

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

Expressing its deep appreciation to His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and His Majesty's Government of Nepal as well as to the **Dharmodaya Sabha** (the WFB Nepal Regional Centre) for their generous hospitality in facilitating and hosting the Fifteenth General Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) at Kathmandu from November 27 to December 2, 1986;

Fully conscious that the theme of this Conference "Lumbini : Symbol of World Peace" is most appropriate at the present time when the need for global peace takes precedence over all other consideration in view of the dire consequence to humanity of a thermo-nuclear war;

Thanking deeply His Majesty's Government of Nepal for its tireless efforts in concretely supporting the Lumbini Project, by all financial and material means at its disposal, including the establishment of a Board of Trustees by the enactment of the Lumbini Development Trust Act, 1985;

Noting with satisfaction that the Executive Council of WFB, under the able chairmanship of WFB's President Sanya Dharmasakti, has established a Special Committee on Lumbini with the purpose of inquiring into the ways and means of assisting His Majesty's Government of Nepal in expediting the implementation of the Lumbini Project;

Fully Aware of the urgent need to expedite the completion of the Project at Buddha's Birthplace at Lumbini in order that it would, as soon as possible, stand as a permanent symbol of world peace for the benefit not only of the world's Buddhists but also of humanity at large;

Convinced that His Majesty's Government of Nepal, despite its most arduous and generous efforts, would still need assistance in the form of additional financial and material resources to expedite the completion of the Project at Buddha's Birthplace at Lumbini;

Sincerely Believing that the international community of the Buddhists, as represented by the World Fellowship of Buddhists, would be a major source for the contribution of the critical additional financial and material resources needed for the completion of the Lumbini Project as mentioned in the preceding paragraphs;

1. **Decides** to establish immediately, under WFB's aegis, a committee with the principal purpose of mobilising financial and material resources for the implementation of Lumbini Project as relates to Buddha's Birthplace at Lumbini to be known as WFB's Global Resources Committee for Buddha's Birthplace (WFB-GRCBB);

2. **Requests** the President and the Executive Council of WFB in consultation with its Special Committee on Lumbini, to draw up, as soon as possible, full organisational particulars of the WFB-GRCBB, bearing in mind that GRCBB's membership should be widely representative of the various Buddhist countries and denominations, the above task to be completed not later than the end of March 1987;

3. **Further** Requests all WFB regional centres, throughout the world, to co-operate fully with WFB-GRCBB when it becomes operational;

4. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Lumbini Development trust; and

5. **Directs** the Global Resources Committee for Buddha's Birthplace (WFB-GRCBB) as soon as it becomes operational to closely interact with the Lumbini Development Trust in its fund-raising and other activities.

Res. 236/2/GC 15/2529 (1986)

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

Deeply aware of the international character of Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Gautama Buddha;

Recalling the initiative of the Late Secretary General U Thant in bringing Lumbini to international limelight as a monument of peace;

Deeply appreciative of the International Committee on Lumbini Development of the United Nations in particular its Secretary General Mr. Javier Perez De Cuellar for his continuing interest in the development of Lumbini which according to him has a special meaning as a Centre of Cultural exchange and a symbol of peace;

Cognizant of the active and continuing assistance by the United Nations to His Majesty's Government of Nepal in the implementation of the Master Plan, through the International Committee in New York for the development of Lumbini;

Requests the United Nations to continue such assistance to His Majesty's Government in the light of the establishment of the Lumbini Development Trust, for the development of Lumbini, particularly when the Master Plan has entered a take-off stage.

Res. 237/3/GC 15/2529 (1986)

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

Concerned with the difficult financial situation of the WFB;

Considering the need for the WFB Headquarters to be capable of meeting its ever increasing administrative cost; it is resolved that :-

1. The Contribution to WFB by the Regional Centres be raised to US\$ 100.- per annum with effect from calendar year 1987;

2. The entrance fee for all new applications for membership be raised to US\$ 200.- with effect from calendar year 1987;

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

Having had a new look at the fundamental purposes for which UNESCO was founded 40 years ago, as clearly stated in the opening statement of the preamble of its constitution thus;

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed;”

Being convinced that the basic teachings of most religious traditions of the world in general and of the Buddhist traditions in particular, are directly guiding us to study the mind, to watch the mind, to understand the mind, to develop the mind, to discipline the mind, and ultimately emancipate the mind leading to perfect peace of mind, while indirectly helping us to develop skills and attitudes quite conducive to peaceful and creative relationships necessary to live in peace in society;

Appreciating the great service done by UNESCO within the last forty years to disseminate scientific knowledge and to promote international understanding by providing an increasing number of new politically independent nations to obtain UNESCO membership with opportunities for equal participation at all decision making processes as well as for benefitting from its services;

Regretting to note that UNESCO appears to have not yet adequately explored the potentialities of the religious resources of the Buddhists in particular and all Asian religious traditions in general, to find out a meaningful interpretation to the above mentioned preamble to the constitution in order to use such interpretation as a guideline for planning, implementing, and particularly evaluating the UNESCO programme of activities in terms of the constitutional aspirations of the founders and the survival needs of the contemporary global society,

Noting with deep concern the deplorable socio-economic, intellectual, educational, nutritional and cultural disparities of the world community along with the national and international violence, to a very great extent resulting from these disparities, despite all efforts made by UNESCO within the last forty years to promote education, science, culture and communication, may be because the moral, ethical, spiritual, psychological and humanitarian aspects of the human personality which may be called the PSYCHOSPHERE, is completely neglected and only the socio-economic material aspects which may be called the SOCIOSPHERE, is over-emphasized, even by most of the UNESCO Services, thereby completely ignoring a one hemisphere of the bicameral mind of the human person;

Considering UNESCO as the international organization quite rightly called even the conscience of the human race and of the United Nations, where all extremes should be avoided as far as humanly possible and a MIDDLE PATH approach generating more light and peace than heat and tension, should be followed in all debates and dialogues, providing an emotional, intellectual, and moral environment quite conducive to and compromising for all those holding divergent views, while the leadership should carefully steer UNESCO clear of national party politics and global ideological differences, so that UN may debate issues that

fall directly within its competence while UNESCO avoid such issues and concentrate more on its main mission of building defences of peace in the minds of men by trying to bridge the ever-widening gap between science and humanities while humanizing science and rationalizing religions in that process.

THIS FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS (WFB) (UNESCO NGO CATEGORY B), HELD DURING THIS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE B.E. 2529 (1986) IN NEPAL, WHERE SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA, THE PRINCE OF PEACE, (THE BUDDHA TO BE) WAS BORN, HEREBY RESOLVES THAT UNESCO BE REQUESTED TO :-

1. Appoint an international commission of experts including leaders of the major world religious traditions among them, for the purpose of studying and reporting on the conceptual and operational meaning of the statement referred to above as given in the preamble to its constitution and as found in the major religio-cultural and philosophical traditions of the world, which is the common cultural heritage of the whole human race, so that such interpretation could be used to evolve a precise criterion to review its past activities and to formulate, implement, and evaluate UNESCO's future programmes of action.

2. Publish at the first instance the conceptual and operational meaning of that pre-ambular statement of the UNESCO constitution, as accepted at present by UNESCO Secretariat, and make it available to all member states and NGOs in general and the said expert commission in particular, to be used as a basis for their study,

3. Initiate an increasing number of project proposals that will eventually promote peace, international understanding and co-operation, through the development and communication of knowledge, skills, and attitudes, directly related to the theories, processes, techniques, and practices, leading to peace of mind within the individuals, and inter-personal, inter-group relations conducive to peace in society with the help of the findings of modern psychology in association with the insights and guidance available from our religious traditions.

Res. 239/5/GC 15/2529 (1986)

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

(a) **Proceeding** from the Motto : "LUMBINI : A Symbol of World Peace", and **Recognizing** the special significance of the International Year of Peace, **Appeals** to World Buddhists, in the name of saving sentient beings, to support the earliest elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction by utilizing their moral power to prevent militarization of outer space - the main obstacle on the way to nuclear-free world - to take the most effective practical steps now to press for immediate cessation of Nuclear Tests by the Nuclear Powers followed by a comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

The dialogue between the Leaders of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. must continue.

(b) **Proceeding** from the peace centred teachings of Lord Buddha who forsook the distinctions of race, caste, creed or colour in His Quest for Truth,

Stresses the vital necessity of strengthening solidarity and co-operation with other religions and peace movements around the world in promoting the cause of universal peace, and

Supports the idea of convening a Peace Forum of Religionists in Asia and the Pacific Region.

(c) **Recognizing** the special significance of the International Year of Peace,

Calls upon world Buddhists to support the decision of the UN General Assembly to hold an International Conference in Colombo to discuss the proposal for turning the Indian Ocean into a Zone of Peace.

Res. 240/6/GC 15/2529 (1986)

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

Resolves :-

1. That WFB has full faith in formulating a programme of establishing PEACE now and in the years to come by adopting and applying Buddhist Principles, Doctrine and Ethics to be willingly accepted by the Nation States of the World, and towards this end, the Heads of States and Legislatures, the United Nations, and their Agencies and the WFB at the centre and at regional levels, should start deliberating and in effecting change in policy until the goal of World Peace is achieved, and

2. That WFB invites under Art: 5.1 of its Constitution, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi Prime Minister of India, Mr. Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, Mr. M. Gorbachev, Chairman of the U.S.S.R., and other World Leaders, to direct and bless such programmes for adoption.

Res. 241/7/GC 15/2529 (1986)

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

Realising the importance and need to mankind of preserving Buddhist religion, literature, art and culture, and transmitting the same to the future generation through modern approaches and research;

Resolves that the regional centres request their respective governments to permit and/or encourage studies and research in Buddhist philosophy, literature and culture in the schools, universities and centres of Buddhist studies.

Res. 242/8/GC 15/2529 (1986)

THE FIFTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS :-

Realising the importance and need of correct statistic of the Buddhist Population of each country in order to prepare realistic plans and programmes for their religious, social, cultural, economic and political upliftment, and to safeguard the Buddhist community against social-political discrimination;

Resolves that where practicable the Regional Centres request their respective Governments to administer the collection of census data that ensures against any form of bias of technical error in the collection, processing and analysis of such data.