

The World Fellowship of Buddhists Declaration—Japan 1978

We, the members of the World Fellowship of Buddhists representing the Buddhists of the world present at the 12th General Conference under the sponsorship of Japan Buddhist Federation held in Tokyo and Kyoto from October 1st through 6th in the year 2552 B.E. (1978), do assert and affirm that we uphold the spirit of the preamble enunciated at the inaugural conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists held in Sri Lanka in 2494 B.E. (6th June 1950) exhorting us *to strive with all our might and main to make known the sublime doctrine of the Buddha so that its benign spirit of service and sacrifice may pervade the entire world bringing peace and harmony amongst men and happiness for all beings.*

We reaffirm our faith in the consciousness of the pioneers of this organization who realized the need of mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhists who had been geographically and traditionally separated by many miles and many centuries. We are happy that there has been a growth of a common bond between the Buddhists of the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Now, with greater opportunities for closer communication Buddhists can make a significant contribution toward the goal of global peace and spiritual well-being of mankind.

In the light of the preamble and in view of the contemporary global situation we hereby solemnly declare that:

(I) WE ARE DETERMINED TO OVERCOME WHATEVER BARRIERS WHICH MIGHT OBSTRUCT OUR SENSE OF UNITY, SOLIDARITY, AND BROTHERHOOD AMONG BUDDHISTS;

(II) WE WILL STRIVE IN CONCERT WITH OTHER WORLD RELIGIOUS AND HUMANIST ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK FOR PEACE AND HARMONY WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF ACHIEVING A WORLD COMMUNITY;

(III) WE WILL EXPLORE THE UNTAPPED RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS; AND

(IV) WE WILL ASSIST IN THE COMPLETE RESTORATION OF LUMBINI, THE BIRTHPLACE OF SAKYAMUNI BUDDHA.

October 6, 1978