



The Palau Declaration

Whereas, the Universal Peace Federation in partnership with the Office of the President and First Lady of the Republic of Palau, the Women's Federation for World Peace and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace jointly organized the *Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit 2019 – Palau*, built on the successful Asia Pacific Summits held in Nepal in December 2018 and in Cambodia in November 2019;

Whereas, with the theme “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values,” in attendance were current and former first ladies, heads of state and government, speakers of parliament, cabinet ministers, lawmakers, along with representatives from faith-based organizations, civil society, youth and the media;

Whereas, we deeply value and welcome the support of the First Lady and Office of the President of the Republic of Palau, Debbie Remengesau and H.E. Thomas Remengesau Jr. of the Republic of Palau, for jointly co-hosting this historic Summit, and we have wholeheartedly endorsed the recommendation for H.E. Thomas Remengesau Jr. to receive UPF's Leadership and Good Governance Award;

Whereas, all participants express their utmost gratitude and appreciation for the efforts being undertaken by UPF, co-founded by the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, towards establishing a world of peace, happiness, harmony and mutual prosperity; and

Whereas, due to the urgent and growing awareness among people throughout the world for visionary initiatives and bold leadership to resolve the critical issues of our time we, the delegates of the *Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit 2019 – Palau*, hereby affirm the following:

1. The need to upgrade the status of women who have endured violence at home, discrimination in the work place, reduced access to education, as well as other disenfranchised opportunities, and that government officials at all levels of society address gender inequality at its root by understanding the harmonious and complementary nature of the masculine and feminine attributes of all things in creation;
2. That urgent and effective action must be taken by the world community to address the critical challenges related to climate change and other environmental issues which threaten the very existence of the human race and our planet, our only home, and, if ignored, is done so at our own peril;
3. That protection and promotion of the institutions of marriage and family is vital to achieving lasting peace and happiness, in addition to advancing sustainable development, and took note that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls the family “the natural and fundamental group unit of society” which is “entitled to protection by society and the state;”

4. The requirement for mutual tolerance, understanding, accommodation and social responsibility to resolve increased threats to global peace and security in order to ensure a more peaceful, equitable and inclusive world order, acknowledging the important role a responsible media plays in achieving this goal;
5. The necessity to include youth and students in transformational leadership roles, calling on them to practice social responsibility, moral integrity and to take initiative in building a culture of peace, by developing a public mindset;
6. The ideal of living for the sake of others as an effective means to help people reconcile differences and overcome divisions in human relationships at the family, societal, national and world levels, and can foster reconciliation in order to establish a culture of one global family; and
7. This Summit supports the founding vision and proposed launching of the International Association of First Ladies for Peace. This Summit noted that a woman's empathy toward the vulnerable, her preference to work in consensus, her natural bridge-building instinct, her commitment to peace and to defending social justice are but a few of many essential character traits needed to bring harmony and reconciliation in a wounded world.
8. The Summit extends its solidarity to the recently launched Asia Pacific Union (APU) in Cambodia during the 2nd Asia Pacific Summit, November 2019, where the Vice President H.E. Raynold Oilouch, and First Lady Debbie M. Remengesau, of the Republic of Palau attended and spoke on various occasions. APU called for strengthening the family of nations belonging to the Asia Pacific rim so as to reinforce cooperative relations and expand the environment of mutual trust and social harmony in order to advance universal peace and prosperity in which the Asia Pacific region could achieve its true and full potential on the global stage, characterized by a social and cultural renaissance that builds on the strong filial bonds prevalent in Asian societies.

This Summit appreciated and noted comments and suggestions made during the sessions by the participants, particularly the recommendation to follow-up and continue the momentum initiated here.

On this, 11th Day of December, in the year 2019,
the participants of the
Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit 2019 – Palau
do hereby unanimously adopt

The Palau Declaration.