

Session 3. Institutionalization of Peace

The Role of Women

in the Institutionalization of Sustainable Peace

Ms. Budee Munkhtuya

President of Association of Mothers with the Order of Famous Mothers, Mongolia

Hello, admirable family of peace,

I am Munkhtuya from Mongolia. I sincerely welcome everyone to the 2023 International Women's Peace Conference.

Has anyone here experienced war before? When I was young, war existed in the world, and it continues today.

As we are all aware, the world is suffering from many conflicts, environmental issues, and wars and conflicts that threaten peace. In addition to the Syrian Civil War and Gulf War, the prolonged Russo-Ukrainian War reveals the many limitations international law has for peace. Why do non-peaceful situations like violence in society and political instability continue despite various peace treaties between countries and international organizations, such as the UN, that are made for peace? We gathered here today to overcome this reality and seek a new path to realize peace.

Mongolia and South Korea have had significant exchanges in diplomacy and security. In 2022, under the motto "Peace and Development in Northeast Asia Will Lead to Korean Peninsula Unification," the Mongolia Diplomatic and Security Forum was held, with the participation of key political figures, professors, and researchers from various countries. While working in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, I was shocked to learn that not only Mongolia but also all nations around the world invest substantial budgets in preparing for war. It occurred to me that if the world had embraced peace instead of war, the massive defense budgets could have been used for sustainable development in each country. However, on the other hand, I also believed that fundamentally, war can be preventable.

In this regard, the 10 Articles and 38 Clauses of the DPCW, first proclaimed by HWPL, a collaborative organization of IWPG, was both thought-provoking and impressive. It encompasses all the clauses that can fundamentally prevent war, such as reducing arms support and production, refraining from invading other countries' territories, and guaranteeing self-determination for each nation. Furthermore, it promotes a culture of peace that can prevent religious conflicts and achieve lasting peace.

The mission of IWPG to protect children during conflicts and leave peace as a legacy for the future generations resonated with me, especially the 10 Articles and 38 Clauses of the DPCW. Since then, I have actively engaged in advocating and urging for the establishment of the DPCW in collaboration with various organizations in Mongolia.

In Mongolia, we have been running campaigns to support DPCW in all regions except for Gobi-Altai since 2016. Many organizations, including the NGO, LEOS, and the Association of Mothers with the Order of Famous Mothers, actively participated, resulting in over 5,200 signatures so far. These efforts have been highly successful, with many women registering and actively joining IWPG to engage in peace activities.

The 10 Articles and 38 Clauses of the DPCW holds significant value in the realm of education as it provides the only solution to fundamentally prevent war. Therefore, I have been focusing on women's peace education in Mongolia and have been striving to achieve concrete results through practical activities and the continuous training of peace educators through IWPG's Peace Lecturer Training Education (PLTE).

Moreover, we need to actively participate in government-level negotiations for the DPCW to become an internationally binding law. Women's participation in the negotiation process plays a crucial role as they can offer unique perspectives and wisdom in conflict resolution. By increasing women's participation in political and social decisions, we can contribute to the creation of more peaceful and inclusive international laws.

Collaboration among various civil institutions and organizations is also essential for building peace. During this process, women's leadership qualities such as communication, cooperation, and reconciliation are crucial. To promote awareness of peace and achieve practical peace, we need to foster cooperation through a peace community that focuses on various topics and activities.

In June of this year, IWPG organized the Mongolian Peace Assembly under the theme "Women Uniting as the Light of the World." Approximately 300 leaders from various fields gathered to discuss IWPG's values of peace

and pledged to spread peace throughout Mongolia. We also erected a Peace Monument with the hope of safeguarding peace and leaving an eternal legacy of peace for future generations.

Today's conference is an opportunity for us to formulate practical goals and take concrete actions to achieve peace. Peace is everyone's responsibility, and the efforts and roles of women are crucial in realizing it. Let us, now, not just proclaim peace in words but take even small steps toward it.

When women come together, we can connect the branches of peace and advance towards a peaceful world. I hope that, from this moment, we can sow the seeds of peace together and embark on a new leap toward achieving world peace.

We can do it. Thank you!

