

### **ABCP Colombo Resolution-2021**

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council (EC) of Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Sri Lanka standard time. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the meeting was held via webinar. It provided an opportunity to the national centres to come together on one forum and to discuss a number of specific issues related to the organization and implement actions directed towards strengthening global peace, raising environment awareness, and promoting equality and unity among the Buddhists of the world. The Executive Council reaffirmed the commitment of ABCP to pursue the chartered goals in accordance with the ABCP charter, its mission and objectives for peace and harmony in the world.

The EC meeting was attended by the Ven. Gabju D. Choijamts, President, ABCP, Ven. Jangchub Choedon, Vice President, Ven. Da Lama Kh. Bymbajav, Secretary General, Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, Deputy Secretary General and other members representing the representatives various national centres.

The inaugural ceremony of the ABCP EC meeting was held at the auditorium of Buddhist Media Network, Sambhodi Viharaya, Colombo and attended among others by **His Excellency Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka** and the Mahanayake and Anunayake Theros of Sri Lanka. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, Member of Parliament, Colombo District, Sri Lanka.

Members appreciated the Messages of Congratulations received on the occasion from the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Speaker of Sri Lankan Parliament appreciating the peace efforts and contribution of ABCP and their good wishes for the success of ABCP Executive Council meeting. Members also recorded their appreciation for the Goodwill-Message received from received from His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the occasion.

The EC meeting observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the pioneers and past members of ABCP and also offered prayers for those perished due to Covid-19 pandemic world over.

The ABCP EC meeting began with the opening remarks by Venerable Khambo Lama, Gabju Demberel Choijamts, President of ABCP. He acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the two national centres of ABCP in Sri Lanka in successfully hosting the EC meeting in Colombo. In his speech the President called upon all the national centres to work hard in pursuance of the goals set by the organization and its 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in Mongolia in 2019. Thereafter the President directed Ven. Jangchub Choedon, Vice-President of ABCP to conduct the meeting.

Secretary General of ABCP Ven. Da Lama Bymbajav, Secretary General of ABCP gave a detailed presentation on the activities carried out by the ABCP HQ and also presented an action-plan of ABCP. Members conveyed their appreciation to the efforts made by the Secretary General and his staff for the smooth functioning of the ABCP HQ.

The ABCP Executive Council meeting reiterated its commitment and resolve to:

- Prevent all forms of extremisms which go against the teachings of Buddha and age-old cultural values so far preserved, practiced and sustained in the Buddhist world at local, regional and global levels;
- Prevent and take remedial measures in tacking all forms of vandalism on the ancient antiquities of Buddhist places of worship and other sites of archaeological value in the Asian region and other parts of the globe and called for facilitating collaborative action plan among nations to protect the historic religious sites of archaeological value;
- Take immediate remedial measures according to the legal framework of respective nations against destruction of ancient documentary evidences, scripts and written information regarding the noble teachings of Buddha;
- Formulate a 10-year action plan to promote and sustain world peace at regional and global levels by inculcating the essence of noble teachings of Buddha, incorporating Buddhistic approach to all forms of conflict resolution frameworks promulgated by international decrees and conventions in keeping with accepted norms of legal mechanisms in respective countries;
- Oppose all forms of misinformation, distorted facts or concocted stories being spread against the teachings of Buddha via electronic media, and digital platforms or news items, which have disastrous and negative sensitivities on dispensation of the Dhamma;
- Prevent all forms of commercial activities, which use Buddha's image and parts or full of the Buddha's teachings or textual expressions to exclusively promote their products and services at regional or global levels, which are highly detrimental to the existence of Buddhism and also to the teachings of Buddha;
- Promote and make best use of the noble wisdom in solving global issues and bring about global peace through non-violence, compassion and loving kindness, which go against the vicious and hatred approach to problem solving and
- Protect our environment that include our seas, oceans, mountain ranges, all kinds of aquatic and natural resources and the entire universe from adding poisonous substances and emission of lethal gases and instead, promote harmonious living favourable to law of nature at all times.
- EC welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a historic event and strives for the realization of a world free from nuclear weapons,
- The EC unanimously accepted the proposal made by the Indian National Centre (INC) to host the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ABCP in India in 2021/2022. Dates and venues of the General Assembly will be decided in due course of time after assessing the Covid-19 situation and ensuring the possibility of free movement for the participants. It requested Indian National centre to chalk out a preliminary programme of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in consultation with the ABCP HQ.
- The EC also approved the meeting of the ABCP Standing Commission on Sustainable Development Goal to be organized by the Indian National Centre in Leh, Ladakh from August 5-7, 2021.
- The EC lauded the efforts of the ABCP HQ and INC for launching the ABCP website, which is now operational.

- The guidelines issued by the ABCP HQ provides that the Coordination Centre in Bodhgaya could be located in the Mongolian Temple and that the Head of the Mongolian temple could function as the Director of the ABCP Coordination Centre. Members of EC welcomed this offer from the ABCP HQ in this regard. However, for ensuring better coordination and smooth functioning of the Coordination Centre in Bodhgaya, Executive Council members accepted the suggestion to make Indian National Centre a partner-organization in running of the ABCP coordination Centre. The meeting also appreciated the offer made by the Indian National centre to appoint a coordinator / deputy director for the ABCP Coordination Centre in Bodhgaya and that INC will be responsible for his salary.
- EC members while appreciating the contribution of US\$ 15,000 by the Indian National Centre, called upon all the National Centres to generously contribute to the ABCP Corpus Fund and also pay their membership fee regularly.
- The EC also appreciated the efforts made by the Secretary General in connection with the ABCP status upgradation with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Secretary General reported the current status and said that an official request to UN ECOSOC to reclassify ABCP status from the present “Roster” status to General Consultative status will be made soon. The meeting called for the support of all the ABCP National Centres in the matter and requested them to engage with their respective foreign affairs ministries and to mobilise support on the issue through their respective UN Permanent Missions in New York. Such recognitions are important to pursue the important objective of ABCP, through which it could make an important contribution to UN SDGs.
- [ABCP Executive Council meeting supported the statement made by Ven. Karma Gelek, President, National Centre, Department of Religion and Culture, CTA with regard to the following 3-point resolution on the future status of the Dalai Lama institution:](#)
  - (i) [To continue the Institution and Reincarnation of the Dalai Lama in the future;](#)
  - (ii) [The incumbent XIV Dalai Lama to be the sole authority of how the next reincarnation of the Dalai Lama should return, and the Tibetan people never to recognize any Dalai Lama reincarnation candidate chosen and installed by the Chinese government; and](#)
  - (iii) [To employ the eight centuries old unique Tibetan traditional method in searching and recognizing the next Dalai Lama.](#)
- It was decided that the next ABCP EC meeting will be held in Sri Lanka headed by Ven. Maitipe Wimalsara in early 2022. However, this time the meeting would not be a zoom-meeting. The Sri Lanka National Centre will announce the date and venue of the meeting in course of time. It was also agreed that should any need arises, the ABCP HQ could organize another virtual meeting of the EC before the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> ABCP EC Meeting successfully concluded in Colombo, Sri Lanka and The ABCP Colombo Resolution-2021 was unanimously adopted by the members of the ABCP EC Meeting.

