul, Korea. The Asia Pacific region was the focus of the event, which discussed contemporary challenges to the global order and fostering a culture of peace. Among the speakers were a former president of the Philippines and the vice president of Palau; a former prime minister of Kyrgyzstan and a former deputy prime minister of Mongolia; and parliamentarians from five countries.

Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, *chair of UPF-Asia Pacific and member of the Parliament of Nepal*, introduced the session and each speaker.

The first speaker was **Ven. Si Kun Yoon**, , *president of the Hong Kong Buddhist Association*, who spoke by video. Ven. Yoon began his remarks by relating a story about a telegram U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent to China at the end of World War II asking the eminent Chinese monk Master Taixu: "What is Buddhism's plan for world peace?" Master Taixu replied that only when people deny the existence of the self, can peace be obtained. Ven. Yoon went on to explain that if each of us achieves selflessness and compassion, the world will be peaceful forever. He stressed that each of us must refrain from killing, stealing, committing adultery, lying and drinking alcohol. And, if these five precepts are fulfilled, it will be an important step in bringing peace in the world.

The second speaker was **H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**, *senior deputy speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and former president of the Philippines (2001 - 2010)*, who gave her message by video. She spoke of how 7,000 Philippine soldiers had fought alongside Korean soldiers during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953 and how Korea arose from that war to become an economic and cultural powerhouse in just one generation. Now, 70 years after the armistice, there are contemporary challenges to the global order that in many ways mirror the challenges that Korea faced in 1950. This time, however, the prospects for preserving peace might be brighter because there are now two contrasting ways of thought available: the Asian way and the Western way, unlike in 1950 when only a Western way was possible. The Western way involves a balance of the power approach used in the Cold War era. Through this, Europe became the most militarized part of the world. The Asian way, in contrast, involves the expansion of economic and diplomatic ties while quietly managing disputes though dialogue and consensus building.

The third speaker was **Hon. Suos Yara**, *chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia*. He stated that we face many diverse challenges at this time which, if left unaddressed, have the potential to damage human progress, in the best case scenario, and wipe out the whole human race, in the worst case scenario. To minimize the impact of these threats, while enhancing a robust ecosystem, we need to increase and diversify our collaborations and partnerships, with multilateralism at their core. Regarding the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula, which is inhabited by one people and one culture, it should be led by Koreans with the support of all relevant, concerned parties. He affirmed his belief that two nations towards one state, one peninsula, one culture and one people will become a reality in the future. As the "peace architect" of the Mekong region, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen envisioned establishing the Mekong Peace Park as a model to promote peace. Humanity shares a common destiny, and we are becoming increasingly interdependent. Hon. Yara made two proposals. The first was the adoption of a universal vision for multilateralism featuring win-win cooperation. The world order needs to be based on a rule-based, inclusive and sustainable multilateralism. The second is the promotion of peaceful negotiation and dialogue as the foundation for peace and development where there is tolerance, coexistence and nonviolence. Hon. Yara concluded his remarks by saying that peace is precious and the precondition for human development.

The fourth speaker was **Hon. Bhubaneswar Kalita**, *member of the Parliament of India*. He explained that India is a peace-loving country which gained its independence in 1947 by peaceful and nonviolent struggle. Peace begins with the individual. If the individual cannot be peaceful, society and the world cannot be peaceful. No conflict has been won through war. Hon. Kalita expressed his appreciation to UPF and its co-founders for playing an important role in bringing about world peace. The U.N. was formed to bring peace in the world, but until now, it has not been able to reach that goal. We have the responsibility to support the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and the resolution of other conflicts around the world through dialogue, negotiation and mutual good will. We are all peace leaders, peace activists. Let the struggle for peace go on, he added.

The fifth speaker was **H.E. Matubraimov Almanbet**, *prime minister (1993-1993) and speaker of the Assembly of People's Representatives (1995-1997) of Kyrgyzstan*. He described how Central Asia is becoming increasingly important to the global community. The region comprises six nations, has been inhabited since ancient times, has many diverse ethnic groups and cultures, and is a bridge between East Asia and Europe. The modern era has seen many changes take place. Central Asia is facing issues, such as political instability; economic development challenges, including in the areas of healthcare and education; and social difficulties. These, however, can be overcome if we work together as a global community, H.E. Almanbet said. In the process, we need foster a culture of peace that will unite our peoples, and we must respect human rights and every ethnic group and culture. As stated by

the Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aitmatov: “It is very important and very difficult to stay human in all aspects of life.”

The sixth speaker was **Hon. Oyunbaatar Tserendash**, *deputy prime minister (2015-2017) of and president of the Human Rights & Development Center in Mongolia*. He mentioned that we are living in a time of unrest where the use of armed force is rampant. This instability is not restricted to Europe; it can spill over to other parts of the world. He urged, “In response, let us join hands and spread the message of peace throughout the world.” The tensions between China and Taiwan must be eased as much as possible, and we must contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Sudan, Yemen and Syria and help to organize dialogue and peace negotiations. We must also work to encourage Russia to withdraw from occupied territories in Ukraine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to stop fuelling the war by providing modern weapons to Ukraine. And, we should encourage the U.N. to be more active in resolving the conflicts. As a lawyer who has been actively defending human rights for over 30 years, Hon. Tserendash feels it his duty to expose to the international community human rights abuses taking place in Mongolia and elsewhere.

The seventh speaker of the session was **Hon. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina**, *chairperson of the National Assembly of Nepal*. He explained that parliamentarians play a vitally important role in creating the conditions for peace in a nation. Without rules, lawlessness prevails. After the 10-year civil war in Nepal, a new constitution was drawn up by an elected body. The constitution of a nation is its heart and soul and the supreme law of the land. The rule of law is the cornerstone of a nation that is free and prosperous. Hon. Timilsina commended UPF and its co-founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon on their extensive work for peace and wished Dr. Moon a very happy birthday.

The eighth speaker was **H.E. J. Uduch Sengebau Senior**, *vice president of Palau*. She began her remarks by speaking about Palau. It is a very small nation with a population of only 20,000; a member of the U. N.; and next year, will celebrate 30 years as an independent nation. Palau experienced some of the bloodiest fighting during the Pacific War between Japan and the U.S. from 1943 to 1945. We lived through the tragedy of war. The constitution of Palau, which was instituted in 1981, states that we rely on the divine guidance of Almighty God. This is important because, in the words of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and UPF, we are one family under God. The constitution also guarantees freedom of conscience and belief. At a time when there are tensions and challenges around the world, it is important to pass on a culture of peace to the young people of Palau. Love and peace is taught in the family. Vice President Senior concluded her remarks by saying that she really feels a part of the UPF family and felt that especially so when UPF leaders supported her and her husband when he had an accident and received medical treatment in the Philippines.

The ninth speaker was **Hon. So Yuk Choy**, *congresswoman of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China*. Hon. Choy related the story of one of her neighbors in Hong Kong. Shortly after an earthquake, her neighbor volunteered, at his own expense, to lead the Blue Leopard rescue team from China's Fujian province to go to the disaster-stricken area to aid in rescue efforts. This is a typical example of how Chinese people are willing to help those to whom they have no relation. This compassionate and helpful mindset stems from the heart and is also nourished by the deep roots of Chinese civilization and traditional culture. China is a nation of multiple ethnic groups, and Chinese civilization has always sought harmony in diversity. Xi Jinping has said: "As the term suggests, a community with a shared future for mankind means that the future of every nation and country is interlocked. We are in the same boat and we should stick together, share weal and woe, and endeavor to build this planet of ours into a single harmonious unit, turning people's longing for a better life into a reality." Hon. Choy said: “As a Chinese, I strongly support this concept, and I hope that through today's meeting, this vision can be better understood around the world.”

The tenth speaker was **Hon. Ajith Nishantha Rajapakse**, *deputy speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka*, whose speech was given by **Hon. Chameera Yapa Abeywardana**, *coordinating secretary to the speaker of the parliament*. It addressed three areas.

The first was the great power rivalry in the Indo-Pacific and globally. Technological advances in cutting edge spheres like artificial intelligence (AI) are taking warfare to unprecedented paradigms and proves the danger certain technology advancements pose to humankind. We see the use and development of AI-driven drones, hypersonic technologies and cutting edge weapons while the world watches in alarm on what could be next.

The second area was post-pandemic regional and global economic challenges. Global wealth creation continues to rise, while other indicators of progress, including wealth equity and sustainability, signal major concerns. Credit Suisse's Global Wealth Report calculates that the top 1% of households own over 43% of the world's wealth.

The third was climate change. In the Asia Pacific and around the world, many countries are facing environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss and resource depletion. Hon. Rajapakse's speech concluded with remarks that we are heading to an extremely uncertain time in history and the way forward is through dialogue, multilateral cooperation and technological innovation, with an unwavering commitment to global peace. That is the beauty of this forum, which, we, you and me, are part of today.

The session closed with Hon. Dhakal thanking all the speakers.

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION III-B: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Written by Mrs. Louise Perlowitz

Wednesday, May 3, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—Session III-B of Peace Summit 2023: Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace: Focus on Latin America and the Caribbean Region, took place on May 3, 2023. The moderator for the session was **Dr. Neudir Simão Ferabolli**, *General Secretary, UPF-South America*.

Welcome remarks were given by **Dr. Charles Yang**, *Chairman, UPF-Latin America & the Caribbean*. He congratulated the participants for recognizing the hopeful future that lies ahead. He reminded the approximately 30 attendees of the Korean peninsula's precarious situation in the 21st century. The confrontation between North and South continues even after so many years. The North continues its nuclear weapons program and threatens the peace not only in the region but the entire world. The theme of this conference is peace which is most desperately desired by all people. He expressed concern about other nations, particularly Venezuela and Cuba. Here in this important forum, Dr. Yang called on everyone to discuss new ideas and work together for eternal peace.

Rev. Dong Mo Shin, *Chairman, UPF-South America*, gave a warm welcome to the participants who traveled a great distance. Rev. Shin emphasized the need for openness and transparency. He said that what binds us together is our vision and that vision is beyond religion, nationality, ethnicity or political ideology. We are one family under God! He called on everyone to “open your hearts and listen to each other. Together we will learn together and we will find a way to peace.”

Hon. Julio Cesar Cleto Cobos, *Vice President (2007-2011), Argentina*, recalled an experience in the late 1970s when he was a cadet in the military academy. He was the officer in charge of a company on the country's border with Chile. There has been a long history regarding possession of several islands in the Beagle Channel. In 1978, the countries were brought to the brink of war. It was thanks to the intervention of Pope John Paul II that fighting was averted and a peaceful resolution reached. Hon. Cleto Cobos expressed his gratitude for that early lesson on the merits of “an opportune intervention, dialogue and mediation by a spiritual leader.” He has sought to apply the principle of peaceful conflict resolution throughout his life as a public figure. Peace, he said, “is not simply the absence of conflict and tension...it is a fundamental asset that invites action.” Progress is achieved only when the different political, cultural, religious and ethnic groups work together for peaceful and harmonious coexistence.

H.E. Salvador Nasralla Salum, *Vice President, Honduras*, pointed out that “in the last ten years, the Republic of Korea has invested more than 740 million dollars in Honduras.” The vice president said, “Korea is a partner and friend of Honduras.” He attended UPF's World Summit in 2020 when the pandemic was just beginning. He congratulated Mother Moon on the occasion of her 80th birthday. “She is living proof that when we carry true love in our hearts, we can be champions of peace. My congratulations, Dr. Moon, for your efforts to unite the five continents around the Culture of Peace following the ideals of your husband, Reverend Moon.”

Hon. Betty Beatriz, *a Member of Parliament; President of the Human Rights Committee of the Plurinational State of Bolivia*. Her perspective on building a world culture of peace, read by Dr. Ferabolli, highlighted the long historical ties between Korea and Bolivia and the cultural and economic relations.

Hon. Victor Oswaldo Fuentes Solis, *Senator, Mexico*, said violence in Mexico is “growing in an unsustainable and unacceptable way.” Building peace is critically important. “It is a complex process in which factors such as social well-being, respect for human rights, education, health, education for the poor and the environment, democracy, international relations and legal norms, as well as culture [and] communication,” all have a role to play. But most importantly, “governments must devise government policies aimed at promoting a culture of peace and the rule of law.” Migrants are another vulnerable segment of the population that needs protection. He referred to the UN Secretary General's “Agenda for Peace” (A/47/277-S/24), which is a “roadmap for consolidating a culture of peace in our region.” The senator is committed to work “in coordination with regional and international sectors for the construction and maintenance of a culture of peace in my country.”

H.E. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, *President (1997), Ecuador*, spoke about the Amazon and the critical need to protect this important natural resource which is being threatened by the growth of unchecked urbanization. The Amazon plays a crucial role in our planet's health. It is an irreplaceable home for wildlife and indigenous peoples. Climate change and mining are affecting the region, and what happens there has repercussions to nearby countries and throughout the world. H.E. Arteaga also referred to the Elders Roundtable held earlier in the day. “I never thought of myself as an ‘elder,’ but now I realize this is true and with this realization comes the responsibility ... to support a culture of traditional values.” Peace on a national or

world level will not happen until we recognize the value of one another.

Hon. Carla Zambelli Salgado, *Congresswoman, Brazil*, reminded the audience that 60 years ago the first Korean immigrants to Brazil landed near Sao Paulo. The *Korean* population in *Brazil is the* largest in Latin America, about 50,000. Hon. Zambelli represents Sao Paulo in the congress, and since that city is home to the Korean community, she is very aware of their needs and their contributions to the nation. “Through this fraternal bond, I feel honored to be here (in Korea), in search of a common good among the countries represented here.” She reported about the rise of communism in her nation and the efforts by leftist elements to suppress the rights of the people. “Totalitarian regimes are expensive and wasteful. They need huge resources to buy their prestige and decimate their opponents. And to achieve their goals, they don’t mind spurious alliances—drug trafficking, separatist forces, private armies, ideological militias, criminal organizations. The menu of these regimes is plentiful and indigestible.” The Congresswoman is a strong proponent of freedom of speech and religion, saying, “With FREEDOM, I believe we can build the peace we dream of.”

Dr. Jean Paul Vargas Céspedes, *Director, Central American Integration System (2014-2018), Panama*, highlighted the “valuable effort that UPF makes every day to build a world of peace, tolerance and interdependence; and especially its co-founder, True Mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for inspiring and continuing Dr. Moon’s legacy.” In speaking about integration in Central America, he echoed the words of Herman Hesse, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946. Hesse said, “To achieve the possible, you have to try the impossible.” The region faces many challenges, including many they have been fighting for generations, namely poverty, corruption, and inequality. “Our commitment is to strengthen the public leadership of young people, generate new policies and projects in climate change management, transform the region’s energy matrix towards more sustainable sources, improve public management capacity in territorial productive projects, and promote initiatives for public-private alliances for the development of the States.”

Hon. Ubraj Narine, *Mayor, City of Georgetown, Guyana*, reminded the audience that the Caribbean region has been declared a “Zone of Peace,” by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), a forum that promotes the interests of that region. Despite the desire to maintain neutrality, Hon. Narine pointed out that due to its geographical location, strategically located between North and South America, it must “navigate (regional) tensions carefully, maintaining its independence and neutrality while also seeking to build mutually beneficial relationships with the (regional) powers. He spoke about the various challenges, particularly, climate change, economic inequality, and transnational crime. “Despite these challenges, the Caribbean region has demonstrated a commitment to maintaining a zone of peace,” by promoting “dialogue and cooperation” and the “peaceful settlement of disputes.”

Mr. Jose Ramon Vinas Alonso, *President, Freemasons of Cuba*, quoted the famous Cuban national hero, José Martí: “Freedom and intelligence are man’s natural environment.” He spoke about the importance of educating not only the mind but the soul and to take care of the needy. The values and principles that we hold dear must include concern for the oppressed. For that reason, our religious foundations are so important. He credits the good works of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, Rev. Moon. “We all aspire to be happy. Can we be happy if there is no peace?” Mr. Vinas Alonso said we should learn from the models of others, and spoke about the legacy that Gandhi gave to the world, and the value of attending peace forums such as UPF’s Peace Summit. “If these peace forums did not exist, with so many wars and violence, we would forget the essence of human life. Let’s build fewer weapons and arm ourselves more with the power of the spiritual world.”

The session concluded with the appointment of Ambassadors for Peace:

From South America:

- 1. Julio Cesar Cleto Cobos and his wife, Dr. Natália Liliana Obón – from Argentina
- 2. Congresswoman Silvia Waiãpi – from Brazil
- 3. Ubraj Narine – from Georgetown, Guyana
- 4. Colonel Aginaldo de Oliveira – from Brazil

And from Central America and the Caribbean:

- 1. Francisco Rojas Aravena – from Costa Rica
- 2. Flor Soraya Aquino – from the Dominican Republic
- 3. Juan Carlos Hasbun – from El Salvador
- 4. Mr. Jean Poul Vargas Céspedes – from El Salvador

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION IV-A: FOCUS ON AFRICA

Written by Louise Perlowitz
Wednesday, May 3, 2023



Moderator: Mr. Augustin Ghomsi, Sub-Regional Director, UPF Southern Africa. Mr. Ghomsi introduced the session, saying, "Africa today has its own challenges in the global context. How can we create what Mother Moon called a God-centered shining and bright Africa that will stand in contrast to the dark continent we know?"

H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni, *President (2006-2016), Benin; former president of the African Union, and former president of the Underdeveloped Countries at the United Nations*

H.E. Dr. Boni stated, "We are here with a dialogue of religions. The Western model, far from bringing peace, has seen inequalities within states and between states grow. Men have more than ever turned their backs on the Creator in the management of their affairs."

Africa is the weakest link in the chain, even though we are so rich in mineral resources. God gave us iron. We should not use iron to create weapons to kill men.

Africa has been the victim of a global labor organization that impoverished its human resources with nearly four centuries of slavery. The source of tensions on the continent stem from governance based on discrimination of skin color, regionalism, tribalism, ethnocentrism, unequal access to public services and resources in our countries, resulting in the marginalization of the young people and women. We have to bring Africa back to God, restoring spirituality and morality.

Dr. Boni added: "We have to democratize the UN Security Council. I was asking for two permanent seats and two non-permanent seats for Africa."

Hon. Petros Vusi Mavimbela, *Speaker, Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini*

Hon. Mavimbela asked, "What do we mean by 'global order'?" Corruption and nepotism, patriarchal societies, pandemics, violence and political arrests have exacerbated and infringed on the culture of global peace.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Africa has seen an increase of anger, especially among the youth. There have been high cases of unemployment and poverty, a high crime rate, and a reduction in health and wellness.

In Mozambique, gender-based violence was rife. In Nigeria, with the Bokomo cult, we have seen painful incidences of deprivation of education for girls, sexual assault, and gender-based violence, and the perpetrators are still on the run.

In Rwanda, the UNSC failed to prevent and manage a crisis—the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

Regional organizations have an important role to play in pursuing global order, as stated by the UN Charter.

Hon. Maimouna Yombouno, *First Vice-President, National Transition Council (National Assembly), Guinea*

Hon. Yombouno observed that human life is fragile everywhere in the world, and especially in Africa. Poor populations are facing conflicts constantly. Peace with the power of love is the solution. With faith and hope, our ethnic groups can co-exist.

Elections that are not well managed are a source of conflict. We have to offer the young people through education the culture of peace. The media should be very serious about spreading a culture of peace everywhere. Also, schools, governments, civil society, and businesses should commit themselves in concrete actions. They must contribute meaningfully to peace, security and development so that we have a better crisis management.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, is so active all over the world. This is why we have to especially mention the role of women in conflict resolution. Women need to be present in roundtable discussions for peace.

Hon. Hamidou Traore, *Sixth Vice President, National Transition Council, Mali*

Hon. Traore began by saying that humanity is one community, sharing the same values, the same past and a common destiny. Tolerance is a factor of peace. It demands new policies that respect diversity and pluralism in a multi-faith world.

Institutional capacity building for sustainable development and against poverty are actions to be supported and encouraged to reduce inequalities. Mali has been confronted with terrorism for a decade. The Malian armed forces are experiencing renewed success and the country is becoming stable thanks to ongoing policies that have given our compatriots unparalleled hope for peace and security.

Hon. Lawrence Songa Biyika, *MP, Uganda*

Hon. Biyika remarked that wars around the world continue to affect world peace and development. The situation is worsened by climate change which is increasing poverty, increasing food shortage, causing biodiversity loss, pollution and water scarcity, among others. All these are negatively impacting peaceful coexistence in the world and impacting economies.

Human rights are impacted too, especially those of women and children who are displaced or die. What is democracy? If democracy means the will of the majority, then the majority might say, for us our priority in Africa is increasing access to water.

Societies, especially the ones in Africa, have norms and beliefs that govern them. We have to work around those issues if we want to achieve peace. Let us respect each other's culture, religion, traditions, norms and beliefs. Dialogue is the only way we can achieve peace. It must be conducted with respect and openness.

H.E. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba, *Vice President (2003-2004); Founder, National Christian Coalition, Zambia*

H.E. Dr. Mumba began by saying that Africa needs for Africans to rise up and put a stop to the needless wars that have characterized the richest continent in the world. No one understands the cause of the conflicts better than the Africans themselves. The world that benefits from these conflicts is busy providing weapons on both sides so as to create an environment where Sudan's natural resources of gold, cobalt, natural gas, nickel, uranium, can now be plundered.

We must raise our voices and work with the Africa Union to become more involved in bringing these conflicts to a speedy end. Our goal should be to insist that real peace comes from God. People of faith must lead the way and be more proactive in overcoming the conflicts and not shy away from getting involved in political process. Morality and integrity in political leadership have become very rare.

Democracy remains the most desired system of governance. Unfortunately, most African nations, whose foundation is tribal groups, suffer from tribalization of democracy. It heightens the tribal instincts and pits tribe against tribe. The biased electoral commissions tend to support one group and manipulate elections, bringing controversy, division and a lack of peace. We propose that peace summits in Africa be increased so that unity is promoted among the tribes and different groups.

H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina, *President, Madagascar (2014-2018)*

H.E. Rajaonarimampianina stated that education of the population is important so that they can follow and understand what the leader is doing. But beyond political education is general education at all levels of society. The basis of education must be at the level of the family, at home.

We have many young people in Africa. We say it is good, but it is also a time bomb, because we have to deal with health and education. I can see there is a fracture among generations. There are many young people with technological advancement, with social networks, etc. The young people live in a unique world with all these technologies. They start to marginalize elders with their culture of wisdom, causing difficulties at the family level, whereas the family should foster peace for humankind. The problem of Africa is how to convey this wisdom. We are a continent with an oral tradition. We have to go back to family values because it is there that we will again have this culture of peace and wisdom. We need the elders. There must be complementarity between the elders and the young people to secure a better future.

We need to learn that the greatest wisdom is to fear God.

Mr. Augustin Ghomsi, the moderator, closed the session by saying, “Grandparents and parents and children should live together. That is how we can continue the legacy and make sure that the values and traditions are transmitted and maintained. That is what Father and Mother Moon are promoting. To bring peace in the world, you need to focus on peace in the family.”

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May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION IV-B: IAPD

Written by David Fraser Harris, UPF regional secretary general, Middle East and North Africa
Wednesday, May 3, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—A session of Peace Summit 2023 was devoted to UPF's Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD).

Peace Summit 2023 took place from May 2 to 5 in the Lotte Hotel World (Jamsil Lotte Hotel) under the title "Toward a World Culture of Peace."

The IAPD session was one of three concurrent sessions held at the end of the first full day, starting at 5:30 pm on May 3, 2023.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad, vice president of UPF International and international coordinator of IAPD, was the moderator. As a backdrop for the discussions, Dr. Hamad had arranged for a rolling display of slides showing IAPD events and programs in different parts of the world.

Eight speakers presented a range of perspectives; some of the major themes that emerged were the distinction between religion and spirituality; the importance of focusing on what we have in common; and the nature of good religious leadership.

Dr. Arben Suleimani from Albania, speaking on behalf of His Holiness Baba Mondi, world leader of the Bektashi Order, reminded us that the fundamental responsibility of religious leaders is to promote goodness, the God-given qualities in each person. This means to love God and to love and share with each other. "Man is not our enemy; he is our brother," Dr. Suleimani said. Our real enemy is the self, and selfishness in its many forms. We religious leaders cannot and must not allow human values to be lost, he said.

Archbishop George Stallings Jr. from the United States, the patriarch of the Imani Temple African American Catholic Congregation and the chair of IAPD-USA, said we each are called to be the tangible and visible presence of God on earth. But while God is the author of spirituality, religion is man-made: Essentially it is humanity trying to find our way back to our original purpose. This human construct is not itself perfect; our task is to make it good, Archbishop Stallings said. This means we have to respect each other and find and ultimately align with our common purpose.

Dr. Surinder S. Gill is the secretary general of the Sikhs of the United States. Emphasizing that peace and development go hand in hand, he listed among the main factors behind peace: stable government, a healthy business environment, fair distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbors, and the free flow of information. He called on all to rise above selfish interests and develop a sense of universal responsibility.

Hon. Dr. Mohamad Habash from United Arab Emirates, the chairman of the Human Fraternity Center and associate professor at Abu Dhabi University, spoke of his efforts under Syria's late Grand Mufti Sheikh Ahmad Kftarou to develop interfaith initiatives in Syria; and of his more recent efforts in the UAE with the Human Fraternity Center, which has one target: "How can we build one family under God?" Before coming to South Korea for the Peace Summit, he visited Taiwan "to connect with all religions and to find more in common between us."

Dr. Habash said, "We have to understand: If another person rejects your faith, that does not mean he is your enemy." The Prophet called for Islam but, as stated 14 times in the Koran, he said: "I came to continue what came before"—not to replace it!

Bhai Sahib Satpal, ambassador for the Sikh religion in the Western Hemisphere, spoke of Sikhism's message of universal brotherhood. While all religions call for peace, in reality religion is a factor in many conflicts. Yet it is we religious leaders who can turn this around by uniting. Unlike politicians, who come and go, religious leaders can come together with one voice, accepting and respecting diversity.

Pastor Juan Carlos Hasbun from El Salvador, the senior pastor of Kemuel Christian Church and a member of the Board of Directors of COICOM, an association of Latin American Christian communicators, spoke of the role that religion should play in building a culture of peace.

He outlined three areas of focus: First, faith and spirituality are of the greatest importance in the life of the individual, faced as we are with the many challenges of life. Second, faith provides us with principles and values that can guide our social interaction; in this way we can help others face challenges and develop capacities, giving them hope. Third, we can pass on our principles and values to the next generation; the legacy we leave is important in a world with more and more young people.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Jackson from the United States, a district judge at the Jersey City Municipal Court, and the pastor of Allen AME Church, New Jersey, asked herself what peace would look like. We each can take time to figure out what we can do individually to make a difference, she said. Looking beyond our differences, be they

political or religious, we should focus on the commonalities. "If each of us were cut, we would all bleed red. We each have family, friends and loved ones, and all have a vested interest in this thing called life."

The final speaker, **Imboni Dr. uZwi-Lezwe Radebe** from South Africa, the founder and chair of the Revelation Spiritual Home, came straight to the point: "If religion was created by man, then spirituality should lead."

Citing UPF's own principles and the words of its founder, and referring to that human interconnectedness that is called *Ubuntu*, Dr. Radebe urged us all to live in harmony with our Creator, with a consciousness of the life hereafter. Spirituality permeates every aspect of life; everything is sacred; and we need constant consciousness of the divine, he said.

"The foundation of everything is spirituality," Dr. Radebe said. "Spirituality shapes and gives meaning to the values we uphold. Politicians, religious leaders, business owners, leaders of social organizations, and all of society should drink from the fountain of spirituality."

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May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION V: 6TH THINK TANK 2022 FORUM

Written by Roger Wetherall
Thursday, May 4, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—After welcoming remarks and a brief historical background on the origins of Think Tank 2022, **Dr. Yun Young-Ho, Director General, UPF**, reviewed the current situation of the world, citing the War in Ukraine and how the rise of China is leading to imbalance in the global political situation and an increase in the potential for conflict. The Korean Peninsula is a focal point of this imbalance as North Korea is receiving pressure from both Russia and China. It sits at a crossroads of the world's major powers. Under the current circumstances, the peaceful reunification of Korea seems unlikely. However, this reunification is an important step towards resolving the fight for hegemony between China and the US. This is not just a politico-economic dispute but a fight between Communism and Democracy.

Next, **His Excellency Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo**, gave his welcoming remarks after arriving just two hours earlier from a conference in Brussels. He spoke about the two trends that are sweeping through the world today: Freedom, Peace and Democracy on one hand and Invasion, War and Autocracy on the other. These trends are presenting themselves all over the world. The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is having a huge impact on the Pacific Region, one of the fastest-growing areas of the world. This is evidenced in the growing dangers of North Korea's missile launches and the aggressive stance that China is taking towards Taiwan. Kosovo admires the achievements of Japan, Taiwan, Korea and other countries in this area.

He concluded with these words: "People everywhere are good and peace-loving. Free people do not start wars."

Dr. Michael Pillsbury, Senior Fellow, China Strategy, Hudson Institute, USA gave the Keynote Address.

Dr. Pillsbury began by explaining that China experts are all fighting amongst themselves and have made many mistakes in understanding China. He went on to review the Kissinger Consensus that has allowed the US and other countries to establish relationships with China by not talking about Taiwan. However, the Chinese have always believed that Taiwan is a part of China.

The US made an agreement that this issue should never be discussed by government officials. The Chinese, though, believe that it is part of China and feel that all overtures are part of a plot by the West to subvert their ownership. The Chinese care a lot about what other people think of them. Americans do not care so much.

What does Korea have to do with Taiwan which is far away? In 1950, the US had decided to abandon Taiwan and support China, but with the North Korean attack on the South, that changed. If China were to attack Taiwan now, it might also prompt North Korea to attack the South and then we would have two wars to deal with.

Dr. Pillsbury explained through the analysis of Chinese proverbs that the Chinese have a very different strategy compared to the West: "The intention here is to generate a kind of paralysis or complacency so that people look at China as a mystical, Confucian country without ambition. But this is only on the outside. All Chinese dynasties were created by force, by murder and deception."

The book "[Hundred Year Marathon](#)" became a bestseller, but many China experts disagree with it. The world is doing a good job publicizing the bad things of China, but we need to have a plan of action: one paragraph for the problem and another for the solution. We are left today with the importance of "getting China right." How did they grow their economy at 10% per year? They decided to turn their state-run companies into public companies. Now they have a majority of companies in the Fortune 500. They have stolen technology and subsidized these companies with trillions of dollars. Many China experts oppose these conclusions, but the important thing is not to just point out the problems, we need to have a solution.

The Keynote Address was followed by two commentaries:

First, **Kim Geun Sik, Chair of the Unification Committee of the People Power Party**, spoke from his personal experience about the changing relationship with China, saying: "I used to get calls from the Chinese embassy but now I get calls from the Japanese Embassy. In the past we had the Six-Party Talks and we were making some progress in relationships. There was a phase where we had separated the economy and security concerns. We are in a new Cold War era and we need to reset all the diplomatic and security issues. We need a new paradigm. We need to create a strong alliance with Japan and the US. Only the collapse of the North Korean regime can bring about a solution. After the Second World War, Syngman Rhee knew that this conflict would come and made a great decision to choose the path of democracy. We need a strong alliance with the US and Japan to stand up against China's hegemony and let them know that they have to follow these international agreements. With this situation of the new Cold War, we need to preserve the values of democracy and human rights, and implement solutions that can bring cooperation and peace."

Next, the **Hon. Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State (2018-2021), USA**, spoke of the need to think through how to create a "peace that God would approve of," as Mother Moon has set forth in her objectives for this conference. "In the Trump Administration we had to rethink our relationship with China. I am glad to see President Yoon's bold leadership in visiting the United States and the upcoming meeting with Japan. We need to recognize the reality of the problems of the world. It

is this kind of leadership from people like Pres. Yoon and Mother Moon that will deliver the kind of peace that we all want.”

Mr. Pompeo spoke about how the three Summits held with Chairman Kim Jong Un were an attempt to recognize the reality that North Korea is a totalitarian regime, atheistic in nature and presents an enormous threat to world peace alongside the Chinese Communist Party. It is built on atheism, but this regime cannot continue to be built on this falsehood. One day this will end and the peninsula will be unified based on the terms that people in this conference prescribe. This is not about a conflict between the US and China; it is about choosing property rights, decency and human rights.

He boldly proclaimed: “We need to recognize that Taiwan is a separate country and that it is China that is delusional when they declare that it is not a separate country. We do not have a ‘new’ cold war. This war is 40 years old. If we are to have a chance to create peace, we need to live in a world that is factual. Whatever faith you follow, we need to follow the truth. When we turn away from truth and refuse to acknowledge these things, then we create conflict and war and prevent peace from breaking out. I love the Chinese people; I want good things for them. It is not about them but about a regime that is heartless and indecent and wants to create a world model that will lead to poverty and war. The people in this room can continue to provide peace and hope in a prayerful nation.”

Part II Panel Discussion

After a short break with some entertainment, the program resumed with a Panel Discussion that was moderated by **Dr. Moon Byeong Cheol, Senior Fellow of Think Tank 2022**.

The panel began with some comments from **H.E. Dr. Thomas Yayi Boni, President of Benin (2006 to 2016)**, who talked about his tour of Asia when he was President and his visit to Japan and South and North Korea. At that time, he called on Kim Jong Un to make peace with the neighbor to the south as a necessary precursor to any partnership between their two countries. Saying there is a time bomb here in the Asia-Pacific area and we need to have a solution to this, Dr. Boni called on the participants of the conference to create an action plan, a global Peace Plan.

Next, **Hon. Newt Gingrich, Speaker, House of Representatives (1995-1999), USA**, brought a message of hope and optimism, stating that each of us believes we live in a beautiful land. Living our own lives in freedom in a beautiful land is preferable to living in a dictatorship. In the absence of war, the prosperity of South Korea is going to move further and further from the poverty of North Korea. Eventually the North Korean people will realize that they are being cheated. This would mean the end of the dictatorship. However, if Kim Jong Un tries to preempt this by starting a war, then his dictatorship will also be ended. Xi Jinping in China has a similar problem in that every nation around them does not want to be dominated by them.

He concluded his remarks by saying: “I come here as an optimist who believes that freedom, the belief in God and the extraordinary inventiveness of a free people are simply going to drown the dictatorships and this moment of darkness will be followed by a sunrise of freedom.”

Mr. Thomas McDevitt, Chairman, The Washington Times, directed a question to Dr. Kim of the Unification Committee, to better understand their strategy for engagement with North Korea. Dr. Kim urged everyone to move beyond Cold War-era thinking, saying that we are in a new era and we need to have a healthy dialogue on how to solve these issues. We need to recognize the reality and explore solutions to the current situation.

For the European perspective, **Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend, Minister of Defense (1990-2000), Austria**, spoke from the perspective of a landlocked country in Europe: The only country backing North Korea is China. For Taiwan, 2022 and 2023 have been extremely decisive. The visit of the Czech delegation and then Nancy Pelosi has led to an escalation of war games by China and the US, leading to scenarios of what would happen if China should try to invade Taiwan. Also, in the South China Sea they are increasing their surveying and expansion.

What can be done to restore stability? China can influence North Korea and is probably the only country that has a real basis to do so. We need to teach China that it is not acceptable for them to reunify with Taiwan by force.

There is already a decision of the UN court that China cannot claim the South China Sea; it is not acceptable. We have to stand up and declare this clearly and openly in order to maintain peace and global exchange.

Dr. Chheng Kimlong, Executive Vice President, Asian Vision Institute, Cambodia, stated, “We come with the hope of creating a more prosperous world, by the people and for the people. What is next for us to be able to accomplish this? Under the network of the Think Tank 2022 and UPF, I suggest that we should establish a Peace Library to research Peace scientifically and create peace policy. Next month we will launch our Mekong Peace Boat for young people in South East Asia to build leadership and an ecosystem of peace throughout the world.”

Dr. Pillsbury replied that it is important for Peace Studies to look at how wars start. Very few countries intentionally start wars, especially ones that they think they will lose.

Mr. McDevitt posed a question to the panel, asking, “What is the potential and purpose of the newly created board of elders?”

Dr. Pillsbury responded that the board of elders has an important role to play in backchannel negotiation to help avoid misunderstandings. It has to be the elders who are not directly aligned with either side of a conflict, who come from the outside and are not in the meeting, who can come up with fresh ideas that may lead to a treaty or peace negotiation that may save millions of lives.

Hon. Lee Jung Mun asked Dr. Pillsbury what advice he would give to Korea in the current environment.

Dr. Pillsbury responded by saying that one important factor is the fear that Chairman Kim has, that someone is going to kill him. A leader who is afraid of being killed every day behaves in a certain way. He seeks reassurance but can’t get it. We need to think about what we can do to reassure him.

In the case of China, Xi Jinping has decided that the US is also trying to bring down China the way that it did the Soviet Union, and is afraid of what happened there. He needs to understand that America is not trying to bring down the Communist Party and we are not trying to bring down Xi Jinping. Perhaps the council of elders can help to persuade him.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD3jdbJnjjA>

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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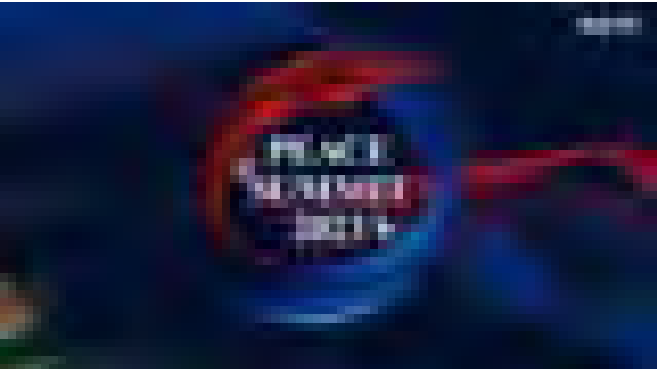
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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION VI-A: EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Written by Renee Corley, UPF International
Thursday, May 4, 2023



20230504 - Peace Summit 2023 - Focus on Europe and the Middle East from UPF Europe and Middle East on Vimeo.

Seoul, South Korea—"Prospects for Peace in Southeast Europe," which took place on May 4, 2023, was one of the regional peacebuilding sessions of Peace Summit 2023, organized by UPF International.

Jacques Marion, the regional UPF co-chair for Europe and the Middle East, moderated Session VI-A, which featured a very distinguished group of speakers.

"Our region is strongly affected by the war in Ukraine and by growing tensions between East and West," he said. "Southeast Europe, particularly the Western Balkan nations, stands at a frontline in this struggle. The impact of this conflict is deeply felt in that region, where memories of war at the turn of the century are still vivid in many people's minds."

H.E. Albin Kurti, who since March 2021 has been the prime minister of Kosovo, said: "We [in Kosovo] are trying our best to have, on the one hand, peace and security but, on the other hand, freedom and democracy. We believe we do not have to sacrifice freedom for the sake of security, or vice versa. ...

"We are optimistic about the future, we want to cooperate for peace, and we believe that democracy is not just an instrument to get elected into power but also a value to which we should adhere every day," he said.

H.E. Alfred Moisiu, the president of Albania (2002-2007) and the current chairman for the Balkans of UPF's Summit Council for Peace, warned, "We stand in front of a very difficult and dangerous situation, in which even a sporadic event may lead to a mad collision of the world which could be World War III."

President Moisiu said: "It is the duty of all peace-loving people and those who understand the magnitude of these possible dangers not to remain indifferent to what is approaching the world."

H.E. Filip Vujanović, president of Montenegro (2003-2018) and the founder of the Podgorica Club, a group of former heads of state and government from the Balkan nations, said he "would like to point out only three things."

First: During the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s, Montenegro accepted many refugees and displaced people. This is one of the reasons that Montenegro enjoys a good relationship with all the neighboring countries.

Second: After the conflicts, Montenegro democratically restored its state independence, became a member of NATO and a leader in the European integration process.

Third: Montenegro is strongly dedicated to affirming values of peace, stability and prosperity.

H.E. Miladen Ivanić, president of Bosnia & Herzegovina (2014-2015, 2016-2017), speculated that in the current Ukraine-Russia conflict, the two sides may not sit down to build an agreement until 5 million people have been killed.

"Hundreds, if not thousands, of fathers, brothers, sons will be killed there." He proposed that the two sides should not wait but should sit down now and work for an agreement.

Hon. Dr. Werner Fasslabend, the Austrian minister of defense (1990 to 2000) and president of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, explained that just before he was sworn in as defense minister in December 1990, he gave a short list to his future chief of cabinet about preparations of the defense ministry. "And at the top of the list was preparations in Austria for a crisis in Yugoslavia."

He did that, he said, not because of receiving any intelligence about the Balkans, but rather "just due to my personal experience, as so often I had spent my vacation in Yugoslavia. I went through Slovenia and Croatia and Bosnia and Serbia. I talked to people. And when I came back, I had this strong feeling that something was going on, that a crisis would come."

H.E. Zlatko Lagumdžija, prime minister of Bosnia & Herzegovina (2001 to 2002) and the newly appointed ambassador of his country to the United Nations, reminded the audience of UN Secretary-General António Guterres' recent statement that we must think about the artificial intelligence threat more and more, especially since one of the Google founders who had been dealing with artificial intelligence "decided to quit and to tell the world that we are entering a no-man's-land or twilight zone."

H.E. Boris Tadić, president of Serbia (2004 to 2012), said: "We are living in an interconnected world. ... We can compare the world with the human body. What is happening in one cell in the human body has an impact on the others. Everything that is happening in Ukraine is creating an impact in the South China Sea. We cannot isolate one aggression, one war, from other potential aggressions. In that respect, Europe is not secure anymore."

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION VI-B: IAAP

Written by Ms. Nancy Hewitt and Dr. Thomas Selover
Thursday, May 4, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—The International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP), Session 6B, was held on May 4, 2023 as part of Peace Summit 2023. The moderator was **Dr. Thomas Selover**, *International Co-coordinator of IAAP*.

Welcoming Address: Dr. Thomas Walsh, *Chairman of UPF International*

Dr. Thomas Walsh officially opened the International Academic Conference, co-hosted by Hyojeong Academic Foundation. He commented that he was impressed by the extensive library that HJAF staff transported to the convention site at Seoul Lotte Hotel World. Dr. Walsh warmly greeted the many eminent personages present in the Emerald Ballroom. In his remarks, he emphasized that our association of scholars is working together to develop important content to fortify the core ideals, values and principles of a peace ideology, to help a world in dire straits owing to degradation of culture and breakdown of families. Korea is a great nation of bright, hard-working people—yet its birthrate is plummeting. We must reinvigorate energy and passion to build a good society. Happy families and hope for the future are essential. Educational institutions must inspire leadership with meaning and purpose based on core values and ideals. We must prevent conflict and build peaceful, stable, loving societies. Our troubled world needs you, your work, your research, writings and publications to get us back on the right track. UPF, IAAP, and HJAF stand together for the cause of global peace. I wish you great success in building Heavenly Unified Korea and a Heavenly Unified World. Thank you! God bless you!

Opening Address: Dr. Sung-Bae Jin, *Chairman of Hyo Jeong Academic Foundation*

Dr. Sung-Bae Jin remarked that Korea rose from the ashes of war. Once a recipient of aid, we have become a donor. Our *hallyu* culture and products have gone global. Now Korea is of central importance in world affairs. Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol addressed the U.S. Congress and was given a standing ovation. He praised General MacArthur’s ingenious Incheon landing and American heroism at the Battle of Jangjeon Lake. UN troops died to protect “people they’d never met in a country they’d never heard of.” They saved Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon from North Korean communism. The US strived for decades to reduce tensions over denuclearization. Former Secretary of State Pompeo, who led nuclear disarmament talks, spoke at this Peace Summit. Why did 40 years of North-South negotiations disappear like smoke? True peace cannot be built on materialism and class struggle—a camouflage peace. Liberal democracy based on rational freedom only yields relative peace. Peace under dictatorship promoting hatred is short-lived. True peace can only be Peace Essentialism, genuine and eternal peace rooted in God’s love and heart, exemplified by the lives of Father and Mother Moon, whose thought led to the collapse of the communist Soviet Union. We are a family with one Heavenly Parent, based on a philosophy of heart. Serene peace in the mature human family is finally dawning.

SECTION I

H.E. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba, *Vice President (2003-2004); Founder, National Christian Coalition, Zambia*

H.E. Dr. Nevers Sekwila Mumba noted that Africa has been the focus of conflict between East and West, both taking advantage of Africa’s rich resources. Even more serious are internal conflicts among tribes and individual interests. African countries must unite internally and stand together. The UPF and the African Union are forums by which we can meet, constructively resolve issues, and work for peace in solidarity.

Hon. Dr. Mohamad Habash, *Chairman, Human Fraternity Center; Associate Professor, Abu Dhabi University, UAE*

Hon. Dr. Mohamad Habash stated that no one has a right to force people to war. Religious scripture has been widely interpreted to justify war. This is a violation of God’s word. God does not want wars. The UN is supposed to preserve peace, but has failed. The Universal Human Rights Declaration omitted the right not to participate in war—a fundamental human right. Dictators cannot wage wars if their people refuse to fight. International organizations must protect the right not to fight in a war, which is a sacred human right which God approves.

Dr. Frank Kaufmann, *President of PWPA USA; Editor in Chief of New World Encyclopedia; President of Twelve Gates Foundation, USA*

Dr. Frank Kaufmann focused on spiritual and political concerns for Western civilization following the crucifixion of Jesus. History is viewed variously: Classical (practical interests, conflict, domination); *Heilsgeschichte* (Jewish hope from scripture, Jesus’ words); Theology (God-centered logic: Augustine, Aquinas); and Apologetics (St. Paul, Unificationism). Jesus’ crucifixion contradicted Jewish hopes of the Messiah; it had to be explained with new Christian theology. The Messiah’s teaching should have gone to the people of Asia who were spiritually prepared, but after his

crucifixion, theology became contradictory. Christianity went to Rome and Europe, barbarian lands centered on paganism and physical might. The path went on to nations of science and technology. According to Toynbee and Rev. Moon, the path of Messianic ideology to establish God's Kingdom should return to the Far East Asia to realize fruition.

Commentators

Dr. Osvaldo Adriano De La Guardia Boyd, *has served more than 43 years in Public Administration, Panama*

Dr. Seng Somony, *Secretary of State, Ministry of Cults and Religion, Cambodia*

Rev. Hideo Oyamada, *Former Chairman of UPF-Japan and former President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, Japan*

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION VI-C: IAYSP

Written by Alan Jessen
Thursday, May 4, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—The International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) held a session at the Peace Summit 2023 with a focus on “Climate Crisis and Education.” Hundreds of young members of IAYSP came from 48 countries to assist with the week-long activities. Opening remarks were given by **Mr. Koji Matsuda**, the international president of IAYSP. He reminded everyone that IAYSP was launched six years ago by Mother Moon to raise responsible young leaders who can become model leaders and go to the front lines and create peaceful communities, nations and the world. Since that time, IAYSP has gained consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations as a youth organization. Young members are carrying out activities across the world, cultivating a responsible heart toward the planet and humanity. He expressed deep gratitude for everyone’s efforts.

Two former recipients of the Sunhak Peace Prize gave stirring keynote addresses to the assembly, one on the climate crisis and one on the necessity for equitable access to education for young people. Two other presentations were given by young leaders from Korea. The session concluded with eight panelists discussing the twin urgent topics of climate crisis and educational inequality.

Sunhak Peace Prize recipient **H.E. Anote Tong**, former president of Kiribati, spoke about his experience as leader of that island country in Oceania where climate change is damaging the environment and threatening the future life on the island. The warming of the planet and other aspects of climate change will cause mass migration of peoples as their old ways of life will be unsustainable. He said the hard reality is that some people will lose everything and be forced to leave their homes for foreign lands and cultures. He called this mass migration the greatest moral challenge to humanity. It took him years to accept the reality that the necessary changes to our lifestyles—such as cutting back on the use of fossil fuels—would not be happening soon enough. He is now calling for the world to be prepared as everyone everywhere will be impacted. He half-jokingly suggested that universities offer a “Migration with Dignity” degree in order to study the best ways for adapting to the facts of mass migration. People should be able to move into their new countries and homes with dignity, not on the bottom, living in slums as outcast peoples. It will require conscious intention.

Mr. Hyeontae Kim, a member of the Seoul Metropolitan City Energy Policy Committee in Korea, related his story as a young environmentalist and founder of youth groups and other organizations to raise awareness of the urgent need for action in the face of the climate crisis. He told of his life-changing experience going to China and seeing first-hand a large desert area that once was a fertile grassland. He has participated in a three-party climate summit between Korea, Japan and China to search for practical policies that could improve the environmental health of the northeast Asia region.

The second Sunhak Peace Prize speaker was **Dr. Sakena Yacoobi** of Afghanistan, executive director of Afghan Institute of Learning. Her message was deeply personal and moving. Being a refugee herself at one point, she was able to gain an education and accepted as her life calling to bring education to those being denied. She understood that the first step in escaping refugee (or impoverished) status is education. This is a matter of justice since we are all creatures of the same God. But overcoming the barriers of unequal access to education requires action, she told the group. She had to fight through many naysayers, skeptics and outright opposition to achieve the accomplishments for which she is recognized globally. Her work has resulted in the education of 15,000 young people beyond 6th grade. She fought for teachers to be paid a salary, not as volunteers. Her organization currently has over 2,000 paid teachers in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. With barriers to public education in Afghanistan, she quietly engineered over 80 home schools. Her work grew to include medical facilities.

Her message to the IAYSP group was to never give up. She applauded the work of the UPF foundation of Father and Mother Moon as one that goes beyond borders and divisions to create unity among people and believes in the power of education. “We must invest in our youth,” she said, as they are the future leaders. Although she embraces technology, she said that many in the world are forgetting to teach the central importance of morality, compassion and the deep appreciation that we are one human family. We need to pass down human wisdom. We need to listen to the youth and teach critical thinking skills. We must show that there is but one God to whom we all pray. This is the main point of education.

After the keynote speakers, there was a lively panel discussion with the following panelists:

Hon. Silvia Nobre Waiapi, *Congresswoman, Brazil*

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, *Executive Director, Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL); Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate (2017)*

Ms. Jung-eun Choi, *Mentors without Borders*

Ms. Mica Amanlaman Camara, *President, IAYSP-Africa*
Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, *Senior Consultant and Expert of the CEN-SAD Regional Youth Programme*
H.E. Anote Tong, *President (2003-2016), Kiribati; Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate (2015)*
Mr. Hyeontae Kim, *Member of the Seoul Metropolitan City Energy Policy Committee, Korea*

To conclude the session there was a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between YSP-Korea and the SAKENA FUND. The Sakena Fund (formerly known as Creating Hope International) is the fiscal sponsor for the Afghan Institute of Learning and other NGOs.

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May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION VII-A: IMAP AND IAED PANEL

Written by Cheryl Wetzstein
Thursday, May 4, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—UPF's peace associations for the realms of the media and the business world held a joint plenary session during Peace Summit 2023 on May 4, 2023 in Seoul, Korea.

Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt, chairman of Washington, D.C.-based *The Washington Times*, moderated the session, "Toward a World Culture of Peace: The Role of the Media and the Economy: International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) and International Association for Economic Development (IAED)."

The vision of both associations, Mr. McDevitt explained, is to have substantial networks of peace-minded allies globally—such as 1,000 journalists and 1,000 business leaders on each continent—to effect positive change on cultures and current events.

Mr. Puy Kea, president of the Club of Cambodian Journalists and *Kyodo News* correspondent, said his life has long been caught between war and peace. He was raised as a child during a coup of Cambodia, the Vietnam War, and the reign of the communist Khmer Rouge, infamous for its genocide known as "The Killing Fields."

Peace came to Cambodia 25 years ago, thanks to "win-win" policies, and today this is regularly emphasized in the culture—especially through many of Cambodia's 1,000 registered media outlets, which reflects the nation's freedom of the press, Mr. Kea said. Cambodia is "ready to share 'peace journalism' with other nations," he stated.

Ms. Shova Gyawali, a Nepalese business leader and publisher of the national daily, *Republic Media*, said her media's attitude is to find ways to "enrich our common humanity" and promote better understanding about others' communities and faith. In the business world, she added, economic interests can "promote peace by providing opportunities for all," especially marginalized workers.

From Brazil, **Dr. Sergio Redo**, a respected leader of the Sao Paulo Press Association and National Press Federation, talked about the importance of media in building a culture of peace. A media with high standards for truth, fairness and ethics is relevant when "[traditional] values are being boycotted and buried by materialism and ideological opportunism," he said.

Mr. Guy Taylor, a veteran foreign affairs and U.S. State Department reporter of *The Washington Times*, said the media does its job when it sticks to fact-based news reporting and "civility" in both news and opinion. He touted the importance of "media independence" (and "transparency" in cases where government funding backs a media outlet or project). The public is best served when the media has "deep respect for truth and integrity," he added.

Mr. Leong Bee Lee, chairman of the Malaysian Association of Canada, has a long history as an economist engaged in international joint ventures. Media greatly impacts business, he said, quoting U.S. Muslim civil rights leader Malcolm X: "The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses."

The media has morphed from print, television and radio to social media, websites and mobile applications, which means people have more information in real time, Mr. Lee said.

But it can also quickly "create stereotypes and reinforce negative perceptions" instead of promoting understanding, peace and respect. Thus, the media is "a double-edged sword," he stated.

Singapore-based American businessman **Mr. James Rogers** said stable and prosperous economies that build fair partnerships are unlikely to engage in conflict. He mentioned several historical hotspots that resolved themselves, and added that, on the Korean Peninsula, when the way is found to "bring prosperity to the North, we can bring peace."

Dr. Surinder Pal Singh Oberoi, businessman and a leader in the Sikh community, talked about his history with nonprofits and for-profits, and the values of "honest living," "dignity of labor and the workforce," and giving to nonprofits that care for the less fortunate.

Dr. Jorge Alberto Ceballos Rodrigues, a professor of law and politics in Panama, reviewed his nation's efforts to build prosperity through tourism and an extensive banking system.

The final speaker—"from the heart of the Caribbean"—was **Mr. German Yael Feliz**, a journalist, TV producer and host of *Agenda del Pueblo (People's Agenda)* in the Dominican Republic. His advice to the media was to be empathetic on social problems but also be impartial and seek quality content. Today's social media has challenges, such as "pursuit of likes," and fame and money, he said. However, the way to peace is to "renew and recover family values."

The panel ended with a discussion about objectivity in the news media. Mr. Rogers urged media leaders to always "examine both sides" of an issue. Since many media outlets offer only "the party line," the fastest way to get the most perspectives is to read different outlets, he said, adding "let us decide" what to think.

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May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION VII-B: IAAP

Written by Ms. Nancy Hewitt and Dr. Thomas Selover
Thursday, May 4, 2023



Seoul, South Korea—Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: Toward a World Culture of Peace: IAAP, Session 7B, was held May 4, 2023 as part of Peace Summit 2023. The moderator was Dr. Thomas Selover, *International Co-coordinator of IAAP*.

Special Opening Remarks by Dr. Sakeena Yacoobi, Afghan Institute of Learning; Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate

Dr. Yacoobi gave a very rousing, passionate, dedicated testimony of her struggle in Afghanistan. She emphasized that women's education is essential for a productive, developing society. Originally her work was to raise up Afghan women through education, but her purpose was thwarted by the withdrawal of U.S. protection and the Taliban takeover with imposition of strict Islamic Sharia law. She kept a positive attitude, took a flexible approach, and adopted televised programs which women, confined at home, can watch. She and her team continue to educate using new methods. Now many women are continuing to receive an education.

Prof. Dr. Mahendra Prasad Lama, Senior Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Prof. Dr. Lama spoke on the topic: "Soft Power and Public Diplomacy, an Alternative Paradigm for Global Peace Building: An Asian Perspective." He commented that soft power can be powerful, and can work either for or against national well-being. Badges, images of public figures, symbols and brand-names wield power. It may also work as propaganda undermining the state or religious culture. Hard power (military, embargo) is destructive, damaging and self-perpetuating. India practices peaceful coexistence and non-alignment. Rather than depending on national government for social balancing, we ought to effect change through positive cultural initiatives, education and grassroots diplomacy.

Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, President, University for Peace (UPEACE), Costa Rica

Dr. Aravena, speaking on the topic: "Security has taken the Latin American Agenda: We Need Dialogue and Consensus," stated that peace must include security and cooperation. UPF and UPEACE share the same goals, methods and philosophy. We must cooperate and dialogue. While humanity faces nuclear holocaust, there is intense local conflict; also, we face climate catastrophe. We must create a forum for dialogue and educate new peace leaders. The Latin American situation is special and different: he outlined possible dangers to security. We have almost no wars, he said, yet Latin America is the most violent region. Latin American countries are divided into four groups by the Ukraine War: Threats from lack of security, organized crime and drugs; climate change and water shortage; social discontent, protests, and violence; migration; illegal economy, food insecurity, polarized politics. Latin countries are suffering from stagnated development, low foreign investment, and a lack of competitive spirit, together with no confidence in public institutions. There are failed areas where the state has completely lost control. Insecurity endangers families, education, economy and politics. The solution: women's participation; awareness of complex global context; holistic views; conceptual maps; new ways to analyze and define problems; solidarity as humans; protecting the earth and biodiversity; uplifting human dignity; conflict prevention; and new technologies and AI.

Hon. Keith Best, MP (1979-1987); Chairman of the Board of Trustees, UPF UK

Hon. Keith Best's presentation was entitled: "The Path to Peace: The role of the UN and UPF in achieving peace in Europe and the Middle East." Currently there is great danger of catastrophic global conflict, he said. We must always seek dialogue rather than war. We need to balance principle with compromise. The UN Security Council needs to be reformed; member states must be held accountable for using the veto. The UN needs an early warning system for situations of developing conflict, to prevent conflict before it breaks out. This can be prepared by analyzing and identifying risks of human rights violations. People themselves do better than governments at avoiding conflict.

Commentators

Prof. Heung-soon Park, Professor and former dean of the graduate school of Sun Moon University, Korea

Hon. Timothy Mtambo, Minister of Character Education and Civil Unity for the Republic of Malawi; Commander in Chief, Citizens for Transformation Movement (CFT), Malawi

Ms. Sagadat Sabitova, UN Expert on Family Psychology, Education, Gender Issues, and Domestic Violence; Kazakhstan

Commentators' remarks:

H.E. Timothy Mtambo: Why is the UN failing? The UN offeres secular values and military solutions. UPF addresses the whole human: soul, spirit, love, family, peace. Local wars are perpetually breaking out in Africa. The Holocaust keeps repeating.

Foreign intervention in conflict is more a part of the problem than a solution. The UN and UPF should recognize and empower local initiatives. Indigenization is recommended. He suggested that a National Peace Commission be established in each nation. The UPF must serve as an axle for the UN in a spirit of mutualism. Hyojeong character education is essential for world peace.

Ms. Sabitova Sagatova: With forty years of experience visiting and counseling families all over her own nation and the world, she concludes that the family is important above all. All problems begin in the family and must be solved there. Domestic violence is ubiquitous, irrespective of nationality, religion, culture, income or social class. Education to prevent domestic violence and abuse of women and children is necessary from a very early age. Such education is most essential to prevent violence against ethnic and religious minorities, women, employees and gender nonconformists. We must get out among people and work with families personally.

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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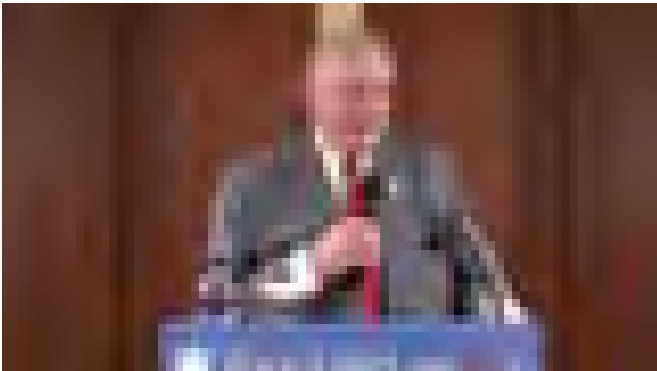
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PEACE SUMMIT 2023: SESSION VII-C: FOCUS ON PARLIAMENTARIANS

Written by Cindy Pfeiffer, North America Regional Coordinator, IAFLP
Thursday, May 4, 2023



[20230504 - Peace Summit 2023 - International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace Session](#) from [UPF Europe and Middle East](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Seoul, South Korea—Session VIIC, the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) session, of UPF's Peace Summit 2023 was held on May 4, 2023 at the Lotte Hotel World in Seoul, Korea. Current and former parliamentarians from 10 countries, including Bolivia, Germany, India, and the U.S.; Swaziland's speaker of parliament; a former Taiwanese vice president; a government minister; and a faith leader were among the speakers at the event.

Dr. Michael Jenkins, *president of UPF International and international coordinator of the IAPP*, served as the moderator. He highlighted that there are approximately 7,300 parliamentarians in the IAPP and that the members of congress of many nations have the power to make change.

Hon. Dan Burton, *member of the U.S. Congress (1983-2013) and international co-chair of the IAPP*, brought to the audience's attention the importance of the IAPP, with its network comprised of legislators and parliamentarians representing countries all over the world who are given the ability to address their countries' problems.

Hon. Annette Lu, *vice president of Taiwan (2000-2008)*, spoke of how a peace movement has been launched to protect Taiwan and encouraged collaboration between Korea, Japan and the U.S. so that a democratic Asian union would be in place. She added that throughout history nearly all wars were started by men.

Pastor Paula White-Cain, *senior pastor of the City of Destiny Church, USA*, remarked that as parliamentarians are elected by the people, they have great importance. She went on to point out that the life of UPF co-founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has been one of loving their enemies. Pastor White also spoke about overcoming evil with good. The power of good is stronger than evil and the only source of that good is God. Human beings' basic rights do not come from government but from God. She elaborated that the Trump administration saw that the way to true success was to establish prayer and appoint spiritual leaders in all areas: in funding programs, faith-based organizations and all organizations. In total, 10,000 faith leaders were appointed to work side by side in all projects.

Hon. Betty Beatriz Yaniquez Lozano, *assemblywoman, Bolivia*, said legislators are the representatives of the people who have been chosen to do their best to bring peace. They have to work for peace and democracy and for human rights worldwide.

Hon. Petros Vusi Mavimbela, *speaker of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini*, explained that the UPF platform is a gateway, offering leverage for families in nation-building and for economic benefit. Peace is a state of tranquility where there is no war. UPF promotes collaboration in all sectors, from civil society to media, even through arbitration.

Hon. Charan Jeeth Singh, *minister of multi-ethnic affairs and sugar industry of Fiji*, said that there have been coups in Fiji and underscored that peace starts at home. He further said that after the coups, the government promoted a multicultural society, overcoming racial discrimination, and cooperation in the areas of climate change, risk and regional security.

Hon. Dr. Malte Kaufmann, *member of the parliament of Germany (Bundestag)*, said that coming from Germany, a country that was once divided, it is heartbreaking to see Korea still divided. What happened in Germany after 40 years—reunification—could also happen in Korea. He continued, saying that we must know that peace "with God" is the way of peace. Laws, rights and responsibilities should be made to reflect the image of God and that a renewal of ethics and morals is necessary, as decadent philosophies lead to more destruction than climate change. Governments should protect the institutions of marriage and family and fight evil in our society, being guided by the Prince of Peace.

Hon. Ajay Dutt, *member of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, India*, highlighted that India has a population of 1.4 billion. It is a peaceful land and there are great people who sacrificed their lives for Indian freedom, peace and human rights. The model was created to sacrifice your life for others, and we are responsible for creating the peace-building processes in our countries. For example, Hon. Dutt's party wants rights such as free education and free transportation for women, as society has paid taxes and it should come back to them. We need mutual trust, openness and freedom, and our greatest responsibility is to solve conflicts peacefully and through dialogue. The IAPP has 7,200 parliamentarians in its network and if we move in one direction, the world can as well.

Hon. Maimouma Yombouno, *first vice-president of the National Assembly of Guinea*, said that the key factors for peace are parliamentarians, media and civil society. "I've worked in all these fields before working in government. We represent all people and control even the actions of the government, as people come to us to represent them. The President even consults with us. The media and the press can shake all other powers, especially that of social media and Internet, so we have to involve ourselves in the peacemaking process." Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon still fought for peace

even when her husband was called to God. Hon. Yombouno proposed a resolution of the UN: women should be put on the “round tables of negotiation” and involved in the peacemaking processes.

Hon. Iroshka Lindaly Elvir Flores Nasralla, *vice president of the National Congress of Honduras*, spoke about equal rights for women and said that China is not suffering the consequences of their actions to the environment and various injuries to others.

Speakers at the session also included **Hon. Victor Oswaldo Fuentes Solis**, *senator in Mexico*; **Hon. Hamidou Traore**, *sixth vice president of the National Assembly of Mali*; **Hon. Francis Mbelande Sade**, *premier of Guadalcanal Province, Solomon Islands*; and **Hon. Lawrence Songa Biyika**, *member of the Parliament of Uganda*.

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