

## **Year 2020: A Narrative Report on A Convocation for Declaring a People's Korea Peace Treaty**

### **1. Background**

The year 2020 marks the 70 years' anniversary of the Korean War. With the three-year-long Korean War from 1950 to 1953, more than six million people were killed and wounded, and the entire country was completely destroyed. Since the Korean War the division became an unavoidable reality, and more than 70 years of division have caused confrontation and antagonism between the two Koreas, bringing unbearable *han* to the *minjung* (*grass-root people*) in the two Koreas. Even after 70 years since the Korean War, the two Koreas are still under the status of the armistice living with the fear of another war. Therefore, it is the most significant mission for all Koreans to end the war and open a new era of reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

The National Council of Churches in Korea has been exerting its strength on behalf of peace and reconciliation for the Korean Peninsula along with the ecumenical community and peace-loving forces in the world. In this journey towards peace and reconciliation, the NCCCK has affirmed that the very first step towards peace and reconciliation is to end the Korean War and establish a permanent peace regime by turning the current armistice into a peace agreement.

Therefore, since the 2013 WCC (World Council of Churches) Busan Assembly we have consolidated all our efforts to replace the present armistice with a peace agreement. In 2013 we initiated a signature campaign that calls for the signing of a peace agreement. From 2013 to 2015 we collected 14,000 signatures and submitted them to President Park Geun-hye on July in 2015. With the submission of the campaign signatures to President Park in 2015, we decided to extend the signature campaign to the global level to mobilize support from the global community. Based on this decision, the NCCCK, together with its global ecumenical partners, has conducted the global campaign from 2016 to 2019 in the USA, Europe, Japan, Russia, Constantinople and Greece.

In 2020, as we reach the 5<sup>th</sup> year of our global Korea peace agreement campaign and commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War, on July 23 we held an online International Convocation for Declaring a People's Korea Peace Agreement. (PKPA)<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Objective**

To end the Korean War and realize a Korea peace agreement

To appeal for the urgent need of a Korea peace agreement by declaring a "People's Korea Peace agreement"

To heal the wounds of the war and open a new era of peace, prosperity and reunification as it is

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<sup>1</sup> The original plan was to hold a face-to-face Convocation in Seoul and DMZ area on July 16-19, but due to the COVID 19, it was replaced with a zoom Convocation in which about 60 people participated.

spelled out in 4.27 Panmunjom Declaration

To articulate a new vision for a peaceful Korea together with ecumenical partners and civil society

To foster people's participation in peacemaking at every level of life

**3. Proceedings:** The online international convocation was convened by Rev. Lee Moon-sook, a vice chair of the NCKK Reconciliation and Reunification (RR) Committee, and began with greetings of solidarity from the partner churches and civil society.

**1) Greetings of Solidarity:** Fr. Ioan Sauca, Acting General Secretary of the WCC affirmed the history of cooperation between the NCKK and the WCC in efforts to end the Korean War. He highlighted the WCC pilgrimage of justice and peace and its connection to efforts for peace in Korea. He also affirmed the global prayer campaign undertaken by the WCC and the NCKK which gathered prayers from Christian partners around the world and also launched a peace message calling for an end to the war and a peace treaty to replace the Armistice Agreement. He praised this Declaration of a PKPA and added his prayers healing and peace in Korea and around the world. Mr. Lee Chang-bok (Standing Chair, 6.15 Committee in South Korea): Mr. Lee congratulated the NCKK on this convocation for a PKPA, acknowledged the ongoing pain of division and war in Korea, and encouraged all participants in the convocation to engage in the work of peace and unification with affection and interest. Rev. Levi Bautista (Congress of the NGOs): Rev. Bautista drew a connection between the UN goal to save people from the "scourge of war" and the efforts to end the Korean War. He praised the way the PKPA honors the UN Charter and affirmed the need for the global community to listen to the desire of Koreans for peace and justice, and expressed hope that the war will soon end.

Rev. Detlev Knoche from the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau and Mr. Yoichi Noguchi from Niwano Peace Foundation also delivered greetings.

**2) Welcome Message and Background of Convocation:** Rev. Lee Hong-jung, General Secretary, NCKK) described the historical context in which this convocation was carried out including the history of conflict, division, and war in Korea and expounded on the nature of the ongoing conflict. He declared that the Korean War and current division are a kind of sin against God, humanity, and nature. He also asked the participants to consider a future of transforming division into healing, reconciliation and peace through the salvific work of God. He affirmed his hope that Korean Peninsula could arise as a new creation of Jubilee in this work of ending the Korean War.

**3) Key Presentations:** Mr. Cheong Wook-sik Cheong, Director of Peace Network, began Keynote Presentation 1 with an overview of the shortcomings of each of the three sides (North Korea, South Korea, US) involved in the negotiation process. These shortcomings have contributed in

complicated ways to the current breakdown in negotiations. In hopes of moving forward in light of the status quo of inter-Korean relations, COVID-19, and the upcoming US elections, he offers several areas on which to focus. He suggests that, with the two Koreas taking the lead, they could work toward a nuclear-weapon-free-zone over the Korean peninsula in which surrounding powers would also join, which would give the parties an already existing framework for denuclearization. He also suggests focusing on the establishment of a peace regime. He laments the US-SK demands that a peace treaty only be signed after denuclearization and hopes they will be more flexible on this, and that they will instead consider it an impetus toward denuclearization. He concludes by recognizing the limitations of the top-down approach. Seeing national leaders stuck in the status quo, the people must take the lead in pushing governments to end the Korean War.

Mz. Oh Hye-ran, Director of Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea, gave a detailed description of the many aspects of the People's Peace Agreement. She laid out the timeline of work that has brought us to the results of the convocation. She noted the Peace Agreement hails itself as a "first step" in the process, and that it arises from the people's will for peace. Out of the Basic Principles section she highlighted the designation of who should become signatory parties, its compliance with the UN Charter, and the commitment to a mutual step-by-step process of denuclearization for all parties involved. She then highlighted significant elements in the clauses of the Agreement's Key Elements, such as normalization of diplomatic relations for sustainable peace, and the dismantling of the UN Command. She noted the need for building military trust, step-by-step disarmament, and the challenge of developing international and domestic support for a People's Peace Agreement.

**4) Responses:** Mr. Peter Prove, Director of the WC, first described the context in which the Armistice Agreement has face challenges, and thus praises the PKPA for urging the various parties back to the task of replacing the Armistice with a Peace Treaty. He appreciated the stipulation that even though South Korea did not sign the Armistice, it is necessary they sign any peace agreement for it to be viable. He found it helpful that the Peace Agreement outlined the meaning of "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" so as to avoid the obstacles that hindered this most recent iteration of negotiations. He concludes by affirming the intent of this declaration to place the "people" in the role of leadership toward ending the war.

Mr. Högsta connected the efforts of the PKPA to the work of all those seeking to end the use of nuclear weapons throughout the world. He affirms the ICAN position that the use and threat of nuclear weapons is a humanitarian issue. He notes the sections of the PKPA that coincides with the elements of denuclearization championed by ICAN, especially that in addition to the DPRK terminating their nuclear weapons program the ROK will also be removed from the US nuclear

umbrella. He then outlined all the various dangers of nuclear weapons that threaten all human life. He also urged the involved nations to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which could supplement the creation of a peace regime.

Mr. Anselmo Lee, Director of Pax Christi Korea, noted the recent statements that Pax Christi Korea have released in regard to the peace process in Korea. He praised the PKPA initiative as being along the same line. He also made suggestions, especially that in each translation it would be helpful to note some of the corresponding terms in the other language so that there can be better common understanding among Korean speaking and non-Korean speaking audiences. He also suggested the initiative might take up the slogan "70 Years Is Enough" to mark solidarity with other concurrent movements. He stressed that the international nature of the Korean War should be clarified in earlier paragraphs of the text of the PKPA, and including a quote from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among several other suggestions. And he concluded by suggesting the agreement more directly urge the global civic society to contribute to the peace process.

Mz. Christine Ahn, a Representative of the Women Cross the DMZ, highlighted the pieces of the Agreement that specified the "people" leading the way and participating in the peace regime that would be created. She also noted that a central part of democratizing a peace process is the inclusion of women. She noted that women suffer from war disproportionately but also that when women participate in peace processes they are far more likely to succeed. She recognized how this participation of women fulfills international agreements that call for the participation of women. She lamented that up to now negotiations around the Korean War have failed to include proportional representation of gender. She concluded by recognizing how the situation of a pandemic might be an opportunity to imagine a new world and new ways of guaranteeing peace.

Dr. Seo Bo-hyug, Korea Institutes for National Unification, began by noting the helpful relationship between the PKPA and an Institutional Peace Agreement that should follow. He noted how inclusion of suggestions for an end-of-war declaration strengthens the Peace Agreement giving it more of a chance to build political will among the people. He suggested removing description of the Armistice Regime as a "continuation of war", and instead described it as a means of transitioning to a peace regime. He added suggestions for the Basic Principles section and Contents such as inclusion of a common memorial and remembrance of war victims to increase public support, and organizing the Contents section by themes. He concluded by suggestion various additions for the Contents section such as specifying the Korean Peninsula as a nuclear-free-zone.

**5) Sharing of Peace Initiatives:** Mr. Derek Duncan, Co-Chair of Asia Pacific Forum/Global

Ministries, described the nature of the Asia Pacific Forum and its past initiatives for peace in the Korean Peninsula, including workshops at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference in Washington, DC, as well as connecting Korean partners to lobbying opportunities in DC. He also confirmed the Asia Pacific Forum's support for this PKPA.

Rev. Claudia Ostarek, Director of the Protestant Church in Germany, noted the connection between the German experience of division and the Korean experience of division. She noted historic examples of solidarity between the German and Korean Churches for democratization and peace in Korea. She also shared recent acts of solidarity including hosting the NCKK's peace treaty campaign visit to Germany in 2017, a civil society meeting of Korean experts in Germany, and ongoing advocacy to the German government around the peace process. She concluded by pledging further solidarity for the days ahead.

Mz. Hwang Soo-young, Team Leader of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, announced a concurrent Korea Peace Appeal Campaign to the End the Korean War that seeks to gather the civil society and religious organizations around the world in force together for advocacy to governments to end the war. She noted the Peace Appeal Campaign is participating in the PKPA declaration and many Peace Agreement organizations have joined the Korean Peace Appeal Campaign. The Peace Appeal hopes to gather 1 million signatures by the year 2023 to finally completely end the Korean War and establish a peace agreement.

**6) Plenary Discussion to adopt People's Korea Peace Treaty:** In the plenary discussion participants offered their affirmation of the PKPA, and a few suggestions were made to include some new aspects in the delivery of the Agreement such as a note urging proportional participation in future negotiations that represent the diversity of gender, ages, etc. among the involved nations. The PKPA was accepted by participants in the plenary with subtle revisions and supplements to be completed later. (refer to the final version of the PKPA attached)

**7) Closing:** The convocation was closed with declaring the PKPA by Rev. Chris Ferguson, Rev. Benjamin Solomon, Ms. Patti Talbot, Dr. Deidre Palmer, Bishop Reuel Marigza, and Rev. Thomas Kemper.

## Financial Report on the International Convocation for the PKPA

### Income (Korean Won)

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. NCKK Reconciliation & Reunification Comm. | 5,000,000 Won          |
| <b>2. Partner Churches</b>                   |                        |
| Evangelical Mission in Solidarity            | 6,390,090 (Euro 5,000) |
| Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau        | 8,939,313 (Euro 7,000) |
| United Church of Canada                      | 2,235,759 (CAD 2,500)  |
| Global Ministries of the CCDC and UCC        | 1,743,892 (USD 1,500)  |
| Niwano Peace Foundation                      | 5,876,500 (USD 5,000)  |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>30,185,554 Won</b>  |

### Expenditure

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|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Airfare subsidy paid in advance <sup>2</sup>        | 864,504 Won           |
| <b>2. Zoom Convocation</b>                             | <b>13,789,080 Won</b> |
| Equipment Rental                                       | 6,600,000             |
| Interpretation/Translation                             | 1,100,000             |
| Resource Book Editing Cost                             | 1,000,000             |
| Video Production                                       | 970,280               |
| Honorarium   | 1,450,000             |
| Two Press Conferences                                  | 1,018,000             |
| Meeting Room   | 759,000               |
| Snack/Dinner for Staff & Technicians                   | 543,800               |
| Admin. Cost (Banner, Photocopy, phone, etc.)           | 348,000               |
| <b>3. Preparation for Zoom Convocation<sup>3</sup></b> | <b>4,531,300</b>      |
| Four Workshops for the draft of PKPA                   | 3,523,200             |
| Theological Seminar on the PKPA                        | 519,000               |
| Admin. Cost (meals, transportations)                   | 489,100               |
| <b>4. Korea Peace Appeal Campaign<sup>4</sup></b>      | <b>1,320,500</b>      |

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<sup>2</sup> This is airfare subsidy paid in January before COVID 19 outbreak. We are still negotiating for the refund of the airfare.

<sup>3</sup> There were 4 workshops with civil society and 1 theological seminar with NCKK member churches.

<sup>4</sup> This is an international campaign to end the Korean War and establish a Korea Peace Agreement, which includes many workshops, seminars and press conferences until 2023.

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|--|-----------------------|
| 5. <b>Reserve for follow-up works</b>        | 9,000,000             |
| Workshops for evaluation & strategy planning | 2,000,000             |
| Publication of Resource Book                 | 2,000,000             |
| PKPA Campaign with NCCK Regions              | 5,000,000             |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>29,505,384 Won</b> |
| <br>   |                       |
| <b>Balance</b>                               | <b>680,170 Won</b>    |