



ASIA PACIFIC SUMMIT 2019-CAMBODIA

Government and Civil Society Cooperation

The Phnom Penh Declaration

Whereas, the Universal Peace Federation in partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Civil Society Alliance Forum, the Asian Cultural Council, and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace jointly organized the *Asia Pacific Summit 2019 – Cambodia*, built on the successful Asia Pacific Summit held in Nepal in 2018;

Whereas, with the theme “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Peace, Reconciliation, Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values,” in attendance were current and former 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 sincerely appreciate the complete and unreserved support of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Cambodian people for hosting this historical event, and we wholeheartedly endorse the recommendation for Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen 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 Summit 2019 – Cambodia*, hereby affirm the following:

1. 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, are done so at our own peril;
2. This Summit noted with concern the increasing threats to global peace and security due to a variety of social, political and economic causes and stressed the need for mutual tolerance, understanding, accommodation and recognition of civic space to resolve conflicts and ensure a more peaceful, equitable and inclusive world order, acknowledging the important role a responsible media plays in achieving this goal;
3. The nurturing of the institutions of marriage and family is crucial 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 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;
 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 importance of recognizing and honoring the successful peace initiatives by the government and the private sector, including individuals, noting the win-win strategy pioneered by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which has helped advance the well-being of its people;
 7. The support of the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific” as a means to complement regional cooperation and to help promote an enabling environment for peace, stability and prosperity;
 8. The ideal of living for the sake of others is an effective means to help people reconcile differences and overcome divisions in human relationships at the family, social, national and world levels, and can foster reconciliation in order to establish a culture of one global family; and
 9. In this regard, the Summit underlines the need 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 region could achieve its true potential on the global stage. The Summit calls for a bold new regional vision of a community of Asia Pacific nations, a government and civil society partnership to create an Asia Pacific Union, 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.

We, the participants of this *Asia Pacific Summit 2019 – Cambodia*, do hereby adopt unanimously this

Phnom Penh Declaration

on this Tuesday, the 19th day of November 2019
at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.