



MYANMAR

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Statement

By

H.E. U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

at

the Special Commemorative Event on the Occasion of

the International Vesak Day 2015

New York,

5th June 2015

**Statement by H.E U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the UN at the Special
Commemorative Event on the Occasion of the Day of Vesak
(5th June 2015)**

Mr. Chairman,
Venerable Monks, Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my delegation and the Myanmar community, I have the great honour to join the celebration of this Special Event to mark this occasion of the Vesak Day - one of the very auspicious days for the Buddhist devotees around the world.

May I take this opportunity to extend our sincere best wishes, pure love and boundless compassion to all beings.

I also wish to congratulate our colleagues, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Virachai Plasai, Permanent Representative of Thailand and Ambassador H.E. Mr. Amrith Rohan Pereraand, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka for their leading role in organizing this year's special event in an excellent way. I also thank all the Venerable Monks and the distinguished guests present here today.

In Myanmar lunar Calendar, the second month of the year is called "Kason", which usually falls in May. Like other Buddhists around the world, the people of Myanmar celebrate solemnly and joyously this full moon day of Kason as one of the most religious and historically significant events, known as Vesak Day or Buddha Day.

As we have just seen in the video clip, Kason full-moon Day is signified by four most important days in Lord Buddha's life time:-

This was the day Lord Buddha had been prophesied to become the next Buddha,

This was the day he was born,

This was the day he attained Enlightenment and

This was also the day he passed away or entered Parinirvana.

In Myanmar, the Buddhist devotees celebrate this Day by pouring waters at the sacred Bodhi trees throughout the country. This is an act to mark their veneration to the Lord Buddha who attained Enlightenment under the holy Bodhi Tree. They also perform various ways of meritorious deeds to honour the Lord Buddha.

It has been over one and a half decade since the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of its resolution 54/115 to annually commemorate this event and to acknowledge the contribution made by Buddhism to the spirituality of humanity.

Today, we are living in a world full of strife and violences causing tragic sufferings in many parts of the world. This has pointed to the urgent need for promoting culture of peace among the people of the world, through the Buddha's teachings of loving kindness and harmony.

In this regard, may I recall a noteworthy teaching of one venerable Monk from Myanmar that "any war or conflict facing the world were started not by a particular country or a particular political ideology. In fact, the war or conflict was started from within the very mind or mentality of each and every individual".

If we want to build a peaceful world, we have to start with cultivation of mental peace or culture of peace in the mind of each and every individual. This can be done through promoting education to teach all individual the value of loving kindness and to establish true, lasting culture of peace.

We believe that the annual celebration of Visak Day event will contribute to our collective efforts in promoting the culture of peace, in **particular the Bhddha's teachings of loving kindness and living in peace** and harmony as well as in promoting mutual understanding among people of different cultures, faiths and civilizations in this highly diverse world.

This is the day for us to reestablish our dedication in following the path of Buddha's teachings, enabling us to grow spiritually, to exercise loving-kindness toward every living being making no distinction whatever and help promote goodwill and harmony all over the world. Whatever we do **overselves** will be gone when we are gone, but whatever we do for the **good of others** with loving kindness will remain forever.

Together, we can build a peaceful world through loving kindness and living in peace and harmony. With this note, may I conclude by wishing you all a life blessed with peace, happiness and prosperity.

I thank you.