

Conference Report...

2nd Africa Summit

Cape Town, 21 – 24 November 2018

Peace and Human Development in Africa: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Royal House of Mandela sponsored the Second Africa Summit which took place in Cape Town, South Africa from 21-24 November 2018. The summit was dedicated to honouring the legacy of President Nelson Mandela and it was one of a series of events which have been organised this year to commemorate the Nelson Mandela Centennial Celebration Year (1918-2018).

A highly selective group of delegates from throughout Africa and other parts of the world, including Seychelles, were invited to attend the summit. This included current and former heads of state, parliamentarians, leaders from the world's great religions, traditional rulers, women leaders and representatives of the media, academia, business, arts, and civil society. The summit also featured the first African assemblies of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) and the International Association of Tribal Chiefs.

The Seychelles delegation consisted of Mrs Rose-Mary Elizabeth (Peace Ambassador and Leader), Mr Roger Alphonse, Ms Anna Faerber, Ms Diana Benoit, Mr Terence Madeleine and Mr Joseph Bibi.

There is a growing awareness among people throughout the world of the urgent need for innovative vision and bold leadership, if we are to resolve the critical issues of our time. These are two of the foremost qualities that our global icon represented and which we should emulate. The aim of the summit was to bring together leaders whose individual and collective experience, wisdom and insight are needed if we are to build a world of mutual understanding, sustainable peace and prosperity for all. This summit provided a platform for such an engagement and meeting of hearts and minds.

The event began with an opening banquet where the participants had the opportunity to meet, amongst others, Dr Thomas G. Walsh, the Chairman of UPF International; Chief ZMD Mandela, Member of the Pan African Parliament and the grandson of President Nelson Mandela; Dr Tageldin Hamad, Vice President of UPF International and Director of the UPF Office for UN and International Affairs.

The Summit was held at the Cape Town International Convention Center and the UPF founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon delivered a welcoming address during the opening plenary.

The sessions

The following sessions were held:

- Session I: Opening Plenary: Honouring the Legacy of President Nelson Mandela
- Session II: Keynote Addresses: Featuring African Heads of State
- Session III: Assembly of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)
- Session IV: Assembly of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)
- Session V: Assembly of the International Association of Tribal Chiefs
- Session VI: Concurrent Working Sessions
- Session VII: Special Presentations

The summit was concluded with the celebration of the Peace and Family Festival and Interfaith Peace Blessing honouring the legacy of President Mandela.

Visit to Robben Island

During their stay in Cape Town, the Seychelles delegation did not miss the opportunity to visit Robben Island, the unique symbol of ‘the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, suffering and injustice’. With a rich, 500-year-old multi-layered history, it is visited every year by thousands of people eager to understand and honour the important aspects of South Africa’s history that the Island represents. The visit provided a first-hand experience of the many things that have been heard and seen through photos and videos of President Nelson Mandela. The visit began with a bus tour around the island followed by a tour of the prison by Mr Dumisani Mwandla, an ex-political prisoner on Robben Island from 1989 to 1991.

Notes

Universal Peace Federation (UPF)

UPF is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and has active chapters in more than 150 nations around the world.

UPF programs focus on interfaith peacebuilding and conflict-resolution, strengthening marriage and family, youth and service, and support for the mission and work of the United Nations. Particularly noteworthy among UPF initiatives are the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, the Peace Road Project, the Sunhak Peace Prize and the Leadership and Good Governance Award.

The Royal House of Mandela

The Royal House of Mandela, whose mission is to keep alive the life and legacy of President Nelson Mandela is deeply rooted in the values affirmed and practiced by Nelson Mandela throughout his life, and which he bestowed upon his eldest grandson. Among these core values are resilience, compassion, and courage. Steeped in tradition, the Royal House of Mandela stands for strong family values and service to the community.

Diana Benoit

Director, *James R Mancham* Peace and Diplomacy Research Institute

Some of the Seychelles delegates before their departure at Seychelles International Airport



Chief ZMD Mandela (second from right) during the Opening Banquet



During the Opening Plenary



