

# **GLOBAL BUDDHIST CONGREGATION**

**New Delhi, 2011**

## **RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION**

### **PREAMBLE**

Whereas representatives from the Trans-Himalayan Buddhist regions, together with international delegates representing Nalanda-Tibetan Buddhist traditions world-wide gathered in Lumbini, Nepal from November 22-24, 2011 to convene the First International Conference on Himalayan Buddhism;

Whereas conference delegates recognize the sacred nature of Lumbini, birthplace of the Lord Buddha, a holy pilgrimage site for all Buddhists, and a source of inspiration for global compassion and peace;

Whereas many Himalayan Buddhists have suffered through generations of marginalization, isolation, cultural loss, deprivation of access to education, healthcare, development and equal participation in civil society;

Whereas Himalayan Buddhists desire to become full and equal participants in civil society and for their ethnic, cultural and religious customs to be protected, preserved and promoted, as guaranteed by respective national legal instruments as well as various international obligations including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Whereas Himalayan Buddhists wish to strengthen their ties to the international community of followers of the Nalanda-Tibetan Buddhist traditions, to be supported in time of need, and in turn, to offer their support on issues of individual and common concern;

Whereas, delegates to the First International Conference of Himalayan Buddhism recognize the urgent need to create a common international platform to represent the interests of their individual and shared authentic religious traditions and cultural heritage;

**Now, Therefore THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIMALAYAN  
BUDDHISM Proclaims this LUMBINI DECLARATION** as a solemn statement of common

purpose and intent for all Himalayan Buddhists and for followers of Nalanda-Tibetan forms of Buddhism as well as adherents to other forms of Buddhism who shall all strive to promote national and international respect, recognition and observance of the cultural and religious heritage of these peoples and their traditions.

#### **ARTICLE 1.**

Affirms the peoples of the Himalayan Buddhist communities and cultures are entitled to equal rights and full participation in civil society without distinction of any kind based on religions, ethnicity, race, birth status, or gender within their countries of residence.

#### **ARTICLE 2.**

Affirms their inherent rights as stakeholders to participate fully and proportionately in any decisions affecting their communities and cultural heritage.

#### **ARTICLE 3.**

Affirms their inherent rights to equitable and proportional resource allocation and policy accommodation to ensure that culturally and linguistically appropriate education is provided to their communities, and that their communities receive equitable and proportional resource allocations for government expenditure for education, healthcare, housing, infrastructure development and other benefits of civil society

#### **ARTICLE 4.**

Affirms that the long and rich tradition of monastic education provides a level of educational attainment equal in every respect to secular education and resolves that monastic education must be fully recognized by the respective governments, supported by national legislation, incorporated into approved national curricula, and allocated all necessary resources and support;

#### **ARTICLE 5.**

Declares the Nepali Buddhist communities are the principal stakeholders in the development of Lumbini, a sacred site for Buddhists worldwide, affirms their leadership role in any national or international development of Lumbini, and recalling the UNESCO World Heritage declaration for Lumbini, further affirms the need for Nepali Buddhists to be accorded majority representation on any and all national, regional and international bodies, panels or committees charged with any and all aspects of the management and development of the Lumbini heritage site;

#### **ARTICLE 6.**

Resolves to convene a Global Conference of followers of the Nalanda-Tibetan tradition; and further authorizes the Buddhist Academic Foundation, the Gandan Tegchenling Monastery and Center of Mongolian Buddhists, and The Conservancy for Trans-Himalayan Arts and Culture, to

organize and convene a Global Conference to be held in India, within one year, near the location where the Lord Buddha delivered his first teaching. This will be in close coordination with and supported by organizations and individuals within India concerned about the preservation and development of Buddhism.

The purpose of the Global Conference will be to create a common platform in the form of an international organization that will

**PROTECT** the living culture and the Bhoti language of the authentic Nalanda-Tibetan forms of Buddhism in all the lands where it has taken root;

**PRESERVE** important Trans-Himalayan and Indo-Tibetan cultural sites; preserve the environment, with emphasis on the Trans-Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and the Asian landmass impacted by its environmental degradation;

**PROMOTE** monastic education, training and common standards, including recognition and training of tulkus and lamas; insure equal access to monastic education for nuns; promote the welfare of disadvantaged followers of Tibetan forms of Buddhism through integrated development, employment creation, access to education and healthcare; promote global outreach to deepen exchanges of knowledge and encourage world peace through cultivating active compassion.;

**PROVIDE** mutual support in balancing Nalanda-Tibetan Buddhist traditions and practices as they encounter 21<sup>st</sup> century needs; provide a forum for dispute resolution among followers of these various traditions and with those of non-Buddhist traditions; provide greater cultural enrichment opportunities among monastic and lay practitioners; provide a platform for exploring Buddhist perspectives on scientific inquiry, ethical living, care for the environment, equality, peace and other issues of urgent global concern.

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT, NOVEMBER 24, 2011, LUMBINI, NEPAL