

unstoppable.



**WOMEN OVERCOMING
BARRIERS TO SUCCESS**

PRESS RELEASE

Unstoppable, a multi-structured international Conference promoting gender equality in all level of governments, private sector and non-government agencies concluded successfully today in Tirana.

For four days, from 20-23 February 2023, the Conference dealt with a multi of topics across the human rights spectrum, enhancing knowledge and strengthening the network of professionals coming from Western Balkans, V4 regions, Japan, Switzerland and EU countries.

During the many sessions of the Conference, we were able to uncover the right skills in addressing any form of discrimination and deliver a more grounded and empowering message in regard to the translation of the cross-cutting-edge leadership science into sustainable actions.

With more than 60 selected speakers and more than 150 distinguished participants from 20+ countries, the Unstoppable has already become one of the largest Regional Conferences of 2023.

It was organised by the Western Balkans Fund, thanks to the precious financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the International Visegrad Fund and Forum 2000.

After the Civil Society Summit, Covid-19 Impact on Civil Society Papers, FIRE Conference against hate speech and discrimination, Unstoppable is the fourth large international event organised with the support of the Japanese Government.

List of Speakers | Unstoppable Conference

20 February | Opening Ceremony

Olta Xhaçka | Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

Takada Mitsuyuki | Ambassador of Japan to Albania

Maja Wawrzyk | Deputy Executive Director, International Visegrad Fund

Gjergj Murra | Executive Director, Western Balkans Fund

21 February | Rising Up: The Science behind Lasting Leadership

Etilda Gjonaj | Deputy Chair of European Integration Parliamentary Committee, Albania
Fatmire Isaki | Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs North Macedonia
Maja Wawrzyk | Deputy Executive Director IVF
Liza Gashi | Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kosovo*
Gavan Patrick Gray | Tsuda University, Tokyo
Maja Raicevic | Executive Director of Women's Rights Center,
Violeta Jovanovic | Executive Director of NALED
Blendi Salaj | Journalist

22 February | Women as a Catalyst for Democratic Change

Christiane Hohmann | EU Ambassador to Albania
Ruth Huber | Swiss Ambassador to Albania
Valdete Idrizi | Director of Culture, Youth and Sports in Municipality of Mitrovica
Veronika Skoupa | Forum2000
Magdalena Jakubowska | Visegrad Insight
Aida Corovic | Human Rights Activist

Leading our Way! Young leaders take the stage

Katarina Popovic | Alumni of Japan Aviation School
Ferid Murseli | Democracy for Development
Ania Sauku | Albanian Youth Delegate to the United Nations
Dimitrije Jovicevic | Connect International
Domenika Vondrackova | Youth SpeakUp
Ognen Janeski | No Hate Speech Ambassador for Western Balkans

My authentic story | Storytelling Session

Edita Tahiri | Former Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo
Elizabeta Imeraj | Lecturer, University of Law
Belma Alispahic | Entrepreneur
Filip Vulovic | Human Rights Activist
Selma Lacic | Associate, CMS Reich Rohrwig Hainz law firm, Vienna
Marta Lempart | All-Poland Women's Strike
Rudina Collaku | Women Center for Development
Marko Mihajlovic | Human Rights Activist

23 February | What remained with us? Impressions, Similarities and Challenges

Jovanka Visekruna-Jankovic | Artist
Tanja Tomich | Journalist
Amra Smriko | Women's Block

***This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.**

Alba Cela | Albanian Institute of Foreign Affairs
Monika Kociova | Center for International Enterprise
Dafina Beqiri | Western Balkans Fund
Edlira Gjoni | Communication Experts, Human Rights Activist

What to we do next? Institutional and donor views on equal participation

Morikawa Hiroko | Embassy of Japan to Albania
Toshitsuki Kawauchi | UNHCR
Klodian Seferaj | Open Society Foundation in Albania
Evisi Kopliku | Regional Cooperation Council
Michele Ribota | UN Women
Denis Piplas | Deputy Secretary General, RYCO
Ksenija Vukmirovic | Western Balkans Fund

Exclusive and Mentoring Sessions of the Unstoppable Conference

- Pitching for Success | How to develop your leadership skills
- Personal Branding | The ultimate way to success
- Negotiate like a real leader | How does gender change the negotiation
- Financial literacy and its impact in gender equality
- Gender equality, peace and security
- Combating sexist hate speech

Full list of participants and more information on www.westernbalkansfund.org