

**Statement Delivered by H.E. Mr. Dhan Bahadur Oli,
Ambassador of Nepal to the Kingdom of Thailand
On the Occasion of the United Nations International Day of
Peace 2026, on 21 Sept 2026 at Siam University, Thailand**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Members of the University Community,

Professors, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to join you at Siam University on the occasion of the **United Nations International Day of Peace**.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Siam University for organizing this important programme and providing us an opportunity to reflect on one of humanity's greatest aspirations - the aspiration for **peace**.

This year, the United Nations observes the International Day of Peace under the theme **“Investing in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.”**

This theme carries a powerful message. Peace is not achieved only through the absence of war. Peace requires continuous investment, in dialogue, diplomacy, education, human dignity, sustainable development, mutual understanding and respect for diversity. Peace must be nurtured every day, by governments and institutions, but also by individuals and communities.

Lumbini: A Message of Peace from Nepal to the World

For Nepal, peace has a particularly profound meaning.

In the sacred land of **Lumbini in Nepal, Siddhartha Gautama, the Lord Buddha, was born** more than 2,500 years ago. Today, Lumbini is recognized as a World Heritage Site and remains a place of pilgrimage and inspiration for millions of people from around the world.

From Lumbini emerged a message that transcends borders, cultures and generations.

The teachings of Lord Buddha emphasize **compassion, loving-kindness, non-violence, wisdom and understanding**. They remind us of the importance of overcoming hatred through compassion and resolving differences through understanding.

These teachings remain deeply relevant to the world today.

When mistrust increases, we need more dialogue.

When differences divide us, we need more understanding.

When violence causes suffering, we need a stronger commitment to peace.

Lumbini therefore belongs not only to Nepal or to Buddhists. It is part of the shared heritage of humanity and represents a universal message of peace.

Nepal and Thailand: Shared Heritage of Peace

It is particularly meaningful to speak about the message of Lumbini here in **Thailand**, a country with a deep and living Buddhist heritage.

Nepal and Thailand enjoy longstanding relations of friendship and cooperation. Our bonds are strengthened by our shared respect for the teachings of Lord Buddha and by extensive people-to-people contacts, cultural and religious exchanges, education, tourism and pilgrimage.

Every year, Buddhist pilgrims and visitors from Thailand travel to Lumbini and other important Buddhist sites in Nepal. These exchanges contribute not only to religious understanding but also to friendship between our two peoples.

The connection between Lumbini and Thailand is therefore more than a connection between two places. It represents a bridge between peoples who draw inspiration from a common spiritual and cultural heritage.

This shared heritage provides Nepal and Thailand with an important opportunity to work together in promoting **peace, compassion, harmony and understanding**.

Peace in the Contemporary International Situation

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet today at a time when the international community faces a number of complex and interconnected challenges.

Conflicts and violence continue to cause enormous human suffering in different parts of the world. Geopolitical tensions, humanitarian crises, displacement, poverty, inequality, climate change and other global challenges remind us that peace and stability cannot be taken for granted.

In such a situation, the international community must continue to give priority to **dialogue and diplomacy**.

The **United Nations**, established in the aftermath of the Second World War, remains the central global institution for promoting international peace and cooperation. The principles of the **UN Charter**, including sovereign equality, peaceful settlement of disputes and international cooperation, remain fundamental to a peaceful international order.

The challenges facing the world today may be different from those faced in 1945, but the fundamental need for peace is unchanged.

No country can address today's global challenges alone. We need stronger multilateral cooperation and greater trust among nations. We need to listen to one another, respect differences and seek common ground.

Nepal's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping

Nepal's commitment to international peace is not limited to words. It has been demonstrated through our **more than six decades of contribution to United Nations peacekeeping**.

Since 1958, generations of Nepali military and police personnel have served under the blue flag of the United Nations in different parts of the world. They have worked in challenging environments to support peace processes, protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian assistance and contribute to stability.

Nepal has consistently remained one of the largest contributors of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping. **As of January 2026, Nepal ranked first among contributors of uniformed personnel, with 4,480 Nepali personnel serving in UN peace operations.**

Behind these numbers are men and women who have demonstrated courage, discipline, professionalism and dedication to humanity. Many Nepali peacekeepers have served in difficult and dangerous circumstances, and some have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace.

For Nepal, peacekeeping is not simply an international responsibility. It reflects our commitment to **multilateralism, the United Nations Charter, peaceful settlement of disputes and international cooperation**.

There is also a meaningful connection between Nepal's peacekeeping contribution and the message of Lumbini.

Lumbini gives the world a timeless message of peace through the teachings of Lord Buddha, while Nepali peacekeepers carry a practical commitment to peace to different parts of the world under the blue flag of the United Nations.

Investing in Peace Through Education

The theme of this year's International Day of Peace also reminds us of the importance of investing in **young people and education**.

This is where universities such as Siam University have a particularly important role.

Universities are not only places where knowledge and professional skills are acquired. They are also places where young people learn to understand different perspectives, engage in dialogue, respect diversity and develop a sense of responsibility toward society and the wider world.

The students gathered here today may become tomorrow's diplomats, educators, scientists, entrepreneurs, policymakers and community leaders.

The values they develop today will help shape the world of tomorrow.

Peace therefore begins in many small ways: in the willingness to listen, in respect for another person's dignity, in rejecting hatred and discrimination, and in choosing dialogue over confrontation.

A Message to the Young Generation

To the students and young people present here today, I would like to say:

You are not merely the leaders of tomorrow; you are partners in building peace today.

You can contribute to peace through your words, your actions, your education and the way you treat people who may be different from you.

In an increasingly interconnected world, young people have the ability to build bridges across cultures and borders. Technology has brought us closer than ever before, but genuine peace still requires human understanding, empathy and respect.

Let us therefore encourage a culture in which differences are not automatically seen as divisions, where diversity is valued, and where disagreement can be addressed through dialogue.

From Lumbini to the World

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The message that emerged from Lumbini more than two and a half millennia ago continues to speak to humanity today. It reminds us that peace begins with the individual, but it cannot end there. It begins with our thoughts and actions. It grows through our families and communities. It becomes stronger through education and dialogue. And ultimately, it contributes to peace among nations.

Nepal is proud to share Lumbini and its message of peace with the world. We are equally proud of the contribution of Nepali peacekeepers who, under the United Nations flag, have devoted their service to maintaining peace and protecting humanity in different parts of the world.

These two dimensions of Nepal's contribution—**the timeless message of Lumbini and the practical service of Nepali peacekeepers**—reflect our enduring commitment to the cause of peace.

Conclusion

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this International Day of Peace, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a world where dialogue is stronger than division, cooperation stronger than confrontation, and compassion stronger than hatred.

Let us invest in peace, not only through governments and international institutions, but through our schools, universities, families and communities.

Let us work together so that the younger generation inherits a world guided not by fear and conflict, but by **peace, dignity, cooperation and hope**.

From **Lumbini to Thailand, from our universities to the United Nations**, let us carry forward the message that peace is a shared responsibility and a common aspiration of humanity.

May the timeless teachings of **Lord Buddha** continue to inspire us to build bridges of understanding and friendship among peoples and nations. **May peace prevail in our communities. May peace prevail among nations. And may peace prevail throughout our shared human family.**

Thank you. Om Shanti.

May there be peace, peace, and peace.