

Declaration¹

By

The Theravada Buddhism Korea Meditation Center (TBKMC)

We are pleased to issue this public declaration on the occasion of the first inauguration of the "World Interfaith Harmony Week" proclaimed by the United Nations, i.e., the first week of the month of February of every year. True to the time-honored truism that without peace between religions, there cannot be a lasting peace among nations and without dialogue and spirit of cooperation there cannot be a lasting peace among religions, the General Assembly of the United Nations (65/5), has initiated a series of action-oriented programs to ensure that effective steps are taken to ensure peace and cooperation among religions. We believe that this resolution goes right to the heart of one of the most critical issues the humanity is faced with at the present time.

The Theravada Buddhism Korea Meditation Center (TBKMC) is a longstanding independent non-governmental body dedicated to advancing the course of peace through meditation, teaching and publishing in Korea. We are committed to building peace for others as well as for ourselves through a variety of programs intended to consolidate basis of cooperation and peace among religious groups. All our staff and associates are unanimously agreed that we shall place our resources and energies to accelerate activities notably in sponsoring public discussions as well as dove-tailing scholars and researchers to work out practical measures to meet the objectives of the United Nations in Korea.

All religions deserve respect and understanding. Intolerance, superiority, antagonism and exclusion have no place in interreligious relationships. We believe that a new culture of peace for the world must emerge in order that discord among religions of the world will remain extinct forever.

The world owes a great debt of gratitude to His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for his sagacious and sustained leadership in mobilizing support at the United Nations in advancing the promotion of interreligious harmony and world peace. We pledge ourselves maximum possible solidarity to achieve the successful implementation of the UN objectives.

Kwak Joon,

President, TBKMC, Seoul, Korea

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¹ Translated from the original text in Korean