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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF VESAK

**1 May 2026**

On the Day of Vesak, Buddhists around the world commemorate the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha.

This year, Vesak comes at a moment when the human family is embroiled in geopolitical tensions, division and conflict.

In 2023 I had the honour of visiting the Buddha's birthplace in Lumbini, Nepal. It reinforced my conviction that the antidote to this turmoil can be found in his timeless teachings of non-violence, compassion and service to others.

Guided by the Buddha's example, let us summon our shared humanity and build the more peaceful and sustainable world all people need and deserve.

Happy Vesak Day to all.

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