

Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)

Resolution to Establish an IAPD-Africa Advisory Council in Partnership with the African Union (AU)

As members of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, a project of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), and as participants in the UPF's Summit and Leadership Conference, convened on August 11-15, 2022, in Seoul, South Korea, and focused on the theme, "*Contemporary Challenges to Global Order: The Search for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development*," we present the following resolution:

Whereas African spirituality and the great and diverse religions of Africa have always been an integral part of African life, valued by our African ancestors from time immemorial; and,

Whereas, as spiritual and religious leaders, we are called to play an important role, along with leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector, in addressing the numerous challenges faced by peoples throughout the African continent; and,

Whereas, we applaud the Universal Peace Federation, an NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and its founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband Rev. Sun Myung Moon, for its global efforts to promote peace and human development; and

Whereas, we honor and revere the great work being accomplished by the African Union, a premier multi-lateral organization respected around the world for its contributions to productive cooperation among the countries and regions of Africa for the sake of great unity, peace and development for all Africans; and,

Whereas Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace, during the First African Summit organized in Dakar, Senegal, in January 2018, proclaimed the beginning of a new era of peace and prosperity for a God-centered Africa based on the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values; and

Whereas throughout the ages, religion has served as a guide to humanity, establishing the foundations of morality, and providing a vision of the good society; and,

Whereas, religious and spiritual leaders, with their close connection to the hearts and minds of the African people at the grassroots level, are committed to working to support and contribute to the essential work of the African Union.

We therefore resolve:

- 1) To explore the rich African spiritual and moral values related to a culture of peace that may contribute to the emergence of a “shining” Africa guided by the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values; and,
- 2) To overcome the divisive tendencies that may emerge within and between religions, and to work to promote dialogue, mutual respect and cooperation so that we may more effectively work to solve the critical challenges of our time, including poverty, hunger, injustice, environmental degradation, family breakdown, corruption, conflict and violence; and
- 3) As spiritual and religious leaders from all over Africa, representing a wide variety of religious traditions, to offer our support and counsel to our political leaders; and,
- 4) To work collaboratively and supportively with the leaders of governments and civil society and the private sector, as partners, for the sake of establishing lasting peace on the continent; and,
- 5) To beseech the African Union and the African Union Commission to officially accept the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) of Africa, a project of the Universal Peace Federation, as a partner with the African Union, working as an Interfaith Advisory Council to augment and support the work of political leaders for the benefit of all Africans.

Proposed this day, August 12, 2022, in Seoul, South Korea.