UNESCO’s Headquarters in the heart of Paris provided a welcoming venue for the latest in the series of European Leadership Conferences taking place in United Nations Institutions and National Parliaments throughout Europe.

The generous assistance of the Permanent Delegation of the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Uganda to UNESCO and the patronage of Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, United Nations Secretary General (1992-1996) and current President of the UNESCO Panel on Democracy and Development, enabled the conference to offer support to the important work of UNESCO through this NGO initiative to explore a New Vision for Peace and Human Development.

The Conference was organised by the Universal Peace Federation and the Women’s Federation for World Peace in partnership with other Civil Society organisations: the International Institute for Strategic Studies, The Forum of Organisations for International Solidarity on Migration Issues, the Grouping for Action and Initiatives for Africa, the Centre for the Study and Promotion of Culture and Communication in Africa and the Geneva Interreligious and Intercultural Alliance.

Many remarked that the elegant UNESCO conference rooms, packed for two full days with an overflow crowd of over 300, were evidence of the ability of such an initiative to create a dynamic interaction between UNESCO, its delegations and a wider community of concerned NGOs and grass roots activists from more than twenty European countries, including many young people associated with the European Leadership Conference Youth Panel.

A wide variety of speakers representing the concerns of Peace-builders, Civil Society, Women and Youth were mingled with UNESCO Ambassadors, distinguished academics, current and former diplomats and politicians, religious leaders and educators. Below brief summaries of the addresses delivered in the Opening Session provide a flavour of the Conference along with speakers and themes for the seven other sessions. We encourage you to explore in greater depth those topics which are of particular interest to you through the links to speeches, summaries, visual presentations and websites.
H.E. Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali's speech, read by his secretary Dr. Sonia Ramzi, reflected on the need for preventive diplomacy, mediation and conciliation by regional organizations as meticulously elaborated in Dr. Boutros Ghali’s seminal 1992 work on the Agenda of Peace. He also laid emphasis on disarmament and control of the movement of conventional weapons and referred to the need to understand that peace and the development of democracy proceed hand in hand. He concluded on an optimistic note: I trust the future because I know that men and women of good character are working for peace. [Link to speech]

The President of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO and Counsellor of the Delegation of Oman H.E. Dr. Moosa Jaafar Hassan, opened the session by stating that a new vision requires new strategies which in turn require the involvement of intellectuals, religious leaders, academics and civil society in the support of policymakers. Concluding the session he expressed his hope that UNESCO benefit from the support of the European Leadership Conference ‘and the way that you are working for peace’.

Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, Senior Visiting Scholar at Churchill College, Cambridge and a Former Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan considered a new definition of human security: ‘The nature of security has been evolving since the end of the Cold War from “against” to “with”. The concept of security is being broadened considerably and continuously, to incorporate military, political, economic, societal and environmental dimensions, and the inter-linkages between them. The traditional model of security rests upon military defence of national territory - yet for many people in the world much greater threats to security come from internal conflicts, disease, hunger, environmental contamination, street crime, or even domestic violence.’ [Link to speech]

Prof. Ali Rastbeen, President of the Academy of Geopolitics in Paris spoke of the emerging importance of the geopolitics of human security as a new dynamic of contemporary power politics and elaborated on the non-military dimension of current security concerns. [Link to speech]

Dr. Yong Cheon Song, European Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), expressed his gratitude to UNESCO saying: Of all the different constituent organisations of the U.N. UPF perhaps feels the greatest natural affinity with UNESCO, whose core areas of activity - education, science and culture - are all such a large part of the focus of UPF and its affiliates. He went on to emphasize that: There is one cardinal and overriding principle that more than any other expresses how lasting peace and development can be realised - the motto “Living for the sake of others” is a profound and immutable truth that holds the key to all development and expansion of life and is ignored at our peril. [Link to speech]
SESSION II: GENDER AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Mrs. Nelly Cambervelle, Founder and President of IN SOLIDUM -  www.in-solidum.com
Theme: Together - a new approach to sustainable peace – Link to speech

Minister Jesus Gary Domingo, Mission of Philippines to the United Nations in Geneva
Theme: The Family is the Original NGO

Ms. Sabine Le Blanc – Psychologist and author of Les relations hommes-femmes mode d’emploi
Theme: Restoring gender balance – Link to speech

Mrs. Carolyn Handschin-Moser, President WFWP International, Europe  www.wfwp.org
Theme: Beyond gender equity: Strategies for cooperation towards a Culture of Peace  Link to presentation

SESSION III: AFRICA

Ms. Maguete Lorcy, Founder GAIA (Group for Action and Initiatives in Africa)
Theme: GAIA’s work to support the MDGs in Togo and Ghana – Link to speech

Pastor Armand Mavinga, Pres. Centre for the Promotion of Culture and Communication in Africa
Theme: Culture drives development – justice before peace – Link to speech

Mrs. Julie Morgan, Welsh Assembly Member, MP Cardiff Nth (1997-2010)
Theme: “Life for African Mothers” towards Millennium Development Goal number 5

H. E. Elizabeth Paula Napeyok, President of the UNESCO African Group, Ambassador Rep. of Uganda to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO –
Theme: Reflection on our value as Africans – character education to restore our dignity

Ambassador Robert Vandemeulebroucke – former Belgian Ambassador to Nigeria, Benin and Togo
Theme: Africa at the Turning Point of Peace and Development

SESSION IV: UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES AND EDUCATING FOR CHARACTER

Venerable Dr. Michel Thao Chan, Founder and President of the Cercle de Reflexion des Nations
Theme: Awakening Human Consciousness – Declaration of the Duty of Man – Link to speech

Dr. Jean-Luc Berlet – Author and Doctor of Philosophy
Theme: We Need a Strategy for Peace – Link to speech

Mr. Khalil Raihani - consultant, member of the Council of Europe pool of Trainers
Theme: Young People as Equal Actors for Peace

Mr. Jack Corley, Chair Universal Peace Federation, United Kingdom
Theme: Educating for Character – the Long Road to Peace – Link to presentation
SESSION V: YOUTH

Mr. Salem Moosa Hassan, Oman Diplomat
Theme: Education beyond the Classroom – Raising Youth for our Future

Ms. Souria Saad Zoy, Assistant to the Director UNESCO Youth Programme
Theme: The Work of the UNESCO Youth Programme

Mr. Ranjit Singh, Director of public affairs at the Representative Council of French Sikhs.
Theme: The Human Race is One Race – Sikhisms contribution – Link to speech

Ms. Lotifa Begum, Development Education Coordinator, Islamic Relief U.K.
Theme: Values for Global Citizenship – Link to speech

Mr. Xavier Giuvarc’h, President Forum Ploudaniel, V. President Bretagne Cooperation Humanitaire
Theme: Experiences of empowering youth through informal education www.forum-ploudaniel.net

Mr. Ewald Schenkermayr, European Youth Committee UPF
Theme: Exploring Global Citizenship – the role of informal and value based education

SESSION VI: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Rt. Hon. Rhodri Morgan, First Minister of Wales (2000-2009)
Theme: Human Resource Development in Small European Countries – Wales and the Nordics

Amb. Dr. Walther Lichem, Former Head of Dept. Int. Organisations Austrian Min. for Foreign Affairs
Theme: The Capacity for Otherness in Pluri-Identity Societies – Link to speech

Imam Dr. Abduljalil Sajid JP, Chair Task-force European year of Inter-cultural Dialogue
Theme: Islamic Human Development of Science and the Better Understanding of the Environment – Link to speech

Admiral Jean Dufourcq, Director of Studies the Ecole Militaire in Paris, Editor of the Journal Defence
Theme: No Security without Sustainable Security – Multiple Spaces and Multiple Causes of Conflict – Link to speech

Laurent Ladouce, Director Centre for Culture and Peace - www.culture-et-paix.org
Theme: A Philosophy of Peace and Human Development – Link to presentation - Link to speech

SESSION VII: A Life in Service to Peace

Mr. Timothy Miller, Vice-Chair UPF Europe
Theme: A Peace Loving Global Citizen – Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s Autobiography – Link to presentation

Monseignor Jacques Gaillot, Bishop of Partenia
Theme: Renouncing other people is renouncing oneself - a life given to others is successful – Link to speech

Mr. Chansamone Voravong, President of FORIM
Theme: FORIM and my experiences as a UPF Ambassador for Peace – Link to speech
SESSION VIII: Vision, Projects and Recent Activities

Mrs. Brigitte Wada, President Women’s Federation for World Peace, France
Theme: An Overview of the work of WFWP – humanitarian projects, with the UN, Reconciliation
Link to speech – Link to presentation - www.femmespourlapaix.org

Mr. Mark Brann, Secretary General UPF Europe
Theme: Practicing Peace-building Principles – the Work of UPF