Statement by Ambassador U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations on the Occasion of the International Day of Vesak (17 May 2019, General Assembly Hall)

Venerable Members of Sangha, Excellencies, Friends of Dhama, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The Myanmar Sanghas and members of the Myanmar community are greatly honoured to join this annual commemorative event to celebrate the Day of Vesak, the most sacred and auspicious day of Buddhism to observe the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Lord Gautama Buddha.

2. I would like to thank and congratulate Ambassador Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka and Ambassador Vitavas Srivihok, Permanent Representative of Thailand for their commendable leadership in successfully organizing this annual special event. I would like to pay a special tribute with fond memories to our wonderful friend and colleague His Excellency the late Ambassador Virachai Plasai for his dedication and devotion to this annual event.

Venerable Members of Sangha, Excellencies, Friends of Dhama, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Lord Buddha taught us to harbour Metta or loving-kindness and compassion to all beings on this earth. Loving-kindness among human beings is far more effective than pledges in process of peace; inner peace of individual self or
peace among human kind. In his Dhamma teachings, Lord Buddha taught his followers that “hate does not cease by hate, but by loving-kindness alone”.

4. We live in a world riddled with extremism, greed, hatred, violence and conflicts. Hatred and violence will bring about more hatred and violence. Metta is the only answer to address these evils. Only the power of Metta can reconcile adversaries and bring peace, harmony and prosperity to the world.

5. This special commemorative event reminds us of the Dhamma, the teachings of Lord Buddha, and the fundamental ways to observe it. Along with other leading religions of the world, Buddha Dhamma primarily focuses on practicing the dissemination of Metta towards every living being.

6. I am convinced that observance of this annual special event of the Day of Visak will effectively contribute to our collective efforts in strengthening global peace and security through establishing a harmonious and peaceful society among social, cultural and religious diversities.

7. May we all be able to radiate Metta and conquer all evils!

8. May auspiciousness be upon you all!