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English Translation:

Geopolitics of Care: From Tirana an Agenda of New Peace Written by Women

Tirana, 6 Nov 2025 – For a few days, Tirana became a discreet yet decisive meeting point for peace diplomacy. In the Albanian capital, representatives from 33 countries gathered—invited by the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and the Global Women’s Peace Network (GWPN)—to share experiences and proposals on peace, inter-religious dialogue and female leadership.

In a time marked by conflicts and polarizations, the message coming from Tirana is clear: peace is not simply a balance of forces, but a responsibility of care, and without women at the centre of this process, security remains fragile.

Albania, with its history of coexistence among Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox and other faith communities, offered the ideal backdrop to reflect on how religion can become a bridge rather than a barrier.

Into this scenario fits the intervention of Tirzi Martin, author and senior adviser of WFWP in France, who in “Words Before War – Dialogue as a Path to Peace in the Middle East” reminded how every war begins much earlier than weapons—in words that dehumanize the other. If the choice of dialogue were taken seriously from the start, many conflicts would not reach the point of no return.

The Albanian case was repeatedly cited as a concrete example of inter-religious harmony in the Balkans: mosques, Catholic and Orthodox churches, together with Bektashi community centres, share the same urban space, and families where different faiths live together are part of everyday normality.

The joint work of the main religious communities and institutions was also noted in promoting dialogue, supporting the most vulnerable groups and reintegration pathways for those returning from conflict zones.

Among Albanian voices, Prof. Eva Cipi, active in the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Albania, emphasised how peace begins in homes, in the words and gestures children breathe from an early age.

In the final thanks to the organising committee the contribution of Katarzyna Minollari — who for years has worked to intertwine religious dialogue, education and peace initiatives in the territory — was also highlighted.

Into this field fits the vision of Moriko Hori, international president of WFWP, who recalled the spiritual roots of the organisation founded by Dr Hak Ja Han Moon and Reverend Sun Myung Moon. At the heart of their mission lies the “logic of love”: overcoming ethnic, national and religious divisions through relationships of respect and mutual responsibility.

The testimonies from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East showed, with different languages, the same transition: from mistrust to cooperation.

In Tirana, the religious element was not treated as a theme separate from diplomacy, but as a dimension that strengthens it. When faith communities work together, peace gains a deep social base that goes beyond political calendars. In this process, women emerged as natural protagonists: leaders, mediators, educators, custodians of memory and social fabric.

The presence of high-profile political figures, such as Anneli Jäätteenmäki (former Prime Minister of Finland), confirmed that female networks in public life are not an accessory element, but a strategic resource for democratic stability and conflict prevention.

Among the most intense moments of the conference stands out the “Bridge of Peace” ceremony, a symbolic initiative born in the 1990s to heal historical wounds between peoples. Two people, often coming from contexts marked by mistrust or pain, meet on a real and symbolic bridge, guided by four words: responsibility, respect, repentance, commitment.

In Tirana this gesture resonated as a message to the international community: there is no authentic reconciliation without the courage to look at the past, ask forgiveness, accept to change.

The religious, civil and institutional dimension was interwoven with a strong openness to concrete cooperation between states. The 33 countries present brought educational projects, programmes supporting women in war-affected contexts, youth initiatives, grassroots experiences which now orient national and international policies.

In several interventions it was seen how collaboration between governments, non-governmental organisations and women’s networks can generate peace pathways where, until recently, there was only mistrust and resignation.

The concluding session gave a face to this “geopolitics of care”. The Global Women Peace Ambassador Award was conferred to Vicenta Fernandes of Cape Verde for her commitment to the construction of peace and community development.

To close the work was Mitty Tohma, President of WFWP for Europe and the Middle East, who summarised the spirit of the meeting in three essential commitments: eliminate ignorance, reduce poverty, set ego aside — an invocation aimed particularly at those with political and diplomatic responsibility.

Tirana showed that it is possible to speak of cease-fire, reconciliation, shared security and sustainable development starting from a different language — that of care, of faith that unites, of reciprocal listening between cultures and nations. Women religious leaders, former heads of government, academics, activists, professionals were not a “symbolic” presence, but protagonists in writing a new agenda for peace.

If diplomacy wants to rise to the challenges of our time, it must increasingly recognise the value of this silent work, which unites spiritual, political and human dimensions. It is precisely there, in the capacity to create trust among people, communities and different peoples, that the geopolitics of care can become a real hope for peace.

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