

CONSTITUTION
OF THE ASIAN BUDDHIST CONFERENCE FOR PEACE

Preamble THE ASIAN BUDDHIST CONFERENCE FOR PEACE is a voluntary movement of Buddhists in Asia, symbolizing the innermost aspirations of the disciples of Lord Buddha to promote peace, justice and human dignity.
This movement shall strive to REALIZE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE SACRED TEACHINGS OF LORD BUDDHA.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Article 1. The aims and objectives of the Asian Buddhist Conference for peace (hereinafter referred to as ABCP) shall be as follows:

1. To unite all Buddhists in Asia and achieve a close co-operation among Buddhists of the world through co-ordinated action for the promotion of peace in Asia and the world;
2. To disseminate and realize the fundamental teachings of Lord Buddha for peace, justice and human dignity;
3. To oppose imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and international reaction, to uphold and defend national independence as a basic requirement for lasting peace;
4. To oppose aggressive military alliances and their bases in Asia and in the neighbouring Oceans and to strive for peace and security in Asia based on Panchasheela;
5. a) To strive for complete prohibition of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, including their production, testing, stockpiling and use, and to work for general and complete disarmament;
- b) To defend human rights by eradicating hunger, poverty, ignorance, social discrimination, economic injustice, religious intolerance and persecution;

- c) To establish a new economic order based upon the principle of social justice, equality and compassions;
 - d) By doing so to support for and contribute our share to the realisation of the UN Charter.
6. To co-operate with other religious and non-religious peace and solidarity movements working for similar objectives.

MEMBERSHIP

Article 2. The National Centres, organizations, Buddhist Monasteries, temples, groups and individuals subscribing to the aims and objectives of the ABCP seeking to be affiliated shall become members of the ABCP in the following manner:

- 1. National Centres: by applying in writing to the ABCP through the Secretary General;
- 2. In a country where National Centre exists, other organizations, Buddhist monasteries, temples, groups and individuals: by applying in writing to the ABCP through their National Centre;
- 3. In a country where no such National Centre exists at present, organizations, Buddhist monasteries, temples, groups and individuals: by applying directly to the ABCP through the Secretary General;
- 4. Any member can withdraw from the ABCP voluntarily;
- 5. Any member of the ABCP working contrary to the interests, aims and objectives of the ABCP shall cease to be a member.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ABCP MEMBERS

Article 3 1. The ABCP members shall have the following rights:

- a) To participate in the activities of the ABCP to realize the aims and objectives set forth in the ABCP Constitution;
- b) To elect and be elected to the decision making and executive organs of the ABCP.

2. The ABCP members shall carry out the following obligations:

- a) To uphold and implement the aims and objectives of the ABCP and to take concrete steps for their realisation.
- b) To promote close co-operation among themselves, and defend and consolidate unity among the ranks of the ABCP;
- c) To give financial support to ABCP within the limits of their capacity for carrying out its activities.

ORGANS OF ABCP

Article 4. The ABCP shall carry out its activities through the following organs:

- a) The decision-making body of the ABCP is the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace General Conference (hereinafter referred to as ABCP/GC);
- b) The Executive body of the ABCP is the Executive Council of the ABCP (hereinafter referred to as ABCP/EC).

ABCP GENERAL CONFERENCE

Article 5.

- a) The ABCP/GC shall be convened at least once in three years to decide the general policy of the ABCP;
- b) The ABCP/GC shall discuss the progress report of the ABCP/EC
- c) The ABCP/GC shall elect a 21 members Executive Council for a term of three years but not more than 2 members from one country;
- d) The ABCP/GC shall comprise of delegates selected by the national centers and by local organizations. Buddhist Monasteries, temples, groups and individuals

- who have been affiliated in the membership of ABCP;
- e) All delegates to the ABCP/GC shall have the voting rights;
- f) Guests and observers may be invited by special invitations to the ABCP/GC who will have only consultative status.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC)

- Article 6.
- a) The ABCP/EC shall be responsible for the implementation of the policy and programme approved by the ABCP/GC.
 - b) The ABCP/GC shall take necessary decisions on fundamental problems to implement the programme of the ABCP;
 - c) The ABCP/EC shall consider and adopt, if necessity arises, amendments and additions to the Constitution proposed by the members of the ABCP, and submit the same to the ABCP/GC for its approval;
 - d) The ABCP/EC may set up any Ad hoc Commissions to deal with any pressing problems if necessary;
 - e) The ABCP /EC shall interpret the Constitution and may make rules and regulations if necessary.

SESSION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Article 7.
- a) The ABCP/EC shall meet at least once in a year and a half;
 - b) Special guests and observers can be invited to the ABCP / EC Sessions, who shall have only consultative status.

OFFICE BEARERS

- Article 8.
- a) The Executive Council shall elect a President, not more than three Vice-Presidents and Secretary General of the ABCP;
 - b) The decisions of ABCP/EC shall be taken unanimously as far as possible otherwise by majority votes.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

- Article 9. a) The President of the ABCP proclaims the decisions of the ABCP and exerts his efforts to consolidate the movement, to enhance its international prestige and to further its area of influence. If a situation demands the President may call a meeting of the Vice-Presidents for informative or operative purposes;
- B) In case the President relinquishes or is unable to discharge his official duties, the ABCP/EC shall elect a new President at its next regular session, but not later than one year from the date of such an event. Until such election, one of the Vice-Presidents in co-operation with Secretary General shall discharge the duties and functions of the President.

FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL

Article 10. The Secretary General is responsible for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the ABCP.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Article 11. With a view to ensure effective operation of the activities of the ABCP the ABCP/EC shall set up an International Secretariat at the Headquarters of the ABCP on the recommendations of the Secretary General of the ABCP under whose guidance it shall work.

VACANCY

Article 12. In case of any office bearer vacating his office by reason of death or resignation or inability to work, the President of the ABCP shall provisionally transfer his duties and functions to such person as he may deem it appropriate.

QUORUM OF MEETINGS

Article 13. The quorum of the meeting of the ABCP/GC and EC shall be no less than two third of the total membership, respectively,

but an adjourned meeting shall require no quorum.

FINANCE

- Article 14
- a) The activities of the ABCP are financed by contributions from the National Centres as well as by voluntary donation and offerings from the organizations, buddhist monasteries, temples, groups and individuals;
 - b) The budget of the ABCP shall be under the control of the President and Secretary General of the ABCP;
 - c) The ABCP/EC may, if it so desires, appoint an Ad-hoc commission on financial and budgetary questions.
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- The fiscal year shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

THE SEAT OF THE ABCP HEADQUARTERS

Article 15 The permanent Headquarters of the ABCP shall be seated in Gandantekchenling Monastery at Ulan Bator in Mongolian People's Republic.

- Article 16
- a) The ABCP has the seal of the Natsagdorji (Vajra) with a white dove in the centre as its Emblem.
 - b) The ABCP shall have a six-coloured flag consisting of a Vertical yellow stripe being one fifth of the length symbolising the Buddha's Teachings and Five horizontal stripes in blue, yellow, red, white and saffron colours, from upward below, as symbols of wisdom, humility, righteousness, reason and generosity by eliminating anger, arrogance, greed, ignorance and jealousy.
- It shall have the ABCP emblem on the upper part of vertical yellow stripe.

The ratio of the flag is 1:2 in breadth and length.

NATIONAL CENTRES

Article 17. National Centres shall have the right to be independent in their activities carried out in conformity with the ABCP Constitution. National Centres are financed by themselves.

APPENDEX

- a) The Constitution of the ABCP comes into force from the date of its approval by the ABCP/GC;
- b) For all purposes, only the English text of the Constitution of the ABCP shall be final and authentic.