



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**136 EAST 39<sup>th</sup> STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10016  
TEL (212) 754-2230 • FAX (212) 688-3029**

**Opening Remarks**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations**

**at the Commemoration of the International Day of Vesak 2023**

**18 May 2023, UNHQ, New York**

**Venerable Monks,  
President of the General Assembly,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

1. I would like welcome all of you, Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike, to the commemoration of the International Day of Vesak.

2. It is my honour to once again co-host this event with Ambassador Mohan Pieris of Sri Lanka. It is our pleasure to observe this auspicious occasion in the United Nations premises for the first time since 2019. I am grateful that our commemoration will enable us to reflect on the significance of Vesak and the teachings of Lord Buddha.

3. I wish to express our high reverence and gratitude to the venerable monks from different Buddhist communities from Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand. May I express our sincere appreciation to our dear friends and colleagues of diverse faiths and beliefs who are here with us to observe this important day for Buddhists around the world.

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

4. The Day of Vesak marks the birth, enlightenment and passing of Lord Buddha, which miraculously fell on the full moon in the month of May. On this day, we commemorate and reflect on Lord Buddha's teachings that can be applied to help tackle the challenges of our times.

5. As we continue to face multiple crises, be they economic, social or environmental, Lord Buddha's Dhamma can be helpful, stressing the need for balance amongst human beings, society and nature, as well as interconnectedness and interdependence.

6. At a time when the Sustainable Development Goals are off-track, the path of moderation or "the Noble Eightfold Path" in Buddhism can complement the practice of sustainable development, aiming at creating social solidarity and equality, and ensuring harmony with nature.

7. It is my hope that this event will inspire us all to strive for a greater balance in today's world, promote peace and serenity, and help realize a better and more compassionate present and future for humanity – where no one is left behind.

8. Thank you.

-----