

UPF International: World Leaders Discuss Building a Global Culture of Peace

Thomas G. Walsh
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UPF Co-Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon speaking at the Opening Plenary of Peace Summit 2023 on 4th May 2023 in Seoul, South Korea (Photo by Mateo Ziko)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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 www.thinktank2022.org and upf.org.

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PEACE SUMMIT 2023

2023. 5. 2-5 | Jamsil Lotte Hotel



PEACE SUMMIT 2023 will be held in Seoul, Korea on May 3-5, 2023.

In the meantime, through the WORLD SUMMIT, numerous top-level leaders, including Vice President Mike Pence of the United States, Secretary of State Pompeo, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, have shared their visions and policies for prosperity and reunification on the Korean Peninsula and world peace.

PEACE SUMMIT 2023 aims to provide a venue for national unity and international cooperation to realize peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula and a world of permanent peace through new imagination.

Various programs have been prepared to further materialize the Universal Peace Charter containing this vision and practice.

We ask for your interest and participation in 'PEACE SUMMIT 2023'.

Main Program



Opening Ceremony



Sunhak Peace Prize Conference



6th THINK TANK 2022 FORUM



International Academic Symposium



Co-Founder

Rev. Sun Myung Moon
Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

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IAPD-KOREA CONVENES INTERFAITH PRAYER MEETING

The IAPD-Korea and Korean Religions Association convened the 39th Interfaith Prayer Meeting at the Kwang Myung Bambilia Church.

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Heavenly Unified Korea



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MAY 11: EUME-IAPD: A Neutral Korean Peninsula: A Solution for Peace and Security in Northeast Asia?

MAY 15: UN International Day of Families: "Families and New Technologies."

MAY 16: UPFI International Day of Families: "Population Change: Will Your Family Be Impacted?"

MAY 27: UPF-UK: Africa Day 2023

JUN 1: UN Global Day of Parents

JUN 13: EUME: No Peace Without Women

JUN 21: Academic Council of the UN (ACUNS): Annual Meeting

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Marriage and Family

UPF-Albania Family Conference Emphasizes Values

Tirana, Albania—The second International Conference on the Family was titled "Family, Society and Universal Values."

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Interfaith Programs

UPF-USA Sponsors Iftar Dinners for Muslim Communities

Washington DC, USA—UPF-USA hosted two nights of the daily fast-breaking Iftar dinners at The Washington Times building for different Muslim community leaders and friends.

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Language

UPF-Italy Celebrates Minority Languages

Reggio Calabria, Italy—The International Mother Language Day event was titled "Rediscovering a Lost Heritage."

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South Korea

UPF-Korea Peace Forum Explores Inter-Korean Relations

Seorak, Korea—A former Korean vice minister of unification spoke about new inter-Korean relations at the 43rd Peace Forum.



Zambia

IAPD/UPF-Zambia Holds 3-Day Religious Leaders Workshop

Lusaka, Zambia—The IAPD Zambia Chapter held a 3-day religious leaders workshop to foster peace and mutual understanding.



United States

The Role of Media in Advancing Civility in the Public Square

United States—IMAP's webinar, "The Role of Media in Advancing Civility in the Public Square," sought ways to bridge divides.

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We are an international and interreligious network of individuals and organizations, including representatives from religion, government, civil society and the private sector dedicated to achieving world peace. UPF supports the work of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of interfaith peacebuilding, peace education, and the strengthening of marriage and family.

Universal Peace Federation 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.

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