



the distribution of aid has been going on for some years now, more and more requests are coming from villages adjacent to those already reached. During 2017, quilted blankets and winter clothes for thousands of people were distributed, with particular attention given to the sick, the elderly and the disabled. To identify the neediest villages we once again relied on a group of monks from Serpom Monastery, who after the earthquake have dedicated themselves to supporting the affected people, visiting as volunteers the most difficult areas to bring their support and participate in distributing aid.



#### EMERGENCY FUND FOR HEALTHCARE, THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

A medical dispensary, serving many remote villages with around 8000 inhabitants, has been supplied with medicines and materials. For many months a year, these villages, in the Makwanpur district of Nepal, remain isolated due to the high water levels of the river in the monsoon period: this supply of medicines is all they can rely on to bring relief to those who have a health problem.

The Association also supports a number of disabled and elderly people. These people are generally without any form of assistance and are unable to take care of themselves and to meet their own basic needs: the help they receive gives them dignity and hope.

The Emergency Fund makes it possible for the Association to intervene in the most urgent and desperate cases: families who cannot feed their children, pay the rent of a simple room, pay for essential medical care or operations.





#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

The reforestation project on the Tibetan plateau has been ongoing for years. In this high altitude desert, where the climate is extreme, every single tree is invaluable. Around the villages thousands of trees have been planted over the years, and with their growth large green areas have been created that perform basic functions for the life of the community: shelter from strong winds and sand storms, protection

from soil erosion and landslides, shade and shelter from the scorching sun in summer. Thanks above all to the effort and patient care of constant irrigation a high percentage of trees are growing well. Maintenance work has also been carried out on the aqueducts and tanks previously built in Gangchen and Singma villages where water is still such a precious commodity.





AID TO MONASTERIES

Our commitment to support various monasteries in Nepal, Tibet and India continued in 2017. These monasteries, where hundreds of monks of all ages study, continue to preserve an ancient and precious culture. The help of the Association this year was given above all to monasteries that, after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, have welcomed hundreds of children left without families able to care for them. The monasteries take care of all the primary needs of the children: food, clothing, medical care and education.



Nimo Gyalchun Monastery, Tibet



Sed Gyued Monastery, Nepal

At Sed Gyued Monastery in Kathmandu, a “dental camp” was carried out in collaboration with local dentists, to both check and treat those children needing dental care. The two classrooms inside the monastery, previously furnished by the Association to accommodate the growing number of young monks, were supplied with all the school materials needed for the year. Once again this year, to allow the young students to get a better education in basic subjects (Nepalese, English, mathematics, science) - as well as monastic studies - the Association provided salaries for two teachers. Furniture was also donated for the new dining room.



Serpom Monastery School, India



## HELP IN ACTION WATER PROJECT

In October 2018 the Lama Gangchen Help in Action ONLUS presented the project 'Acqua Nepal - Chapakhori Village' to the Italian Buddhist Union (UBI) to request the necessary funds.



The purpose of the project - related to and in support of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) n. 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" - is to increase water flow from existing springs, to collect water into tanks and pump it up from the source to distribute it to the village of Chapakhori - ward n. 7 [Nepal].

Currently the population of the Village n. 7 lives without immediate availability of water resources necessary for human consumption (drinking water, supply for schools, etc.), sanitary hygiene and animal needs, and has suffered a further impoverishment due to the 2015 earthquake. The village of Chapakhori - Kavre District, is located in the Bagmati Zone in central Nepal southeast of Kathmandu.

In February 2018, a first inspection was carried out, aimed at framing the territorial area and assessing the status of the places and the general situation of the water resource; while in May 2018, at the request of the Village Development Committee; a geological survey was carried out at the village of Chapakhori, Kavre District. The activities are followed by engineer Matteo Greggio and the geologist Claudio Galli working in close collaboration with the Lama Gangchen volunteers of Help in Action ONLUS Italy and Help in Action Nepal.















#### INTRODUCTION

The story behind the forum: Eight disciples from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan proposed the World Buddhist Forum in China in 2004, a suggestion that won support from Buddhist circles in countries like Japan and the Republic of Korea.

From October 2004 to November 2005, with the common propagation of the Buddhist communities of Hong Kong, Macao and across the Taiwan Strait, the proposal of hosting the World Buddhist Forum in Mainland China won universal support and an active response from Buddhist communities in over 40 countries. The Chinese government gave assurances it would support the Buddhist community to host the grand historic event.

The forum aimed to set up an open dialogue in equality and pluralism, for those who love the world, care for living beings, respect and protect Buddhism, with a loving heart to conduct exchanges and collaboration. The forum was open to all, Buddhists and non-Buddhists, regardless of tradition or religious background, hoping to accomplish an open dialogue on Buddhist topics.

The First World Buddhist Forum was held in Hangzhou City and Zhoushan City, Zhejiang Province, China, from April 13 to April 16, 2006. It was the first major international religious conference in China since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Over 1,000 monks and experts from 37 countries and regions attended the forum, giving speeches or participating in discussions under the theme of "A harmonious world begins in the mind."

Among the participants was Gyaincain Norbu, the then 16-year-old Chinese-approved 11th Panchen Lama, who was the figurehead of the forum, and made very rare public appearances, as well Lama Gangchen Tulku Rinpoche.





## The Second World Buddhist Forum

### Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Second World Buddhist Forum Panchen Erdeni Choskyi Rgyalpo 28 March, 2009

*The noble truth be enlightened by the Buddha,  
Dependent Origination be the supreme Dharma,  
The paramount teachings brighten beings in the world,  
I pay my heartfelt homage to the holy Mahapurisa.*

First, the white-lotus-like eulogy is offered to our greatest teacher Sakyamuni, Siddhattha Gautama Buddha.

Today, eminent Buddhist masters and learned scholars from all over the world propitiously gather here for the Second World Buddhist Forum. I feel greatly honored to attend this magnificent assembly once again.

Here, I'd like to extend the sincere gratitude to our central government for their kindly concern for and powerful patronage to the World Buddhist Forum.

This Forum is convened in my country --- China, which has a Buddhist cultural tradition going back two thousand years. This event fully demonstrates that today's China enjoys social harmony, stability and religious freedom. It also shows China is a nation that safeguards and promotes the world peace.

The theme of the second Forum, "*A harmonious world, a synergy of conditions*", best conforms to the Buddhist creed and the mission of modern social progress.

The following are a few of my personal views on this theme:

The rapid development of "**external material science and technology**", or material civilization of the present world brings about convenient facilities for people's lives on one hand, but on the other, it also causes, the environment degradation, growing disparity between the rich and the poor, financial crises, armed conflicts and wars, terrorist attacks and the like. The reason for all the adversity lies in people's mind ---- many people are deluded regarding the causes of suffering and happiness, feel discontent, lack of compassion... Just as Master Tsong Khapa says,

*All the declines in the world,  
Are rooted into avidya.*

Our Tathagata says: "*As the karma one accumulates, so shall one achieve the effect.*"

Sutras tell us: Good is rewarded with good, evil with evil. We should now guide and encourage people with the law of causality to serve others with beneficial deeds. So many stories that we have seen and heard prove that, if one treats and helps the poor

and miserable with compassion, one will receive good results ; if one inhibits and injures others with selfish mind, one will surely reap evil fruits. Only if we carry forward the philanthropic moral spirit, will everyone be guided to do good, and not to harm others; can everyone bear love and mercy, benefit all sentient beings and protect the environment, so as to enable people to enjoy a harmonious and happy life. It is the glorious obligation for us Buddhists in the twenty-first century to develop the "**Inner-mind science**", to rectify and eliminate all kinds of social maladies through the help of Buddhist tenets.

In order to do so, we ourselves should first study many a Sutra, Vinaya and Abhidharma and set our mind on Buddha Dharma. Sāmanāras and Bhikkhus especially should abide by the Vinaya commandments and regulations. **Vinaya** reads that, "*If Vinaya exists, Buddha Dharma exists*". The eternal existence of Dharma relies on the observation of Vinaya disciplines by Buddhists. Therefore, we should lay a firm foundation of superior Vinaya law, learn and practice three studies, listen to and practice the teaching in tripitaka, so as to success, protect and spread Buddha's teachings. Only in this way, can Buddha Dharma, the best cure to rescue beings from worries and sufferings, live on through time and space.

We should also uphold the two means of cultivation ---- teaching and attainment. Venerable Master Vasubandhu says,

*There are two ways of Buddha Dharma,  
Take teaching and attainment as forms,  
Upholding teaching is to preach,  
Upholding attainment is to practice.*

In order that Buddha Dharma can live on and flourish, we should foster more outstanding talents. Different sects within Buddhism should respect each other and coexist in harmony. In addition, I propose that such forums be increasingly held to promote synergy of conditions and thus to realize a harmonious world.

Finally, I wholeheartedly pray that my Buddha will bless the world and the world will enjoy eternal peace. I wish you good health and a long life. May all of your good wishes come true.

*May the best cure to eliminate afflictions,  
Become the fountain of happiness for all,  
Uphold the Buddha Dharma with piety,  
May the holy teachings shine forever.*

第 二 届 世 界 佛 教 论 坛 会 影  
The Second World Buddhist Forum











在第二届世界佛教论坛开幕式上的演讲

班禅额尔德尼·确吉杰布

由见说法，  
智说成无上，  
胜者见缘起，  
垂教我敬礼。

首先为我们的世尊导师释迦牟尼佛献上白莲花环般的赞词。今天，从世界各地专程莅临第二届世界佛教论坛的高僧大德以及众位大善知识们在此地云集之时，我能够再次参加感到非常荣幸。

首先，向我国中央政府对举办世界佛教论坛给予的亲切关怀和大力支持表示由衷的感谢。

本届论坛是在有着两千多年佛教历史传承的我的祖国——中国举办，这充分证明现今中国社会和谐稳定、宗教信仰自由，标志着中国是一个维护和促进世界和平的国家。

本届论坛的主题“和谐世界，众缘和合”是完全符合佛教义理和现代社会进步的宗旨。下面，我根据上述主题谈一点个人观点。

现今世界“外物科技”——物质文明的高度发达，一方面给人们带来了生活上的便利；而另一方面由此引起的环境恶化、贫富悬殊、金融危机、冲突战乱、恐怖袭击等各种弊端也与日俱增。这些不幸是因为许多人昧于苦乐之源，不知足、无善心等一切人心所致。

正如宗喀巴大师曰：“世所有衰损，  
其根为无明。”

如来佛祖有云：“造何业，得何果。”以及诸多经、论中所说，善必有善报，恶必有恶报。我们要结合业果取舍的理论鼓励并引导现代的人们多行利他之善事。我们耳闻目睹的诸多实例充分说明，若以爱

他之心善待和帮助贫苦之人，自己也会得到相应的善果；若以爱己之心压制和伤害他人，必将给自己带来相应的种种恶果。唯有发扬心向和善的精神文明，才能使个人言行受到良好引导，从而做到不害人、发慈悲、利众生、护环境；才能使人享受和谐安乐。通过佛学教典帮助人们纠正和消除当今社会出现的各种弊端，完善“内心科学”，这是我们佛教徒在 21 世纪的光荣任务。

为此，我们自身首先应该研习各种佛教经和释论，并做到心同佛法。特别是沙弥、比丘人要遵守清规戒律。正如《律藏四教》中所说：“毗尼若住，佛法亦住。”佛法能否永存取决于佛教徒的受持戒律。是故，我们应以增上戒学为根本基础，如法修持道三学，如理授受教三藏，以此使佛法得以继承、保护、弘扬。只有这样做，才能使消除众生诸苦之福源妙药的佛法得以永世常存。受持教证二法之理亦应如此，如世亲大师曰：“佛之妙法有二种，

教法证法之体性，  
持教法者唯讲经，  
持证法者唯修行”

因此，为其长存和发展，我们要精心培养更多优秀的佛法继承者，佛教内部各教派之间也更应互相尊重，和睦相处。另外，为实现以众缘和合来建设和谐世界，我建议今后多举办类似的论坛。

最后，我衷心祝愿佛光永照世界，世界永享太平，诸高僧大德寿高业丰，祝在座各位身体健康，善愿如成！

愿除苦良药，  
一切安乐源，  
教法伴利敬，  
长久住世间。

二零零九年三月二十八日

## The Third World Buddhist Forum



### 第三屆世界佛教論壇 THE THIRD WORLD BUDDHIST FORUM

27 January 2012  
(Buddhist Calendar Year 2556)

Dear Ven. Lama Gangchen Rinpoche,

With the Lord Buddha's grace and blessings, we take great pleasure in announcing that the Chinese Buddhist Association (PRC), The Hong Kong Buddhist Association and Chinese Religious Culture Communication Association will host The Third World Buddhist Forum in Hong Kong, China, from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. We feel honored to be writing on behalf of the Organizing Committee to invite you to participate in this auspicious event.

The World Buddhist Forum was proposed by eight senior Buddhist masters from the Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan in 2004. It serves as a platform for equal, open and diversified high-level exchanges among Buddhists and scholars worldwide. In 2006, the First World Buddhist Forum, with the theme of "A Harmonious World Begins in the Mind," was held in Hangzhou and Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, China. Buddhists and Scholars from around the globe actively took part in it. The Second Forum adopted the theme of "A Harmonious World, a Synergy of Conditions." It opened on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, in Wuxi in China's Jiangsu Province and concluded in Taipei on 1<sup>st</sup> April. More than 2,000 participants came from Buddhist circles in 50 countries.

The Third World Buddhist Forum aims to strengthen communication among Buddhists worldwide. It also seeks further to explore issues raised during the First and Second Forums, as well as to discuss and promote those Buddhist doctrines considered helpful in the building of harmonious societies.

The main theme of the Third World Buddhist Forum is "Common Aspirations and Actions Towards a Harmonious World." There are seven sub-themes:

1. Modern modes of spreading the Dharma
2. Buddhist Practices: The application of Buddhist teachings in everyday life (mental and physical, in the family, within the workplace)
3. The organization, preservation, translation and contemporary interpretation of Buddhist texts
4. Buddhist education in the past, at present and in the future
5. Buddhist charity in theory and in practice
6. The preservation and development of ancient Buddhist remains and non-physical cultural heritage
7. The development and mission of Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism in the era of globalization

Organized by: The Buddhist Association of China, The Hong Kong Buddhist Association, China Religious Culture Communication Association  
地址: 1/F, No. 338 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong  
電話: (852) 2574 9371 傳真: (852) 2834 0789 電郵: enquiry@whf2012.hk 網址: www.whf2012.hk



### 第三屆世界佛教論壇 THE THIRD WORLD BUDDHIST FORUM

We would be honored if you would accept this invitation. You or your organization may send 1 assistant as well to attend the event. The cost of accommodation, meals and domestic transportation for all delegates and designated assistant during the three day meetings in Hong Kong would be covered by the Organizers. However, the delegates and their assistants would have to meet the cost of their round-trip air tickets themselves.

Your notification of acceptance and enrollment form, as well as bio-data (100 words) to be presented at the Forum, should be sent to the Forum's Secretariat before 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. Participants will arrive in Hong Kong on 25<sup>th</sup> April and depart on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. Delegates are also requested to submit their dissertations of 3,000 to 5,000 words in both English and Chinese versions (in word document (DOC) format), to the Forum's Secretariat before 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Venerable Chuan Yin  
Chairman,  
Buddhist Association of  
China

Venerable Kok Kwong  
Chairman,  
The Hong Kong Buddhist  
Association

Mr. Wang Zuo An  
Chairman,  
China Religious Culture  
Communication  
Association

The Secretariat, The Organizing Committee of the Third World Buddhist Forum  
Address: 1/F, No. 338 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.  
Tel: (852) 2574 9371  
Fax: (852) 2834 0789  
Email: enquiry@whf2012.hk  
Contact person: Mr. Kevin Lin Pak Hei, or Mr. Lawrence Szeto

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Panchen Lama, Gyaincain Norbu, highlighting the emergence of dharma from ancient India and need for its global promotion.

“In religion, dharma means law or natural law and is a concept of central importance. For many Buddhists, the dharma most often means the body of teachings expounded by the Buddha,” the 22-year-old monk said.

His comments came during his first public appearance outside the Chinese mainland at the Third World Buddhist Forum in Hong Kong. “Buddha was a spiritual teacher from India on whose teachings Buddhism was founded. Since the prosperity of dharma in ancient India, many learned Buddhists have established monasteries and institutes at various countries for different races, promoting Buddhism like rainbows appearing all over the world,” he said.







## The Fourth World Buddhist Forum







Lama Gangchen, together with representatives from the Buddhist world gathering in Putian, Fujian province, for the Fifth World Buddhist Forum, held from the 28th to the 30th of October 2018, and more than 1,000 people from 55 countries and regions, including Buddhists, practitioners, scholars and researchers, attending the forum.



Group photo with Mrs Wang Yu Fang - Vice Governor of Fugian Province





## The Fifth World Buddhist Forum

This forum, themed “Exchange with mutual learning: Middle way for perfect harmony”, is aimed at promoting exchanges and mutual understanding between Buddhism and other religions, as well as modern science and technology, and realising shared understanding between different civilizations.



“Buddhist culture with contemporary values will unite the power of Buddhists around the world to do good deeds and make continuous efforts in building a community with a shared future for mankind”, said Xiao Hong, deputy secretary - China Religious Culture Communication Association, adding “The forum also emphasises the positive role of religious people in economic and social development, environmental protection, cultural exchanges”.



## To spread inner and world peace through music

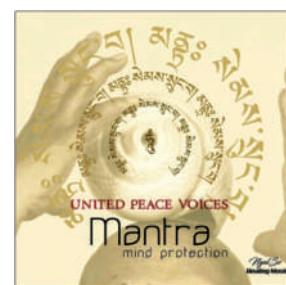
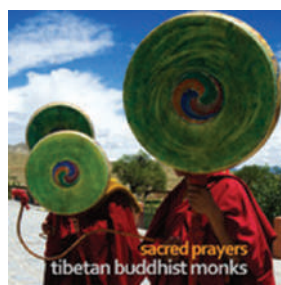
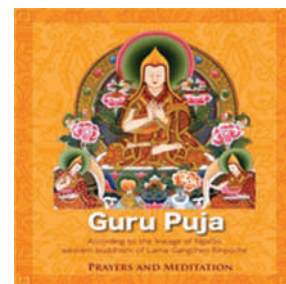
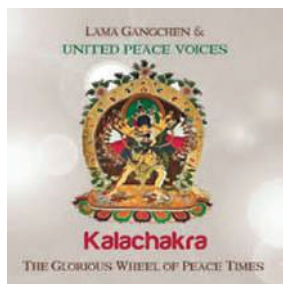
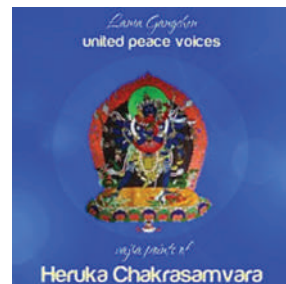
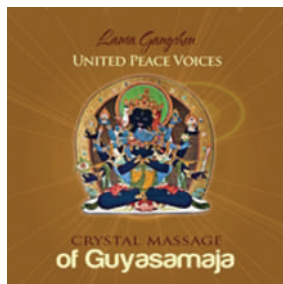
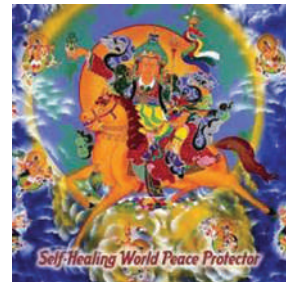
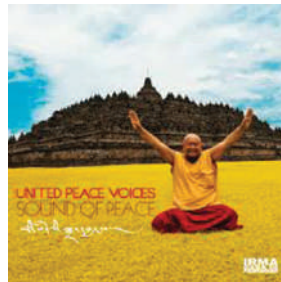
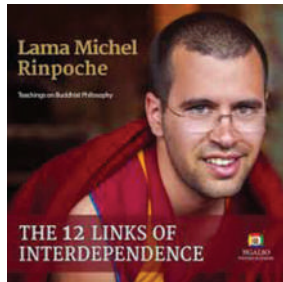
Beyond religious principles, the Association upholds a strong social commitment. In particular, the Association dedicates all of its own compositions to a high ideal strictly linked to the teachings of Tibetan Buddhism: inner and world peace. Lama Gangchen Rinpoche founded the association and encouraged the start-up of this project.

### Projects and Objectives

This project is dedicated to spreading spirituality around the world through music and to preserving the Himalayan culture. The principle motivation for the creation of the Association was to make the meditative practices of NgalSo Tantric Self-Healing, taught by Lama Gangchen Rinpoche, easily accessible to everyone. The Association of voluntary singers is composed of mainly female voices, Tibetan lamas and monks, who dedicate their compositions to themes, ideals and teachings of Tibetan Buddhist philosophy. The project was launched in 1996, within the religious and artistic setting of the Italian Buddhist centre Kunpen Lama Gangchen, a spiritual structure dedicated to the study, research and development of inner peace and world peace - a founding member of the Italian Buddhist Union. During a meeting with Lama Gangchen and a few members of the group, it was Allen Ginsberg, the most important poet of the Beat Generation and author of 'Howl' who encouraged the formation of the musical group that shortly after self-produced a CD that was distributed worldwide. The United Peace Voices have performed in Europe, America, Brazil, China, Argentina, Nepal and India. In 2003, Irma Records, who made their music known worldwide, discovered them. NgalSo Healing is a peace project that Lama Gangchen United Peace Voices Association is developing through the production of audio-visual materials. This work is dedicated to promoting physical and mental wellbeing by using music, mantra, sound and guided meditations to develop a profound sense of inner peace. Lama Gangchen says in one of his slogans that: "inner peace is the most solid foundation for world peace", and the Association is dedicated to the spreading of healing music, video and dharma throughout the World to develop peace for the benefit of all humanity. NgalSo is the Tibetan word used for mental and physical relaxation, while mantra literally means "mind protection" in Sanskrit.



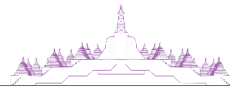












## Montessori Schools, China

### CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

Inspired by the latest album "Mantra Mind Protection", Lama Gangchen's disciple and friend, Ms Shirley Wu, president of the Montessori schools in China, asked us to put the anthem of Montessori schools in China to music based on the style of our album. The composition was requested with great precision, which was scrupulously followed; the words of the anthem are by Lama Gangchen, the music was composed by Christian Lisi and the voices, singers Tiziana and Melania Ciasullo.



The anthem was also the main soundtrack at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet of the Montessori Wisdom International Education group held in Beijing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2018. During the ceremony, video messages by Lama Michel were broadcast in which he explained the global work of Lama Gangchen for peace in the world, and a message of peace was sent by the Lama Gangchen on the screen.



Om Ah Hum

Om Ah Hum

Om Ah Hum

Sometimes just smile and everything is fine  
look at the sky and bring this space into your mind

Love means making people happy and more ...  
you always give the very best part of you

Inner peace is the way  
World peace is the result  
let's concentrate together  
It's what we have to do

Montessori  
is inner peace journey  
together we can  
to make a joyful life

open your heart now  
and open your soul  
and hand in hand we will find the truth

Montessori  
is inner wisdom journey  
concentration, pacification  
stability, generosity  
So please let go,  
let's walk this path together

Om Ah Hum

Om Ah Hum

Om Ah Hum

Om Ah Hum





In May, Shirley travelled to Albagnano when a special concert to present the anthem was offered. On this occasion Lama Gangchen bestowed each member of the United Peace Voices with special diplomas:



*"In profound appreciation and with most heartfelt gratitude for your immense artistic contribution performing in concert with the United Peace Voices in honour of the special visit of our sponsor and friend Shirley Wu - President Montesori Schools, China; on the auspicious occasion of the Kalachakra New Year festival with the precious Vajravali Garland of 45 initiations by the most Venerable Mahasiddha Nyitrul Rinpoche in our Temple of Heaven on Earth"*





## UNITED NATIONS SPIRITUAL FORUM FOR WORLD PEACE

A proposal by T.Y.S. Lama Gangchen

**“Inner peace is the most solid foundation for world peace”**

All religions and spiritual movements promote the spiritual development of their members and look, in one way or another, for the building of inner peace. Religions have sometimes caused wars or at least have been used by social and political leaders to justify wars and different forms of violence and oppression.

At the same time nevertheless, religions and spiritual movements have significantly contributed towards the development of a culture of peace and have fostered world peace by promoting values such as mutual respect, solidarity, compassion and social justice.

The United Nations is the main political forum for world peace. Peacemaking and peacekeeping are its core functions. Nevertheless there is not appropriate room in that forum for the religions and spiritual movements to be represented and to be actively involved in building world peace.

Although some countries have an official religion, in general religions ignore national borders and co-exist within countries and local communities. “Religions must not identify themselves with political, economic or social powers so as to remain free to work for justice and peace”. \*

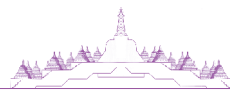
The Governments of the United Nations Member States cannot represent religions and spiritual movements. It is time to give them official recognition within the United Nations and to create for them an appropriate forum within the United Nations environment to hear their voices and actively associate them in the noble task of building world peace.

Concepts and Objectives To fulfil this need we propose the creation of a United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace under the General Assembly. The spiritual forum would be a permanent space for the leaders and representatives of all major and minor religions and spiritual movements for dialogue and concertation, as well as a bridge with the political forum. The spiritual forum concept assumes both diversity and commonalities among religions and spiritual movements. The forum will not entail the creation of a new multi religious philosophical doctrine or the ironing out of cultural religious diversity, but would be based on the holders of each religious tradition and identity, finding out in the dialogue common values, views and goals for concerted action in the search for inner and world peace, with full respect for the right of every group to cultivate, practise and teach its own doctrine.

In this spirit, the spiritual forum is expected to provide the space and channels for facilitating a better knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, ethical codes, organisation and practices of each other, a basic condition for mutual respect; to interchange ideas and work out common views from a spiritual perspective on the major problems and challenges faced by mankind, such as poverty eradication, population growth and protection of the environment; and identify specific areas for concerted action in the promotion of peace.

The spiritual forum will also offer an official channel to the spiritual leaders to speak with one single voice to the political leaders with regard to world peace and to relate to the specialised agencies





and funding agencies of the UN system which are responsible for promoting social, economic and environmental development. In order to fulfill its mission, the spiritual forum at international level should be complemented by spiritual forums created at national and local levels that will promote inter-religious dialogue and concerted action for inner and social peace in the communities. Without the active involvement of local communities the spiritual forum would remain only as one more superstructure. Complementary outcomes

The effective operation of the spiritual forum at all levels can be expected to:

1. Re-energize all religions and spiritual movements by enabling their voices to remain relevant to the billions of citizens of this planet now and in the future. 2. Offer new ideas and re-package old ideas in the field of education for peace; and last, but not least 3. Contribute to solve religious conflicts that are now hindering the development of world peace.

Inner Peace and World Peace Now and Forever By all the Holy Beings' Blessings

\* From the Declaration of the UNESCO Conference on "the Contribution by Religions to the Culture of Peace", Barcelona, Spain December 12-18 1994.

"I would like to be very clear, that although I am the initiator of this proposal, as it is gradually realized and the Spiritual Forum is created both locally, nationally and internationally, that is under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, I personally have no wish to be in the forefront of this assembly. My wish is to stay in the background, serving the Spiritual Forum in whichever way I am able, but leaving the leadership to those better qualified to develop this Spiritual United Nations to its fullest potential for the benefit of all humanity. There are four key points to consider about the Spiritual Forum:

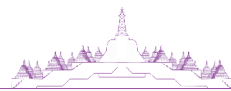
- The Spiritual Forum concept implies working for development of Spiritual Forums for World Peace in our local communities, in our countries and at international level.
- Participants of the Spiritual Forum must respect the rights of every other spiritual group or religion to cultivate, practise and teach its own doctrine.
- That we, the participants of the Spiritual Forum, will respectfully try to understand and be sympathetic to other beliefs, ethical codes, organizations and practices with the aim of sharing and exchanging ideas about how to solve global problems such as war, poverty and environmental degradation.
- That we will work together harmoniously to identify specific areas for concerted action in the promotion of inner and world peace.

The Spiritual Forum does not entail the creation of a new religious or spiritual doctrine or the loss of cultural-religious diversity; it shall be based on the holders of each religious tradition presenting their own system and philosophy at its best, in an open spirit whilst collaborating with other traditions, to find new perspectives and solutions for the many urgent problems now facing humanity. It is important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, both for the development and success of the global village and environment, that religions accept each other and come to some agreement on major issues such as population studies, economy, environment, peace making, and so on. Religions must work together because the harmony of the collective human spirit is the heart of all religions and is beyond any singular religion. The proposal aims to create continuously functioning Spiritual Forums for World Peace at both the international (United Nations), national and local levels. I hope that you will now collectively accept the proposal as your own and present it to the United Nations, the main international organ in the creation of world peace. Religious and spiritual traditions can make an important contribution towards the development of world peace and so we should collectively request the United Nations to allow this forum to be realised as soon as possible."

## A Chronological List of National and International Presentations of a United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace

1. Santiago, Chile, 8th of June 1995 at ECLAC, (the Latin American Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission). T.Y.S. Lama Gangchen presented his proposal for a United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace to an audience of 150 United Nations officials and special guests.
2. Dorset England, June 15th to 19th 1995. First Solstice World Peace Prayers in Stonehenge's Inner Circle Temple and Festival of Healing with Lama Gangchen at Gaunts House. Historical event held at Stonehenge, which marked the re-opening of this sacred site to the ancient pagan traditions.
3. Ulan Baator, Mongolia on the 7th of August 1995 at the Peace Committee. Organized by J. Choinkhor, Deputy Foreign Minister and President of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and attended by: Dr. G. Lubsantsern, Secretary General of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace; B. Wangchindorj, former Foreign Minister of Mongolia; Sheringdeva, former Deputy Prime Minister; and several important representatives of monasteries and peace organisations.
4. Kathmandu, Nepal on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1995 at the Russian Cultural Centre. Attended by: Chief Guest, the Rt. Hon. Beni Bahadur Karki, Chairman, National Council; HMG of Nepal. Guests: four members of Raj Sabha Standing Committee; three former Ministers; six representatives of associations and organisations, and seven representatives of societies.
5. Munich, Germany, at Haus International, 15th to the 17th of September 1995.
6. Montignac - Dordogne, France at the Salle des Fêtes, 14th of October 1995. The annual Forum was attended by over 1.500 people among whom Anne and Daniel Meurois-Givaudan; Emile Moatti, vice-president of the "Fraternité d'Abraham" and member of the administration of the "World Conference on Religion and Peace" for France; as well as various religious representatives and scientists. Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal and gave a lecture on the importance of Inner Peace Education. A portrait gallery was dedicated to great spiritual personalities of various religions, such as Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and Bahai. Each participant received a copy of the Proposal by Lama Gangchen personally.
7. Perugia, Italy, 20th to the 24th of September 1995. Commemoration Celebration of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the United Nations, and Peace Walk from Perugia to Assisi. Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal to the Assembly of the UN representatives and participated in the Peace Walk, attended by representatives of over 175 different countries, including important personalities, such as Betty William, Nobel Peace Laureat in 1975 (Ireland); Maria Pia Fanfani (Together for Peace Foundation); Nadia Younes, Director of UNIC Rome, Italy.
8. New York, USA, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the United Nations, 17th to the 23rd of October 1995. Lama Gangchen attended an NGO briefing held at the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium on the 19th of October, followed by a prayer which he held outside the United Nations Meditation Hall with a small delegation. On this occasion Lama Gangchen talked to and personally handed out the Proposal to all present. On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22nd, he took part in the "Visions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" symposium organized by the Temple of Understanding and the Council of Religious and Interfaith Organizations. Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, attended by: Rev. James Parks Morton, Dean, Cathedral of St John the Divine and President: Temple of Understanding; Dr Karan Singh, Chair: Temple of Understanding; Ambassador Douglas Roche, Chair: UN 50th Anniversary Committee, Canada, and Advisor to the Holy See Mission to the UN; President Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize; and many spiritual leaders and representatives of the various religious denominations. Lama Gangchen talked to and personally handed out the Proposal to everyone present at the symposium. He took part in the Inter religious Procession in the Cathedral as the representative for Tibetan Buddhism. On this occasion Lama Gangchen twice offered a dedication to World Peace with a prayer and a song. Sunday the 22nd of October, at the St Vartan Armenian Cathedral Auditorium, attended by Rev. Khajag Barsamian Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church in North America; Rev. Kyotaro Deguchi, leader Oomoto (Japan) delegation; Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Chair: International Council of Christians and Jews, London UK; Preminder N. Jain (Bawa), Vice Chair of NGOs at the United Nations & UN Representative International Mahavir Jain Mission; Rev. Dr Joan Campbell, Gen. Sec., National Council of churches; Dr Alwi Shilab, Religious Affairs, Agama Dept, Indonesia; Dr Arthur Herzberg, Rabbi Emeritus, Professor of the Humanities, New York University; as well as spiritual leaders and representatives from the various religious denominations. Lama Gangchen presented his Proposal and gave a speech on the need for Inner Peace Education.
9. London, England: Westminster Abbey, on the 24th of October 1995. On the occasion of the United Nations 50th Anniversary celebrations. The service, led by the Very Rev. Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, was attended by participating representatives of various faiths communities such as the Rev. Rabbi Edward Jackson; Bruce





Ginsberg; Hugh Adamson; the Most Rev. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and other worldwide visiting spiritual and political representatives and personalities; Alexander Borg Oliver, director, UN office in London. Lama Gangchen personally handed out the Proposal on this occasion and attended a reception where he met with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and several other worldwide spiritual representatives and personalities.

10. Chicago, USA 19th & 20th of November 1995: The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions and the Millennium Institute at North Shore Congregation Israel. Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal and took part in the Millennium Moment Roundtable, making a gift of the "United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace" proposal to the Projects 2000 for the Third Millennium. The two day meeting was hosted by Rabbi Herbert Bronstein and chaired by Rabbi Herman Schaalman, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Emanuel, Chicago, and by P.N. Bawa Jain, vice-Chair, NGO Committee, United Nations. The roundtable was attended by about one hundred persons, including Dr Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, Executive Director, 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions, Director, International Committee for the Peace Council; Dr Howard Sulkin, President, Spertus Institute of Judaica, Chicago, Chair, Board of Trustees, CPWR; Dr Hamid Hai, Chair, International Inter-religious Committee, CPWR; Dr Gerald O. Barney, President, Millennium Institute; Dr Shahid Ahter, M.D., Chair, Indianapolis Interfaith Council; Sr Jayanti, Director, International Centre, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University.

11. New York, USA: Interfaith Affairs Department, United Nations. Meeting with Rabbi Leon Klenicki, Director, Interfaith Affairs Department, United Nations, the Anti-Defamation League.

12. Delhi, India 10 to 13th of January 1996: 4th International World Environment Congress - Eco-Philosophy Summit held at the India International Centre. Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal to a large and extremely receptive audience of ministers, governors, spiritual masters and special guests, such as Sri K.L. Sharma, Vice Pres. BJP; Swami Om Pooran; Dr Prabhash Singh; Alan Kay, Commissioner, Global Commission to Fund the United Nations; Dr Karan Singh, Chair, Temple of Understanding; Dr Ramjee Singh, Director, Gandhian Institute of Studies; Dr Wilfred Menezes Mesquita, Minister for Environment, Goa.

13. Gobind Sadan, Godaipur, Delhi, India. Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal to Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios, President, Inter Religious Federation for World Peace and to Baba Virsa Singh, founder of Gobind Sadan during an afternoon tea gathering between the three spiritual masters and some close disciples; to Rajyogini Dadi Prakshmani, Brahma Kumaris.

14. Delhi, India: United Nations Information Centre, on the 16th of January 1996. A meeting with Feodor Starcevic, Director, during which Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal and the project was discussed with a very positive response.

15. Delhi, India: Italian Embassy, on the 16th of January 1996. Short reception and presentation of the Proposal.

16. New York, USA: United Nations, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1996. Lama Gangchen guided the Spring Equinox meditation for World Peace and presented the Proposal.

17. Amsterdam, Holland, May 1996. Proposal presented on the occasion of the founding of Lama Gangchen's Dutch association.

18. Madrid, Spain, May 1996. On the occasion of the Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation's 5th International Congress. A local forum was established, under the direction of Prof. Asdrubal Salsamendi, United Nation.

19. HABITAT II - City Summit, Istanbul, Turkey, 3rd to 14th June 1996. Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation - UN NGO accredited participant. Proposal offered to the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali during their formal introduction on the 4th of June 1996. Presentation and workshop: NGO Conferences on the 5th, 6th and 8th of June. Proposal further presented to: Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek; Members of the Wisdom Keepers; Prince Alfred of Luxemburg; Dr Hans Peter Durr, advisor to UN Secretary General, to name but a few.

20. Paris, France - 22-23 June 1996. Inter-Religious Congress "Unité n'est pas l'uniformité". Lama Gangchen and the Foundation were represented by Geshe Ngawang Sherab.

21. Westminster - London, England, the 26th of June 1996. On the occasion of a private meeting and discussion with the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres.

22. Rome, Italy, the 27th of June 1996. On the occasion of a private reception with Rabbi Elio Toaff, President of the Italian Jewish Community.

23. Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2nd Ecological Ecumenical Meeting at Hebraica Club on the 16th July 1996. Attended by Rabbi Michel Leipziger of Lar Golda Meir; Fabio Feldman, Environmental Secretary for Sao Paulo; Roberto Smeraldi, Friends of the Earth International; José Mario Brasiliense Carneiro of the Congregation Emmanuel; Mr Pierre Weil of the Peace University; Luciana Ferraz of the Brahma Kumaris; Father Jose Bizon of the Casa da Reconciliação; Kaká Werá Jecupé, indigenous people's representative.

24. Santiago Chile, 29th to the 30th July 1996. Creation and inauguration of a local Spiritual Forum for World Peace, on the 29th July 1996, convening monthly. Coordinated by Geraldo Gonzales Cortes of the UN Population Agency, the forum is composed of:- Rabbi Esteban Vegahazzi and his wife, Anna; Mario Sañartu, Jesuit priest; Mr Figueroa,

- Jewish-Christian Fraternity; Luis Cárdenas, Catholic, human rights representative; Samuel Palma, Evangelist Church; Ivan Bravo, Focular movement; Raúl Rosales Lay Catholic; Geshe N Sherab of the Varanasi Sanskrit University, Gelugpa Himalayan Buddhism; Moira Lowe, Brahma Kumaris; Mauricio Arrieta, Vicara de la Esperanza jóvenes; Luis Puentes, Ecumenical Churches. On the 30th of July 1996. Universidad del Pacifico - Meetings of Great Religions for World Peace. The work was initiated by Julio Ortuzar Prado, rector; Lama Gangchen presented the Spiritual Forum for World Peace. Discussions ensued with Rabbi Esteban Verghazi; Professor Antonio Bentue, Vice Deacon of the Faculty of theology at the Catholic University of Chile; Pastor Esteban Schaller, Evangelist.
25. Buenos Aires, Argentina, United Nations Information Centre, on the 9th of August 1996. Presentation of the Proposal and creation of a local forum for World Peace as a result of an International-Interfaith Roundtable Meeting. The presentation took place under the patronage of Angel Escudero de Paz, director of the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires, under the auspices of the United Nations. Among those present were: Father Vittorino and Hermanna Bassa, Catholic Church; Rabbi Sergio Bergman, Judaism; Licenciado Abdala Desuque, Islamic Centre; Father Dolan, Catholic Temple; Dr Guruji, Hinduism; Pastor David Calvo, Lutheran; Dick Couch, Presbyterian; Pastor Juan Gattoni, Methodist; Father Vladimir, Russian Orthodox; Horacio Gadea, Brahma Kumaris Spiritual University; Mozhdem Shoia, Bahai Community; Raul Mamani, Indigenous people's Representative; Pastor Hans Reitzel, Protestant; Geshe Ngawang Sherab, Buddhism. A local forum was established, with the proposed aim to extend it both to national and international levels.
26. Caracas, Venezuela, on the 19th and 20th of August 1996. On the 19th of August at SanaArte in the presence of Rabbi Pynchas Brener; Father Mounir Aoun, Maronite Church; Rev. Igazio Castello, Jesuite; Jefe Librado Moraleta, Union of Warao Indigenous Community; Farid Matter, Free Planet Foundation; Dr Enoe Texier, UNESCO - Free Planet coordinator; Belkis Aquino, Pax Kristium Pax; Lama Gangchen illustrated the importance of a permanent Spiritual Forum. On the 20th of August, at the Monument for Universal Peace, during an inter-religious prayer ceremony for world peace, with great mass media attention. Present were: Pastor Uriel Ramirez, Presbyterian Church of Venezuela; Father Mounir Aoun, Maronite Church; Jefe Librado Moraleta, Union of Warao Indigenous Community; Farid Matter, President - Free Planet Foundation; Dr Enoe Texier, UNESCO - Free Planet coordinator; Father Jose Vergara, Evangelic Church; Juan Sarmiento, Anandamarga Tantric School; Mohamed Dib Ali, Mosque of Caracas; Luiz Yarzabal, director UNESCO-CRESARLC office in Caracas. The Proposal received wide media, (newspapers, radio and television), interest on both local and national levels.
27. Miami, USA, on the 23rd of August 1996. Dade Community College, Inter-American Centre. The Proposal was officially presented to the Mayor of Miami, Joe Carollo, during a public meeting when Lama Gangchen was presented with an official recognition certificate "for his important contribution to the community", from the Vice-Mayor Wilfred Gort.
28. New York, September 1996. DPI/NGO 49th Annual Conference, 10 to 12th of September 1996, United Nations. Lama Gangchen participated and distributed the Spiritual Forum Proposal among the various NGO participants. United Nations: Vernal Equinox celebration, 17th of September. To coincide with the opening of the General Assembly, Lama Gangchen was requested to guide the Meditation for World Peace and distributed the proposal.
29. Rome, 10th International Meeting organized by the S. Egidio Community, "Peace is the name of God" on the 7th and 8th of October 1996. Inauguration Ceremony, 7th of October. Among those present were: the President of the Italian Republic Oscar Luigi Scalfaro; Cardinal Camillo Ruini, President, Italian Episcopal Conference; Jacques Santer, President of European Union Commission; Federico Mayor, Director General UNESCO; Jacques Diouf, Director General FAO; Cornelio Sommaruga, President, International Red Cross Committee; Pierre Sané, Secretary General Amnesty International; Elio Toaff, Head Rabbi of Rome. Plenary Assembly, 8th of October. Among those present were: Francesco Cossiga, Senator and former President of the Italian Republic; Jean Daniel, Director "Nouvel Observateur" France; Lamberto Dini, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Italy; Mario Soares, Former President of Portugal Republic.
30. Lahore - Pakistan, 1st of December 1996. The Proposal was distributed on the occasion of the 1st International Holistic Medical Congress, on World AIDS Day.
31. Colombo, Sri Lanka, 29th of December 1996. The Proposal was read out and distributed on the occasion of the 34th International Congress for Alternative Medicine, on the International Day for Biological Diversity.
32. New Delhi, India, from the 21st to the 25th of January 1997. The Proposal was presented on the occasion of the First World Polypathy Congress held in Delhi. The meeting dedicated to Global welfare, focused on both medical and social issues. Present at the function were the Honorable Chief Minister of Delhi, Sri Saheb Singh; Heath Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan; Sri M. Arunachlam, Union Minister of Labour and several members of Parliament. The prominent speakers included: Dr Carl Shapley, Chancellor New World Academy, London; Oswald Summerton, Director, Tacet Academy of Social Transformation; Dr Gregory Burglad, University of Provence, France; and many others.
33. Kathmandu, Nepal, on the 8th of February 1997. The first International Congress on Alternative Medicine,





Non-Violence and Peace Education and a proposal for a United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace. The meeting was inaugurated by the Rt Hon. Bhim Bahadur Tamang, Minister for Law and Justice (Chief Guest) and by the Rt Hon. Kirti Nidhi Bista, Former Prime Minister (Guest of Honour). Among the distinguished speakers: Dr Bill Piggot, Representative of the World Health Organisation-WHO; Professor P.R. Trivedi, Chairman Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment, Delhi, India; Prof Dr Sir Anton Jayasuriya, Chairman Open International University for Complementary Medicines, Colombo, Sri Lanka; Dr Maurizio Boaron, "Keyhole" surgeon from Bologna, Italy; Dr Pavel Petrov, Physician to the Russian Embassy; as well as representatives from various embassies, doctors and delegates from over 18 countries. There was a very colourful flag ceremony calling for peace in all the countries of the world, each symbolised by their own national flag, before the formal presentation of the Proposal. The meeting was covered by local newspapers as well as by a local CNN news agency.

34. Villa Carlotta, Lago Maggiore, Italy, on the 28th of February 1997. The Proposal was presented and distributed on the occasion of the first experimental Congress towards the Third Millennium, organized by Alpha Dimensione Vita. Among the distinguished speakers, was Professor Bernardino Del Boca, founder of the "Villaggio Verde", with some inspiring "instructions for use" for the Third Millennium. The Proposal received great acclamation and support as the imminent London meeting was announced for the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1997.

35. The Friends Meeting House, London, England, on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1997. A special inter-religious meeting was held for Lama Gangchen to present the Proposal together with Bishop Swing's United Religions Initiative-URI proposal. The gathering brought nearly 200 people together and Rev. A.C. Winter introduced the silent meditation dedicated to inner and world peace. There was a special display of all the United Nations Member States flags and each country was mentioned individually in a brief world peace ceremony held by Lama Gangchen before the proposals were read out.

36. Milan, Italy, on the 13th of March 1997, at the F.A.C.S. - Federazione delle Associazioni Culturali e Scientifiche. The meeting was organized by the F.A.C.S. Federation to present Lama Gangchen's Proposal. The presentation was followed by a very interesting dialogue towards a closer collaboration between the individual and such a proposal towards world peace.

37. New York, USA, on the 20th of March 1997, at the United Nations Headquarters, on the occasion of the Spring Equinox meditation for world peace. The proposal was distributed to those present at the meditation, now traditionally held by the Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation, and lead by Professor Ngawang Sherap, from the Foundation.

38. Catholic University Nijmegen, Netherlands, on the 29th of April 1997. The Proposal was presented by Lama Gangchen during a conference on self-healing and non-formal education, held before a university audience of 400 students, professors and members of the general public. A solid basis for interfaith dialogue with the university was established between Lama Gangchen and Prof. Hol Hogema for the Catholic University.

39. European Parliament, Bruxelles, Belgium, on the 29th of May 1997. During an official invitation to the European Parliament Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal to several EEC representatives.

40. Villa Ada, Global Village - Bagni di Lucca, Italy, on the 6th of June 1997. On the occasion of a peace celebration with the World Peace Prayer Society Flag ceremony and the placing of a Peace Pole at Villa Ada - official inauguration of the "Global Village"- the Proposal was presented to the Mayor of Bagni di Lucca.

41. Dorset, England, from the 12th to the 17th 1997. On occasion of the second Solstice World Peace Prayer Celebration at Stonehenge and Summer Festival at Gaunts House.

42. San Francisco, Stanford University, USA, from the 22nd to the 27th of June 1997. Participation of L.G.W.P.F. at United Religions Initiative-URI.

43. Ulaan Baator, Mongolia, from the 27th to the 29th of August 1997. First International Congress for a United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace, Alternative Medicines and Non-Formal Education. Presented to His Excellency the President of Mongolia, and later, to a large audience at the newly rebuilt 27m high Open Eye Chenrezig statue at Ganden Teckchenling Monastery.

44. United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA, on the 16th of September 1997. Presented on the occasion of the International Peace Day celebrations and the Equinox peace meditation held at the Dag Hammarskjod Meditation hall.

45. ISER, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the 24th of September 1997. Presented at ISER (Instituto de Estudos da Religião - Institute for Religious Studies) during a lecture entitled "Religions United for World Peace".

46. Sao Paulo, Brazil, Hebraica, on the 5th of October 1997. On the occasion of the Third International Ecological and Ecumenical Encounter for Word Peace, the Round Table discussion for the United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace was attended by over 50 participants representing over 30 organizations, among which the Jewish Community, Brazilian Catholic Church, Jewish-Christian Fraternity, Muslim Benefit Society of Sao Paulo, Paz Gaia, Hare Krishna, A.C.I. Ananda Marga, Theosophic Society, Condomblé, Nossa Senhora do Sion, Projeto Saúde Alegria (Amazon), Mãe Beata De Iemanjá, Centro de Alquimia Interior, Nova Tribo Cultural (Indigenous representative),

Brahma Kumaris, Himalayan Amazon Andes Healing Arts Association, Himalayan Healing Center (Nepal), Rosa Cruz Fraternity, Anthroposophic Society, Shamanism, Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Centre Shide Choe Tsog, Brazilian Association for Anthroposophic medicine, House of Reconciliation - Catholic, International Buddhist Progress Society, Gnose, Israelitan Paulistian Congregation, Catholic Franciscans, Unification of the Planet, Culto Afro-Brasileiro.

47. Presidential Palace, Santiago, Chile, on the 10th of October 1997. Presented to Minister J.J. Brunner, Secretary General of the Chilean Government, during a private meeting, who subsequently brought the proposal to the attention of His Excellency the President of Chile.

48. Local Forum, Santiago, Chile, on the 12th of October 1997. Twenty-seven representatives of religious/spiritual organisations were present. Several projects have been initiated by the local forum, such as: the proposal for a peace television for Chile; the introduction of non-formal education into the existing educational system; and bringing the importance of the local spiritual forum to the attention of the Chilean Government.

49. UNIC, Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the 14th of October 1997. The second reunion for the United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace Proposal organized by the L.G.W.P.F. was chaired by Mr Angel Escudero de Paz, Director of UNIC-Argentina and Uruguay, in the presence of Lama Gangchen and representatives of Brahma Kumari; Orden Sufi Nagshlandi; Temple Chong Kuan (Buddhist); Jewish Community; Community of studies of the first Nations of America (Indigenous People); "Groupo de Contactos Alejandria" Humanistic Movement; Centro Sri Sathya, NGO Sanitaria (Spain).

50. Caracas, Venezuela, on the 29th of October 1997. Lama Gangchen was invited by the Catedra UNESCO for a Peace Culture' to present the Proposal during an inter-religious meeting at the Peace Monument to inaugurate the activities in preparation of the inter-religious and inter-cultural conference which is to be held in Caracas in April 1998.

51. Himalayan Healing Centre in Kathmandu, Nepal, from the 26th to the 28th of February 1998. On the occasion of the second International Congress on Alternative Medicines and Non-Formal Education, organised by the L.G.W.P.F. - in honour of Nepal's Year for Tourism 098 - with the high patronage of the Ministry for Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Baneshwor Lions Club, Nepal.

52. Caracas, Venezuela, Regional Inter-religious and Inter-Cultural Conference, 19th to 23rd of April 1998. Organized by UNESCO Chair - Planeta Libre for United Religions Initiative (URI), with the participation of 65 representatives from 17 different faiths and religious organizations

53. Gaunts House, England, Interfaith Conversations, 18th to the 23rd of June 1998. The five day event centered around panel discussions as well as prayers and meditations for World Peace. A Flag and peace pole ceremony with the World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) was held with the participation of Sister Jayanti (Brahma Kumaris), Mrs Rabia Joyce Purcell (Commonwealth Parliament Ass.), Rabbi Cliff Cohen, Swami Saradananda, Rt Rev Christopher Budd (Bishop of Plymouth), Tii Antonio Chiriap (Shaman from the indigenous Shuar community of Pikiur in the Ecuadorian Amazon), Indarajit Singh (Hon Director of the Sikh organisations in UK and rep. at UN Assoc. Religious Advisory Council), Jehangir Sarosh (Zoroastrian co-chairman of the World Conference of Religions for Peace), Rev. Mother Catarina Boyer OSB (Catholic). A special world peace and prayer ceremony was held at Stonehenge to celebrate the summer solstice.

54. House of Lords, London, England, on the 17th of June 1998. Lama Gangchen was invited to speak about and present the work of the Spiritual Forum for World Peace to the seminar on "Policy, Ethics and Values" organised by the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy, hosted by Lord McNair.

55. Belem, Brazil, Municipal Town Hall, on July 22nd 1998. Lama Gangchen was personally received by the Mayor of the City, Mr Edmilson Brito Rodrigues, who is very much interested in the project and in a collaboration of the city of Belem with the L.G.W.P.F. for a project on religious tolerance, peace and environmental awareness to be launched by the end of this year. The first public meeting in Belem was attended by approx. 200 participants from various faiths, peace organizations, environmentalist groups, indigenous people's representatives and religious institutions.

56. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, SESCE conference hall, July 25th 1998. The meeting was organised in collaboration with ISER and URI (United Religions Initiative). The opening speech was delivered by the United Nations Representative, Dr Aurilio Ruiz Minagorre, who was very appreciative and supportive of this initiative. Representatives of various indigenous tribes from the Amazon, of more than 12 religious faiths and various peace initiatives actively participated.

57. Brasilia, Brazil, July 29th 1998. In Brasilia Lama Gangchen had private meetings with the Secretary for Human Rights at the Ministry of Justice, Dr Jose Gregori, and with the Governor of the Federal District, Cristovam Buarque, who warmly welcomed all his peace projects and requested him to extend his activities to Brasilia.

58. Florianopolis, Brazil, at the State Bank of the State of St Catarina, July 31<sup>st</sup> 1998. The third local forum meeting was held with the participation of 14 religious representatives, environmental associations and the non-violence





movement; 150 people participated in the public meeting.

59. Sao Paulo, Brazil, at the Hebraica, August 2nd 1998. The fourth annual meeting for the Spiritual Forum for World Peace was held at the Hebraica in Sao Paulo dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organizational meeting was attended by 60 members of 18 different faiths.

60. Sao Paulo, 9th World Congress of IAEWP, August 3rd to the 7th 1998. The Proposal was warmly received as a contribution towards the development of international peace education for a culture of Peace.

61. Sao Paulo, Legion of Goodwill, Rio de Janeiro August 8th 1998. Lama Gangchen was invited to the annual celebrations of LGW, attended by over 1500 people. The president of this international UN affiliated NGO, Jose Piava Netto, offered support and active collaboration in the Proposal.

62. Santiago, Chile, ECLAC, August 11th 1998. Lama Gangchen had a private meeting with the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Dr Jose Antonio Ocampo for discussing future potential for the realization of the proposal.

63. Santiago, Chile, August, 14th 1998. Private meeting with the Bishop of Santiago, Francisco Javier Errazuriz, to discuss the Proposal.

64. Santiago, Chile, August 15th 1998. Lama Gangchen attended the eighteenth meeting of the local spiritual forum in which specific projects for a Chilean Peace Television, peace education projects etc. were concluded.

65. Olinda, Brasil, Society of Artists and Workers, on the 17th and 18th of August 1998. Meeting with the Abbot of the Benedictine Monastery of Olinda, and the Mayor of Olinda.

66. Paris, France, UNESCO, on the 23rd of September 1998. Lama Gangchen met with UNESCO's Director General, Federico Mayor-Zaragoza and presented him with the Proposal.

67. London, England, House of Lords, on the 28th of September 1998. Lama Gangchen was invited back to a special meeting of the forum on "Policy, Ethics and Values" which saw the launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Peace and Reconciliation and the launch in the United Kingdom of a local chapter of the Spiritual Forum for World Peace, working in association with the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy and the Multifaith and Multicultural Mediation Service.

68. Monastery of Saint Giovanni, Parma; and Monastery of Saint Anselmo, Rome, Italy, on the 3rd and 6th of October 1998. During a Hindu-Christian interfaith conference "People of Peace in a World of War", Lama Gangchen presented the Proposal and took part in a panel discussion.

69. Vatican, Rome, on the 7th of October 1998. Lama Gangchen personally presented the Proposal to H.H. Pope John Paul II.

70. New York, USA; 4th of November 1998. An original copy of the Spiritual Forum Report 1995 to 1998 "A solution for the Third Millennium" in nine languages was presented to Mr Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Special Representative of the World Bank to the United Nations.

71. United Nations, New York, USA, November 5th 1998. A Solution for the Third Millennium - a "Golden Book" of the Proposal for the creation of a permanent spiritual forum for world peace at the United Nations translated into nine languages, with a full report of its activities from 1995-1998, was presented to the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Mrs Sorensen, for the Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan.

72. United Nations, New York November 18th 1998. On the occasion of the Unveiling of a lifesize elephant sculpture gifted to the United Nations by three elephant countries, namely: Kenya, Namibia and Nepal, received by Secretary General, a peace Sand mandala featuring traditional religious and spiritual symbols for global peace and harmony, as emphasised in the "United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace". Was presented to the United Nations, and received by Mrs Sorensen for the Secretary General.

73. National Council of Churches in Australia, Sidney, Australia, 25th of November 1998. This first meeting for the proposal of a United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace in Australia, was attended by some fifty religious leaders, representatives of peace organizations, as well as indigenous and environmental care organizations; namely: Bishops of the Armenian Church, Quakers, Bahai, Marthamine Church and United Churches of Australia; the Buddhist Council and the Buddhist Federation of Australia; Muslim Women's Association; Director of the National Council of Churches of Australia; World Council of Churches, and so forth.

74. World Buddhist Hindu Solidarity Foundation, Kathmandu, Nepal, 10th of March 1999.

75. Residence of H.E. The Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal, 11th of March 1999. During a meeting with His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Nepal, Mr G.P. Koirala and thirty Ministers and Members of Parliament, Lama Gangchen presented the Prime Minister with the Millennium Peace Award, and discussed the proposal.

76. Rotary Club of Colli Briantei, Italy, on the 16th of March 1999. Inter-religious dialogue with representatives of Islamic, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist traditions.

77. United Nations Earth Day Celebrations, New York, USA; 20th of March 1999. On the occasion of the ringing of the Peace Bell by Lama Gangchen, the proposal was presented to the Canadian and Iranian Ambassadors to the

United Nations.

78. Lions Club, Asti, Italy; 15th of April 1999. "Cultures, Races and Minority Religions" panel discussion to encourage inter-religious dialogue and awareness among cultures, during which the proposal was presented and received unanimous support as a positive solution.

79. Abbey of Chiaravalle, Italy; April 1999. Christian-Buddhist ecumenical dialogue organised by the Abbott of the ancient Cisterian Monastery of Chiaravalle and a group of Buddhist monks, representing Lama Gangchen, during which the proposal was presented.

80. Unesco Headquarters, Paris, France; 22nd to 24th of April 1999. The proposal was presented as part of a symposium organised by the International Association of Educators for World Peace and the Council on Human Rights and Religious Freedom under the heading "Mutual Respect and Cultural Dialogue for Peace".

81. Loano, Italy; 24th of April 1999. The proposal was presented to the Mayors of Francheville and Loano, Archbishop Monsignor Giuseppe Pittau, on the occasion of the twinning of the two cities. Lama Gangchen was the guest of honour and received Honorary Citizenship in gratitude for his dedicated efforts for peace and reconciliation worldwide.

82. Crespi Japanese Bonsai, Parabiago, Italy; 25th of April 1999. "Meetings between East and West" conference, during which the prospects of the proposal were discussed by Lama Gangchen and Monsignor Francesco Fumagalli.

83. Université Libre des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France; May 1999. Public presentation of the proposal to the university board in Madrid, Spain.

84. The Hague, Holland; 11th to 15th of May 1999. Public presentation of the proposal during the "Hague Appeal for Peace" conference. The proposal was further personally presented to HRH Queen Noor of Jordan and Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel for Peace. A special Interfaith meeting of prayer and meditation was held at the historical synagogue of the Hague, organised by Rabbi Awraham Soendorp, President of the United Nations of Youth Foundation and P.N. Bawa Jain, Director of the Interfaith Centre of New York, USA, with participants from Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Brahma Kumari and Sufi traditions.

85. Crans Montana Forum, Switzerland; 24th to 27th of June 1999. 10th international anniversary meeting, which included a special section dedicated to the "Holy Year 2000" during which the proposal was discussed, including the participation of Mr Shimon Shetreet, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Rector dalil Boubakeur, Institute of the Mosque, Paris, France; Monsignor Richard Mathes, Charge of the Holy See in Jerusalem. The Spiritual Forum Report 1995 to 1998 "A solution for the Third Millennium" in nine languages was given to all participants to the Forum.

86. NGO Conference on the "Role of NGOs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", Seoul, S. Korea, 10 to 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 1999. Presentation of a workshop on the creation of Spiritual Forum with the participation of Korean, Theravadan and Mahayana buddhism, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Islam and Brahma Kumaris representatives as well as a group representing youth. Full support for the project was received by H.S. Shah Sufi M.N. Alam, President, World Spiritual Assembly.

87. Tiberis, Israele, October 1999.

88. Rotary Club, Milan, Italy, October 1999. Interreligious Round Table discussion centred on the Spiritual Forum theme, chaired by Monsignor Fumagalli.

89. United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA; 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1999. "The Spiritual work of the United Nations: Building a planetary consciousness" discussion on the evolution of the proposal's effective implementation. Keynote presentations were made by Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, World Bank Special Representative to the UN; Rev. Deborah Moldow, Executive Director, World Peace Prayer Society; Luciano Meira, Executive Director, Legion of Goodwill; Dr Nina Meyerhof, Children of the Earth.

90. Comiso, Ragusa, Italy; November 1999; at the former Nato base transformed into a refugee camp for 10.000 Kosovans. On the occasion of the 10th International Peace Education Congress with the Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation as a representative of spirituality in education.

91. Millennium Celebrations at Borobudur Stupa, Indonesia; December 31 - Space Training 1999. Lighting of 100.000 peace candles and peace prayers dedicated to the success of a Spiritual Forum at the United Nations in the new millennium, with the participations of international organisations.

92. Lions Club, Milan, Italy; on the 10th of January 2000. Round Table discussion on inter-religious dialogue, with the participation of Don A. Casolo Diagoni; Father Fantini, Russian Orthodox Church; Lama Gangchen, Western Tibetan Buddhism; Alu Schuetz, Islamic Union Community; Li Fiano, President, Hebraic Community of Milan. The proposal was well received and seen as a truly positive solution.

93. Milan, Italy; 15th of January 2000. Discussion with the Representative of "Documentation for Religions" organization, Milan, as to the prospects of the proposal and possible collaboration in Italy.

94. Graz City Hall, Austria; 30th of January 2000. Meeting with Alfred Stingl, Mayor of the City; a dedicated promoter of local interfaith dialogue, has built several temples of different religious traditions in the city.





95. Kathmandu, Nepal, 12th to 13 February 2000. LGWPF Fourth International Congress on Alternative Medicines, Non-Formal Education and the proposal for the creation of a UNSFWP. Prospects for the development of the proposal were discussed by several representatives of different organizations, such as: Prof Charles Mercieca, President, International Association of Educators for World Peace, USA; Phakk Boosoong, Dhammakaya Foundation, Thailand; Dr Nina Meyerhof, Children of the Earth, USA; Cristina Arismendy, UNFPA, India; Prof. B.R. Thapa, Nepal Institute of United Nations and UNESCO, and others; as well as members of the Nepalese Government and the Royal Committee.
96. Dhammakaya Foundation, Thailand; 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2000. Special meeting with the Venerable Abbot and Vice-Abbot of Dhammakaya Foundation with Ben Shalom, Jubillennium; to give active collaboration for the support of the proposal.
97. United Nations, Vienna, Austria; 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2000. The proposal was presented to participants and members of the press, on the occasion of the ringing of the Peace Bell, as well as to Austrian Airlines on the occasion of the presentation of the "Peace Messenger 2000" Award to the airline company by the Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation.
98. Dhammakaya Foundation, Thailand; 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2000. Earth Day Celebrations and Inauguration of the Dhammakaya Cetiya, with over 200.000 Buddhist participants. A special "International Buddhist Forum" meeting was held for the support of the UNSFWP, joined by Buddhist representatives of all main schools of Buddhism from over ten nations.
99. Riccione, Italy 1st May 2000. Italian Yoga Federation, "Science and Spirituality towards the third millennium". UNSFWP panel discussion, Father Maximilian Mizzi, Intern. Franciscan Center for Inter-religious Dialogue, Assisi; Swami Veda Bharati, India, Geshe Phende Tibet, Dr Marco Margnelli, Italy.
100. UNSFWP Madrid, Spain, 4th May 2000. Mr Javier Solis, Ambassador of Costa Rica in Spain, accepts the position of Honorary President of the Spanish Forum in support of the proposal.
101. 9th Annual LGWPF Congress, Madrid, Spain, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2000. Public appeal for the proposal and the UNESCO program for a Culture of Peace.
102. Albagnano Healing Meditation Center, Italy, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2000. Prayer for the realization of such a forum for the benefit of World Peace by representatives from Thailand, Taiwan and Tibet/ China of the three major schools of Buddhism, Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana.
103. Vesak Celebration, Florence, Italy, 27/28 May 2000. Organized by the Italian Buddhist Union (UBI), the proposal was presented to participants.
104. Albagnano Meditation Centre, Italy, 3rd June 2000. Prayer for the realization of such a forum for the benefit of World Peace by H.H. Trijang Rinpoche, H.E. Gonsar Rinpoche, Rabten Rinpoche, Mr Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, and over 200 participants.
105. Presentation to Hon. Marco Zacchera, Chamber of Deputies, Verbania, Italy, 12th June 2000.
106. IAERP World Congress, London, England, 14-18 June 2000. UNSFWP was discussed as an important contribution to World Peace during the opening celebrations on June 14th.
107. State of the World Forum, 9th September 2000, New York, USA. Special section of the three day Forum is dedicated to the discussion on the realization of the proposal: "Making the World Spiritual Forum a Reality: a road map for Action".
108. Rotary Club, Beijing, China, meeting at Kempinski Hotel, 12th September 2000. The proposal was presented the Club members and diplomats.
109. "Religions for Peace in the Spirit of Assisi", Appeal for Peace to the City of Milan, 24th of October 2000. Organized by the Center for Documentation of Religions, Cardinal Martini, Rabbi Serat from Paris, Lama Denis from France and Shah S. Represented the panel discussion, all different religious representatives of Milan constituted the peace appeal, signed in public and handed over to the Mayor of Milan. The proposal was presented to representatives of different faiths.
110. World Conference for Religions and Peace, Milan, Italy, 25th October 2000. Held a meeting opening the possibility for creating an office in Milan. The proposal was presented to the representatives.
111. International Federation of Human Rights, National Congress, Caserta, 27/28 October 2000. The proposal received great interest from a large audience.
112. Chung Hua, Taiwan, 8th November 2000. Second meeting with the Mayor of the City, who expressed great interest in the proposal.
113. Chiayi, Taiwan, 9th Nov 2000. Public Peace Culture event during which the Mayor of the City received the proposal and together with Lama Gangchen light a peace light for World Peace.
114. Taichung, Taiwan, 11th Nov 2000. Public Peace Culture event in the stadium, attended by all major government officials of the city, including the Mayor of the City. The proposal was read in public.

115. Taipei, Taiwan. Private meetings with Party spokesman and members, who showed great interest in the UNSPFWP and some of whom joined.
116. Kaushung, Taiwan. Private meeting and Public Peace Culture event, 16th Nov. 2000, on both occasions the Mayor of the city and City council members expressed great support for the proposal as contribution towards world peace.
117. Taoyuan, Taiwan, City Council Meeting, 17th November 2000. City Council Members warmly welcomed the initiative.
118. Paris, UNESCO, France. Conference on "Unity in Diversity", celebrating the 25th anniversary of the European Buddhist Union, organized in collaboration with the United Religions Initiative, 18/19 November 2000.
119. Madrid, Spain, First International Conference for a Culture of Peace, 11-13 December 2000.
120. Sao Paulo, Brazil, 11th January 2001. UNSPFWP meeting with over 40 representatives of different faiths, discussing further development of the project in Brazil.
121. United Nations, ECLAC, Santiago Chile, 23rd January 2001. Five year commemoration meeting held in the same hall where it was first launched on June 8th 1995. The meeting was chaired by Jose Antonio Ocampo, Executive Secretary of CEPAL, Heins Petrus, Alfredo Sfeir-Younis representative of the World Bank to the United Nations in Geneva; Gerardo Gonzales, Project Director, Lama Gangchen and representatives of different faiths.
122. Dhammakaya Foundation UN-NGO, Thailand, 9th February 2001. Lama Gangchen and Alfredo Sfeir-Younis meeting with Ven. Abbot and representatives of DKF for future collaboration on the proposal.
123. 5th International Congress "The Role of Spirituality in the New Millennium", Kathmandu, Nepal, 25th February 2001. Presentation of the Proposal.
124. Lumbini Development Trust, Lumbini, Nepal, 28th February 2001. Presentation of the Proposal for collaboration.
125. International Interfaith Center, Oxford, UK, 16-18 March 2001. More than seventy people from about 50 organizations gathered mainly focusing on the issues of inter-ethnic and inter-religious conflicts, the proposal was presented and considered.
126. World Citizen Assembly 2001, Grand Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan, 30 March - 3 April, 2001. International meeting of United Nations NGO, Cultural Celebration and ringing and signing of the Peace Bell at the Taipei Stadium.
127. Presidential Palace in Taipei, Taiwan, 3rd April 2001. Given to Vice President of Taiwan.
128. Beijing, China, 24 August 2001. Read spiritual forum proposal with Lama Nyompa and Chaulin Monk.
129. Conference on Spirituality in Tourism, Assisi, Italy, 13-17 October 2001. In the footsteps of St. Francis.
130. World Peace Praying Association, Taipei, Taiwan, 17 November 2001. First Annual Conference towards the creation of a Spiritual Forum for World Peace at the United Nations, Charles Mercieca.
131. Villadossola, Italy, 24th January 2002. Inter-religious forum on "Different roads towards the path of Peace".
132. World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, Brazil, from 30th January to 5th February 2002. 51,300 special guests from every corner of the world to attend the World Social Forum, LGWPF participated in Panel on Inter-religious dialogue presenting the Proposal.
133. Vishwa Shanti Vihar, World Peace Buddhist School, Kathmandu, Nepal, 28 February 2002. Acknowledges the resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 54/115 of 8 Feb. 2000, with regards to the recognition of the Day of Vesak at the United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations offices and expressed great interest in the proposal.
134. Human Rights Commission 58th Session, UN Geneva, 20th March 2002. Organized by IAEWP, LGWPF, Global Open University, Tribal Link Foundation with the participation of Nepal Ambassador to UN Shambhu R. Simkhada, Helen Sayers Brahma Kumaris, Alfredo Sfeir-Younis Special Rep. Of the World Bank to the UN and WTO in Geneva, Lama Gangchen.
135. International Peace Prayer Day, New Mexico, USA, 16 June 2002.
136. International Association for Religious Freedom, Budapest, Hungary, 28 July - 2 August, 2002. 31<sup>st</sup> World Congress bringing together some 700 participants from all over the world for inter-faith dialogue, during which the proposal was presented.
137. Albagnano, Italy 3 May & Tashi Delek Space, Milan, Italy, 4th May 2003. Exhibition of the Sacred Buddha Relics and Golden Stupa donated to the United Nations by Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar in occasion of the International recognition of the Day of Vesak by the UN. Presentation of the proposal to a large gathering of different Buddhist representatives, Ambassadors, and other religious representatives.
138. Verbania-Pallanza, Italy 16-18 May 2003. 13th World Congress of the International Association of Educators for World Peace.
139. SESC Pompeia, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 19th June 2003. Interfaith Celebration and Exhibition of the Sacred Buddha Relics and Golden Stupa donated to the United Nations by Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar in occasion of the International recognition of the Day of Vesak by the UN.





140. United Nations, ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, 26th June 2003. Interfaith Celebration and Exhibition of the Sacred Buddha Relics and Golden Stupa donated to the United Nations by Thailand, Sri Lanka and Myanmar in occasion of the International recognition of the Day of Vesak by the UN.
141. Presented to H.E. The Ambassador of Royal Kingdom of Thailand, Santiago, Chile 30th June 2003.
142. Athens, Greece, 22nd July 2003. Event for Culture, Education and Environmental Protection in collaboration with the Hellenic Academy of Science and Research.
143. Brazil, Petropolis, Crystal Palace, 8th October, 2003. Rotary Club of Imperial City.
144. Milan, Italy, 13th November 2003. Associazione Etica e Comunicazione.
145. Chateau de Bossey, Geneva, Switzerland, 8th to 12th May 2004 Workshop. Volunteers for a new Partnership Committee, which will steer the project in its coming stages; they had links to 6 world religions and 6 international interfaith organizations, including the LGWPF. They are in the process of drafting a new collective proposal aimed towards the creation of a spiritual forum for world peace at the United Nations.
146. Villa Giulia-Pallanza, Verbania, Italy 28th to 30th of May 2004. On the occasion of the Second World Congress "Verbania 2004" on Integrated Traditional Medicines for Better Health.
147. Quito, Ecuador, 11 September 2004, City Museum. On the occasion of the exhibition of the sacred Buddha relics.
148. Caracas, Venezuela, Central University of Caracas, Botanic Garden, 18 September 2004. On the occasion of the exhibition of the sacred Buddha relics.
149. Caracas, Venezuela, University of Simon Bolivar, 21 September 2004. On the occasion of the exhibition of the sacred Buddha relics.
150. Porto Seguro, Brazil, 6 October 2004.
151. Vientienne, Laos, 7 March 2005. At the Wat Ongtu Mahavihar the proposal was presented to the Ven High Priest of Laos.
152. Hanoi, Vietnam, 10 March 2005. At the Buddhist Society of Vietnam the proposal was presented and discussed with the president Ven. Hoa Thien Pho Tue.
153. Chateau de Bossey, Geneva, Switzerland, 2 to 5th May 2005. Second Partnership Committee Meeting.
154. Milan, Italy, 6th of May 2005. Inter-religious meeting held on the occasion of the Buddhist Festival of Vesak.
155. III World Congress "Verbania 2005": Peace Environment for Your Health, June 3rd -5th 2005, Police Academy, Ministry of Justice, Verbania-Pallanza, Lake Maggiore, Italy. Speaking about Lama Gangchen's proposal during the Congress, H.E. Hernan Escudero Martinez, Ambassador of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the programme of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Vice-president of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee of Human Rights on behalf of GRULAC (Latin America and Pacific Regional Group), has pledged his support to bring the proposal to the General Assembly for consideration together with other United Nations Member States.
156. Mongolia, Ulan Bator, 28.9.2005. Lama Gangchen was invited to conduct the inaugural prayer ceremony for a 17m high Buddha statue donated to the country by Guru Deva Rinpoche. The Ceremony was presided over by H.E. the Prime Minister Elbegdorj and H.E. The Environment Minister of Mongolia Barsbold.
157. Varese, Italy, Rotary Club, 9 January 2006.
158. Kathmandu Nepal, Feb. 2006. Meeting with H.E. The Minister of Finance Mr. Roop Jyoti, at his Ministry office.
159. Milan, Italy, 21 March 2006. Participation in the founding of the inter-religious association, Religions in Milan.
160. Hang Zhou, China, 12-16 April 2006. Participation in the "First World Buddhism Forum" that promoted "a harmonious world beginning in the mind", just as the proposal promotes "inner peace is the most solid foundation for world peace". I was a rich occasion to share the proposal with several prominent participants, such as Mr. Ye Xiao Wen, Minister for Religious Affairs and others.
161. Tortona, Italy, 29 April 2006 Tortona Religione: Verso una civiltà dell'amore. Inter-religious Conference, Religion towards a world of Love. Roundtable with: Don Giovanni D'Ercole Italian Gen. Secrtray of the Vactican State, Giuseppe Laras President of the Assembly of Rabbis in Italy, Gabriele Mandel Khan Head of the Sufi order Jerrhi-Halveti in Italy (in collaboration with the City of Tortona, Diocesi di Tortona, Region of Piemonte, Province of Alessandria, Fondazione cassa di risparmio di Tortona)
162. IV World Congress "Verbania 2006" Police Academy, Ministry of Justice, Verbania-Pallanza, Lake Maggiore, Italy, 8-11 June 2006.
163. United Nations, New York, USA, 8 September 2006. On the occasion of the handing over of the Memorial World Peace Stupa to the United Nations, donated by the countries of Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar for the International recognition of the Day of Vesak. Presented the Proposal to Mr. Mollock Brown, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations
164. Hong Kong, 6 October 2006. Meeting with Mr. Patrick Ho, Secretary for Home Affairs, to discuss about the proposal and an inter-religious forum in Hong Kong.
165. Hong Kong, Western Monastery, 8 October 2006. Visit Venerable Shi Kuan Yun to exchange about the proposal

and the creation of an inter-religious event in Hong Kong.

166. Milan, Italy, 27 Oct. 2006. Meeting Mr. Romiti, the president of the Italia-China Association.
167. Sao Paulo, Brazil, Government of the State of Sao Paulo, Secretary of Justice and Defense of the citizens. 16 November 2006. Meeting with Evana Beiguelman Kramer discussing about the common aims and mutual collaborations with regards to the initiative of the secretariat to set up an inter-religious forum for a culture of peace and the freedom of believe in Sao Paulo and about the proposal.
168. Formal Partnership Committee meeting at Chateau de Bossey towards the creation of a permanent spiritual forum for world peace at the UN, Geneva, Switzerland May 2007
169. UN Vesak, Bangkok, Thailand 2007.
170. Xian Dialogue, China, 10-11 October 2007, HRH Prince Carlos de Bourbon de Parme, Former Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers.
171. Guayaquil, Ecuador, Clima Latino, Mayor of Guayaquil Jaime Nebot, Osvaldo Canzani, IPCC Nobel Prize Laureat 2007, 15 October 2007.
172. Quito, Ecuador, at Clima Latino, President of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, and also the Vice President Mr. Lenin Moreno 17 October 2007.
173. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at San Benton on 29 November 2007, private meeting with San Clemente, Seniro Abbor of the oldest church of Brazil.
174. Chateau de Bossey, Geneva-Switzerland January 2008. Interreligious consultation to develop a consensual proposal for a United Nations "Decade for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace", which brought together representatives of all major interreligious organisations worldwide as well as Member State representatives and ambassadors, organised by the Partnership Committee.
174. Vesak Celebrations with the exhibition of the Holy Buddha relics from Sri Lanka in Milan, Torino and Belvedere Langhe, Italy.
175. Hanoi Vietnam 13-17 May 2008, United Nations Vesak Day Celebrations.
176. Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, 18th International IAEWP congress Oct. 28-31 2008.
177. Feb 2009 President of the Republic of Nepal, H.E. Dr. Ram Jaran Yadav.
178. The Hague, Holland 18-19 March 2009, "Cultural Diversity as catalyst for citizenship, creativity and communication, organized by the Foundation China-Europe Dialogue & Exchange for Sustainable Development.
179. II World Buddhist Forum hosted at the Lingshan Buddha Palace in Wuxi, China and Taipei, Taiwan 26 March to 2 April 2009.
180. Vesak Milan, 5 May 2009.
181. Brazil Sao Paolo, Private Reception on 26 November 2009 with Maria da Silva, Minister for Environment and many honorable guests
182. Italy, Monza, Teatrino di Corte di Villa Reale, 6 May 2010  
Interreligious conference ?In Search for meaning: Environment and Ethics: different religious approaches and juxtapositions? organized by Centro di Etica Ambientale in collaboration with the Region of Lombardy.
183. Vesak Milano with inter-religious prayer, KLG, May 2010
184. Nepal Kathmandu 4 March 2011  
Presented to H.E. Ambassador of Bangladesh in Nepal. Mr. Neem Chandra Bhowmik  
On the occasion of receiving the Atisha Gold Medal Peace Award from Ven. Suddhananda Mahathero presented in Dhaka on occasion of the inauguration of a large Standing Buddha Statue on Feb 23. 2011
185. Sao Paolo Brazil, 6 April 2011 Spiritual Forum gathering at Dharma Centre Shide Choe Tsog  
With the presence of the Secretary of Justice of Sao Paolo Mrs. Eloisa Arruda and 34 representatives of different faiths and 108 participants dedicating for victims of the Fukushima Nuclear disaster and for a resolution towards abandoning Nuclear Power
186. Vesak Kunpen Lama Gangchen, 12 May 2011 Inter-religious Prayers dedicated for World Peace, Milan, Italy
187. Vesak 2012 - Inter-religious Prayers dedicated for World Peace, Albagnano Healing Meditation Centre, Italy

Since, the proposal is regularly presented at conferences and events around the world, as well as distributed to likeminded individuals and organisations.

Lama Gangchen hopes that the Proposal for a Permanent United Nations Spiritual Forum for World Peace can be a solution both for now and towards creating a culture of peace in the third millennium!





## UNITED NATIONS

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organisation to draw up the United Nations Charter. The organisation officially came into existence on the 24th of October 1945, when the Charter has been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on the 24th of October.

UN Days, Weeks and Years - International Days and Weeks Since the early days of the United Nations system, the UN has established a set of Days and Weeks (as listed below), Years and Decades to help focus the world on the issues in which the UN has an interest and commitment. The UN calls on Member States and other organizations to mark these days in ways which reflect their priorities.

Sometimes the promotion of a specific day is led by a specific UN agency or programme, for example the World Health Organization (WHO) leads World Health Day and World No-Tobacco Day, UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) leads World Water Day and International Literacy Day, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) leads World Environment Day etc.

Some UN agencies also have their own international days (e.g. WHO's World TB Day and UNESCO's World Philosophy Day), established and promoted by the agency but not designated by the UN General Assembly for the full UN system. While equivalent in purpose, the following list does not include agency-specified days.



ITALY 2017 - 2018  
Candidate to the  
United Nations Security Council



## WELCOME

### Her Excellency Marie Chatardová Seventy-Third President of the Economic and Social Council

*Her Excellency Marie Chatardová was elected seventy-third President of the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2017. Ambassador Chatardová is currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York.*

*Until her appointment in 2016, Ms. Chatardová was her country's Ambassador to France and Monaco, and its Permanent Representative to the International Organization of la Francophonie. Between 2013 and 2016, she also served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).*

*A career diplomat, Ms. Chatardová held several positions within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She was Director of Diplomatic Protocol from 2007 to 2010, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Sweden from 2002 to 2007.*

*Prior to that, she was Director of the Communications Strategies Department, from 2000 to 2002, and Unit Chief of the Department for the Coordination of Relations with the European Union, between 1999 and 2000.*

*She also served in the Permanent Mission of Czech Republic to the European Union, between 1995 and 1999, and in the Ministry's Department of Analysis and Policy Planning, from 1994 to 1995.*

*Ms. Chatardová was awarded Commander of the National Order of the Legion of Honour of France in 2016, and also Officer of the Order of Saint-Charles of Monaco in 2016.*

*Ms. Chatardová holds a doctorate of law from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic.*





*“I wish to announce that the key priority of my Presidency will be to develop initiatives towards fostering sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies through participation of all ... We must work together and make all efforts to achieve what we have set out: to leave no-one behind, Truly no-one!”*

*MARIE CHATARDOVÁ  
President of the Economic and Social Council*



Join the World Heritage Volunteers Campaign 2018!  
"Empowering the Commitment to World Heritage"







## WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS 2018

*Empowering the Commitment to World Heritage*



### CALL FOR PROJECTS

The World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) Initiative has grown tremendously with increasing interest and appreciation for World Heritage protection, preservation and promotion of World Heritage sites over the past ten years. In this context, we are pleased to launch the World Heritage Volunteers Campaign 2018, which welcomes the participation of all interested organisations and institutions, and additionally offers a new opportunity to apply for not only one-year cycle, but two-year cycle process.

In the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the World Heritage Volunteers Initiative is led by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) in collaboration with the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), European Heritage Volunteers (as a branch of Open Houses) and Better World.

The World Heritage Volunteers Campaign 2018 shall aim to:

- 1) Raise awareness among young people, volunteers, local communities, and concerned authorities of the need to protect and promote World Heritage;
- 2) Involve young people in World Heritage preservation through concrete projects at sites;
- 3) Empower young people allowing them to learn skills, basic preservation and conservation techniques and raise their capacity as future decision-makers and global active citizens;
- 4) Strengthen sustainable cooperation between non-profit organisations, site management, communities and authorities;
- 5) Identify best practices and develop non-formal education tools to facilitate stakeholders' participation in the World Heritage education;
- 6) Mainstream gender equality in all stages of the projects and geographical diversity among the World Heritage properties where the action camps take place.







PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

**MESSAGE FOR THE FEAST OF VESAKH 2018**

***Christians and Buddhists: Preventing and Combating Corruption Together***

*Dear Buddhist Friends,*

On behalf of the [Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue](#), we extend our warmest greetings and prayerful good wishes on the occasion of Vesakh. May this feast bring joy and peace to all of you, your families and your communities throughout the world.

We wish to reflect this year on the pressing need to promote a culture free of corruption. Corruption involving the abuse of positions of power for personal gain, both within the public or private sectors, has become such a pervasive scandal in today's world that the United Nations has designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day. As the phenomenon of corruption becomes more widespread, governments, non-governmental organizations, the media, and citizens around the world are joining together to combat this heinous crime. As religious leaders, we too must contribute to fostering a culture imbued with lawfulness and transparency.

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention for February 2018 was "Say 'No' to Corruption." In denouncing "the sin of corruption," he recognizes that corruption is found throughout the world among politicians, business executives and clerics. Those who ultimately pay the price for corruption, he observes, are the poor. Recalling the words of Jesus to his disciples, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26), the Pope insists, "the only road leading out of corruption [...] is service. Because corruption comes from pride, from arrogance, and service is humbling: it is precisely the humble charity of helping others" (Morning Meditation, [Domus Sanctae Marthae, 16 June 2014](#)).

Dear friends, as Buddhists, you regard corruption as an unwholesome state of mind that causes suffering and contributes to an unhealthy society. You identify three principal toxins – greed, hate, and delusion or ignorance – as sources of this social scourge that must be eliminated for the good of the individual and society. The Second Precept of Buddhism, "I undertake to observe the precept to abstain from taking that which is not given," teaches Buddhists to discern whether those things that come into their possession are indeed meant for them. If such things have been taken from others illicitly, they may not rightfully be kept. Buddhist teachings and practice not only disapprove of corruption but also seek to transform the unhealthy state of mind, intentions, habits and actions of those who are corrupt.

Even though, both our religious traditions firmly denounce the evil of corruption, we sadly acknowledge that some of our followers participate in corrupt practices and this leads to bad governance, corporate bribery and the pillaging of national assets. Corruption puts lives at risks for it is connected to low economic growth, weak investment, inflation, monetary devaluation, tax evasion, great inequality, poor education, sub-standard infrastructure, and the degradation of environment. It also threatens the health and safety of individuals and communities. People are scandalized by incompetent and corrupt politicians, ineffective legislation and the failure to investigate major corruption cases. Populist movements, sometimes motivated and sustained by religious fundamentalism, have arisen to protest the breakdown of public integrity.

We believe that corruption cannot be answered with silence, and that well-intentioned ideas will prove inadequate unless they are applied, and that such implementation is necessary for corruption to be eliminated. We Buddhists and Christians, rooted in our respective ethical teachings, must work together to prevent corruption by eradicating its underlying causes and to root out corruption where it exists. In this effort, our main contribution will be to encourage our respective followers to grow in moral integrity and a sense of fairness and responsibility. Our common commitment to combating corruption must include cooperating with the media and civil society in preventing and exposing corruption; creating public awareness of corruption; holding white-collar criminals who plunder national assets accountable for their actions, regardless of their ethnic, religious, political, or class affiliations; teaching and inspiring all people, but especially politicians and public servants, to act with the utmost fiscal integrity; calling for due legal process to recover assets that are stolen through corruption and bringing to justice those responsible for this crime; encouraging more women to participate in politics; refusing to entrust with public office those engaged in illegal activities; and introducing transparent and inclusive institutions based on the rule of law for good governance, accountability, and integrity.

Dear friends, may we actively commit ourselves to fostering within our families, and social, political, civil, and religious institutions an environment free of corruption by living a life of honesty and integrity. It is in this spirit that we wish you once again a peaceful and joyful feast of Vesakh!

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran  
*President*

+ Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, MCCJ  
*Secretary*



## United Nations Secretary-General

**New York**

**01 May 2018**

### **The Secretary-General's remarks on the Day of Vesak [as delivered]**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear guests and friends,

I am pleased to join you in celebrating Vesak, a day that is sacred for millions of Buddhists around the world.

As the President of the General Assembly just mentioned, we mark the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Buddha. And on this occasion, Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike can reflect on his life and draw inspiration from his teachings.

Born a prince, he rose above self-interest and went into the world to help overcome human suffering. His teachings are based on the principle that compassion is central to enlightenment.

And as such, his message of service to others is more relevant than ever.

The world faces numerous challenges, from conflict to climate change, from prejudice to growing inequality.

We see people turning inwards.

And we see a crisis of solidarity.

The Buddha's teachings can inspire us to become global citizens. And the focus in Buddhism on the inherent dignity of life finds resonance today in our 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Buddhist world view teaches us to see ourselves as a part of this world and not as its masters. And Buddhism's emphasis on non-violence stands as a powerful call for peace.

From peace, to climate change, to human rights, we see how much the teachings of the Buddha are so relevant in the work of the United Nations today.

Now more than ever, Buddhist communities and all of us must give every day meaning to the Buddha's message of tolerance, empathy and humanism.

We must resist those who seek to twist a call for love into a cry for hate.

And on this Day of Vesak, let us renew our commitment to bridge differences, care for the most vulnerable and truly leave no one behind as we navigate the path to a better future for all.

Thank you.



## Temple of Heaven on Earth - Albagnano



LG Vesak Celebrations in support of the United Nations and all Member States with Don Giampiero Alberti, Yael and the United Peace Voices



LG with Don Giampiero Alberti, Forum of Religions Secretary



LG and Marinella Franzetti, Verbania Vice Mayor



LG and Caren Boratto - Verbania Police Department



LG with Nadia Roggia - Head of Immigration Verbania and Silvia Magistrini Former Minister of Education Verbania



## Borobudur Stupa Mandala - Java








## World Interfaith Harmony Week and Peace Education

T.Y.S. Lama Gangchen - World Healer

I rejoice in the ever increasing number of meetings organised between the members of different spiritual traditions because I am convinced that interreligious dialogue can offer peace to each and every individual, as well as to the entire world. I also consider it particularly important that, in this day and age, organisations such as the United Nations and UNESCO are opening their doors to spiritual leaders. I am so pleased that the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution initiated by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan for World Interfaith Harmony Week which is annually observed during the first week in February.

What a blessing that this Week actively promotes peace and harmonious engagement between the world's spiritual traditions and religions. We celebrate each occurrence of the World Interfaith Harmony week, both in our centres as well as at the stupa mandala of Borobudur, offerings lights and incense with prayers dedicated to the United Nations and all Member States. I sincerely hope that peace will emerge as the new «fashion» in this millennium, followed and desired by everyone! Many years ago, I left my monastery and the social status reserved in the east for reincarnated spiritual leaders to live in the west. I travel continuously propagating a message of inner peace, self-healing and environmental care. My principal spiritual practice is, in fact, based upon the development of inner peace. I have no knowledge or particular interest in politics; my only wish is to somehow contribute to the creation world peace. We are now in the era of kaliyuga, the age of the five degenerations. The inner worlds of both people and the planet are restless and angry; the elements of the container (the earth) and of the contents (living beings) are seriously imbalanced and polluted. In these times, negative emotions and mistaken viewpoints are prevalent, death arrives all too easily and the global situation is fragile and dangerous.

Throughout history, various secular educational systems have been developed which, in some ways, have proved to be inadequate or difficult to enact. There also exist already many peace structures and systems, which are wonderful, but unfortunately these alone are not sufficient to satisfy all the needs of living beings. For this very reason today, at the beginning of the third millennium, it is necessary for religious leaders to seriously assume responsibility for the future of humanity and the planet by uniting to resolve the innumerable problems which torment the XXI century. It is their responsibility, and that of every practitioner, to build a solid foundation that makes inner peace education available to all.



All spiritual traditions and religions are rich in educational methods to develop inner peace which, however, have no weight in our modern society. To rediscover these ancient peace teachings religious leaders have to present them in a new updated package - adapted to the mentality of the new generations. The development of inner peace is a fundamental necessity of human beings, like food, clothes, shelter... I am certain that the spiritual traditions can save humanity and contribute to the creation of world peace, by putting at the disposition of the planetary community their precious educational methods, after they are repackaged to adequately fulfil the needs of present day lifestyle.

Spiritual traditions can and should make constructive contributions to the harmonious organisation of this world, until the planet is a liveable place for all beings. The super accelerated changes that have deeply affected global society have induced a great number of people to search for peace, health and happiness in the wrong directions. It is the duty of religious leaders to show to them the correct path. They have to work together on areas of common interest, without losing their cultural and philosophical doctrine, to make available all the ideas of their spiritual tradition.

I believe that peace is the wish and objective of everyone - the essence of every religious tradition and the desire of all holy beings. I pray that the World Peace Buddha, Omniscient God, all the divinities and enlightened beings will help us to preserve our ancient inner science techniques, because peace education is the best opportunity we have to attain health and happiness for our children and the future generations of the third millennium.







## 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages

*"Languages play a crucial role in the daily lives of people, not only as a tool for communication, education, social integration and development, but also as a repository for each person's unique identity, cultural history, traditions and memory.*

*But despite their immense value, languages around the world continue to disappear at an alarming rate.*

*With this in mind, United Nations declares 2019 the Year of Indigenous Languages (IY2019) in order to raise awareness of them, not only to benefit the people who speak these languages, but also for others to appreciate the important contribution they make to our world's rich cultural diversity."*