

Concept Note

Commemoration of the International Day of Vesak 2026

Tuesday, 12 May 2026 | 15:00 – 17:00 hrs.

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York

The United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 54/115, recognized the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May as the International Day of Vesak, commemorating the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Lord Buddha. This sacred occasion provides a meaningful opportunity for the international community to reflect on the universal values embodied in the Buddha's teachings, which continue to inspire peace, compassion and harmony across cultures and societies.

In an era marked by global challenges, the teachings of Lord Buddha remain deeply relevant. Principles such as compassion, non-violence, mindfulness and the interdependence of all beings offer a timeless framework for fostering dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence. These values strongly resonate with the objectives of the United Nations, particularly in advancing sustainable development, strengthening multilateralism and promoting a global peace.

Marking the 27th anniversary of the international recognition of Vesak at the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations will co-host the Commemoration of the International Day of Vesak 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Tuesday, 12 May 2026 from 15:00 to 17:00 hrs.

The programme will include a high-level segment, religious blessings and a special address by the Most Venerable Bhikku Paññakāra who led the 2,300 miles of "Walk for Peace" as well as statements by participating Member States. We anticipate Buddhist and non-Buddhists from the United Nations, venerable members of the Buddhist Clergy and other invitees to join the event.