



The 17th Karmapa Trinley Thaye Dorje

New Delhi, 21 September 2016

Dear dharma friends

I believe that few of us really know what 'peace' means. We may wish for 'peace' or do something 'in the name of peace', and though our motivations have merit, we really can have no idea whether our actions, gestures or words really contribute to this idea of peace.

We may be religious people, philosophers, scientists, politicians, doctors – but who can say that they have really understood what peace is? We can use sophisticated words, logic, actions, but that still really won't pinpoint peace – it still won't achieve peace.

Having said this, it doesn't mean that if we do something in the name of peace that there is no value. However, the real value lies in what we can do right now to motivate ourselves: we can aspire to seek peace, for ourselves and for others – even if we don't know exactly what it is.

Therefore, it is better not to tire ourselves out by thinking 'this is peace' and grasping at the concept – we will never get it right. But one thing we can get right, is to know that we *want* this thing called peace. Even though nothing else might be clear, the aspiration is clear, and this is what really matters.

So I would like to ask everyone to use the UN International Day of Peace, and every day, to sustain your aspiration for peace, your longing for peace.