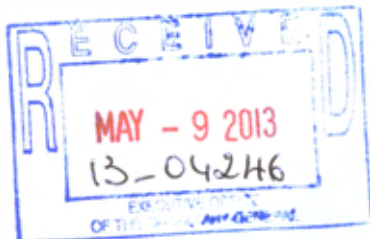




PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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820 SECOND AVENUE (2ND FLOOR)  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

May 7, 2013

Ref. UN/NY/Vesak (2013)

H.E. Ms. Susana Malcorra

Chef de Cabinet

United Nations Secretariat

New York.

(same to EC, DSG)

Excellency,

**Commemoration of the Day of Vesak at the United Nations Headquarters  
and other United Nations Offices, May 24, 2013**

I am pleased to confirm that the Day of Vesak will be celebrated at the United Nations Headquarters on Friday, May 24, 2013 in the renovated Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Chamber. The date was agreed at a meeting of the representatives of the countries that co-sponsored the General Assembly Resolution 54/115 and other well-wishers from the UN member States.

Accordingly, we would be honoured if you would attend the celebration of Vesak Day.

The event will start at 6.30 p.m. on May 24, 2013. The programme will comprise statements by the Permanent Representatives of the participating countries preceded by the screening of a short video clip of Vesak celebrations in these countries or of religious/cultural elements relating to Buddhism. A reception will follow the ECOSOC Chamber event.

I am pleased to attach a tentative programme for your attention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Palitha T.B. Kohona

Ambassador & Permanent Representative



SCN/08/004

## **PROGRAMME**

### **Celebration of the International Day of Vesak 2013**

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013, United Nations, New York**

#### **Morning Programme**

⊗ 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m.

Offering of Heel Dana (ceremonial breakfast) to Buddhist monks, premises of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 820, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Streets), New York, NY 10017.

#### **Evening Programme**

⊗ 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

At the new ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building

Statements by the Permanent Representatives or nominees of participating countries (Preceded by a 3-minute video clip of relevant cultural events associated with the commemoration of Vesak by the country concerned or historical sites.)

⊗ 8.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.

A food festival. Hosted by the participating countries in the Lobby adjacent to the new ECOSOC Chamber.

⊗ A display of traditional Vesak lanterns and other decorations in the Lobby area.

⊗ Cultural event (National songs, music, dancing, etc.)