



Remarks by

Vera El Khoury Lacoueilhe
Chairperson of the Executive Board

Commemoration of the International Day of Vesak at UNESCO

23 May 2024, 6pm (Room II)

Venerable religious leaders,

The Honourable Minister of Education of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the Sri Lankan National Commission for UNESCO,

Madam Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO,

Madam Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences,

Mister Co-

Dear friends and guests, Vesak isn't just a festivity it's a dive into togetherness and Buddha's story. It's about celebrating his birth and enlightenment, but also commemorating his passing.

Picture this: streets packed with people wearing white during the day, then bursting with colour at night as Buddhist homes light up with lanterns. It's like walking through a rainbow forest!

To witness this spectacle is to participate in a pilgrimage of the senses, where