

# THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TAMANG CONFERENCE

## KATHMANDU DECLARATION

We, the representatives of the Tamang peoples and Organizations from different countries of the world assembled at the first International Tamang Conference in Kathmandu from 19 – 22 December 2002;

1. RECALLING together as self-esteemed descendants of our ancestors of legendary Tamang history as told by Tambas (Oral historians) and walking to the future in the footprints of our ancestors,
2. AFFIRMING our common roots in the *Tamsa-Ling*, as indigenous peoples of Himalayas who spread across the region before the formation of the nation-state boundaries, and reverence to this Mother Earth where our ancestors lived, where our spirits dwell, where our legends originated and our history created, which ensures our physical and cultural existence and from where we obtain our food and medicines, where we nurture our languages, celebrate our ceremonies, where we give-birth, live and leave legacy for the future,
3. REAFFIRMING our unique cosmovision that reflects the reciprocal relationship between the spiritual, natural and human world, our relationship to Mother Earth which for many millennia, have developed and refined our sustainable societies and our responsibility to coming generations to uphold peace, equity and justice,
4. RECOGNIZING our civilization and cultural heritage deeply rooted in tangible and intangible cultural heritage such as language, script, art and architecture, folklore, songs and music, and in distinct and unique mix of Tamang Buddhism, Bomboism and Tambaism,
5. RECOGNIZING our language as the voice of our ancestors from the beginning of time and part of the soul of our nations, our being, as vehicle of our cultural transmission from generation to generation and the pathway to the future,
6. NOTING that Tamang culture has maintained a high and respected position for Women within society and fostered an interdependent, and reciprocal relationship between brothers and sisters with egalitarianism and deep appreciation for their contribution and responsibility for Tamang well-being,
7. TAKING pride in the present day Tamang songs and music of Damfu and Tungna developed from the Tamba tradition as an inseparable part of our culture and identity, and as medium of transmission of our religion, history, and value system along with education and awareness and including the expressions of notion of beauty and tastes,
8. AFFIRMING the solidarity of the Tamang people living in different countries we represent in this Conference where we all so diligently worked for common enhancement, for the rights and welfare of our families based on mutual support between ourselves /Tamang men and women,
9. SEEING for ourselves with great joy and hope that we have found a Tamang society in Nepal and Diaspora across the globe with full potential for taking up the self-responsibility for social, cultural, economic and political development of the community,



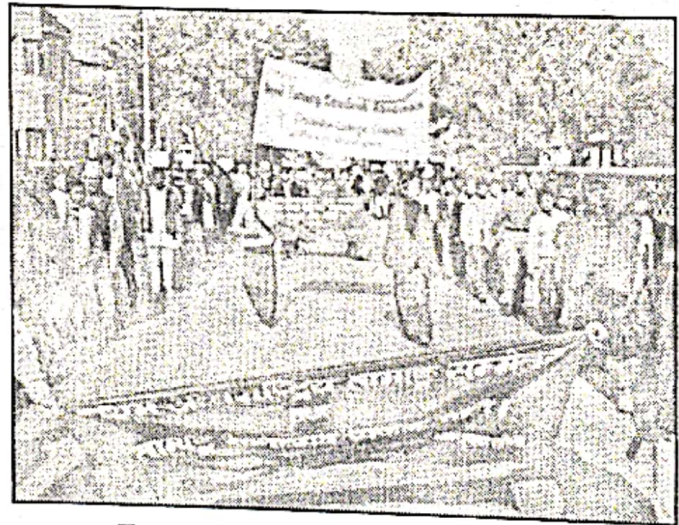
10. RECOGNIZING the historical fact that the Tamang peoples have been systematically discriminated against by the elites of Nepali State resulting to economic deprivation, political disintegration, religious and social exclusion, displacement and exile from homeland and cultural marginalization,
11. EMPHASIZING the fact that Tamang peoples have retained its self-rule, sovereignty and vibrant community for the promotion of cultural rights, socio-economic prosperity and peaceful coexistence in national and global multicultural societies,
12. BEARING IN MIND the firm will of the Tamang Peoples to carry on working to face the challenges raised by the 21st century in our social surroundings and at an international level and passing on to our future generations this moral obligation,
13. RECOGNIZING the historical responsibility that we have as citizens of this increasingly interdependent world and over which hovers the threat of excessive globalization for communities such as the Tamang peoples, which is struggling to maintain its space in freedom and in harmony with this new international context,

**Solemnly WE DECLARE  
our unequivocal commitment to:**

14. RIGHTS AND WELFARE of the Tamang peoples specially women and children, living in this globe through preserving Tamang identity, which is ours and for which we have a profound feeling of fellow nation and citizen and, therefore, of joint responsibility regarding its national and international future,
15. CELEBRATE AND REVIVE Tamang culture (*Rimthim*), language (*Tamang Tam*), script (*Tam Yig*), pillars of Tamang religion - Buddhism, *Tambaism* and *Bomboism*; costumes (*Goila* and *gyanchya*) and the total way of life for our distinctive identity,
16. PLEA all concerned governments for establishing democratic rights in their country and commitment to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international laws,
17. EMPOWER Tamang peoples to exercise our right to self-determination and customary rights and responsibility over their territory, ownership of its

resources, environmental conservation and development,

18. CALL UPON the governments of the countries including Nepal to show generosity, dignity and bravery in recognizing historical damage caused to Tamang society by the state and in taking urgent measures for healing the historical wounds of the political marginalization and discrimination.
19. ADVOCATE all states, international community and non-governmental organizations, civil society to recognize Tamang people's right to citizenship, nationality, inclusion, and culture that are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent and commit to the full implementation of them as enshrined in the International Laws,
20. ADVOCATE all the concerned states to provide special reservation for the Tamang as indigenous peoples in government services, political appointments, education, employment and civil society,
21. WORK towards uniting the Tamang peoples and civilizations around the planet and keeping the



Tamang Centers alive and vibrant across the world,

22. REQUEST state governments, intergovernmental regional organisations and international community to recognize, respect and support for the decisions that Tamang society may make regarding its future, including the projects for defense of its identity as a nation on the international arena,
23. REITERATE our firm support of Tamang society, different organisations and their representatives and especially Tamang Ghedung in

efforts to bring peace and development to the *Tamsa-Ling* and in the wider world,

24. PROMISE to collaborate closely with all Tamang Organizations across the globe in defense of exclusively democratic process of action for preservation of Tamang culture as a set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of our society that encompasses, art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,
25. STATE that over and above any party-polity, state boundaries and narrow nationalism, we belong to the Tamang peoples who wish to face up to the future from a position of unity, a combination of spirit and action and the integration of all us Tamang wherever we may be, in one common project,
26. INVITE institutions and the leaders of the Tamang society to increase their relationship and ties with Tamang living overseas and build an area that overcomes classic frontiers, a virtual territory, which brings the *Tamsa-Ling* to wherever there may be Tamang to set up a world network for defense



and promotion of every Tamang,

27. DECIDE to establish an International Tamang Council, which can serve as a bridge and a forum where Tamang Peoples may join together in elaborating and developing concepts, policies, programmes, funds and actions for the economic and social development, culture, religion, language, education, health, the environment, human rights and conflict resolution relating to the Tamang people across the globe and pursue its activities in awareness raising and capacity-building within its fields of competence.

We, the Representatives of the Tamang peoples and organizations commit ourselves as reflected in this declaration to adopt following ACTION PLAN made at this first International Conference for the implementation;

28. STRENGTHEN the role of our elders: *GANBAS* and wise traditional authorities: *LAMA, TAMBA* and *BOMBO* as the keepers of our traditional wisdom which embodies our spirituality and cosmivision as an alternative to the existing unsustainable cultural and development models,
29. PROTECT and strengthen our institutions, customary laws and practices, which are the bases of sound sustainable management of our environment, territories and peoples,
30. TAKE action for peaceful resolution that the conflicts and armed conflicts continued in the region shattered the life of the Tamang people, many children as orphans, helpless old age, deprived from employment, the basis of living and pushed to the brink of fear and destruction,
31. NURTURE an environment of intergenerational support, thereby laying a strong foundation for future generations and commit to pass on our indigenous way of life to safeguard our pride and dignity as peoples,
32. SUPPORT and strengthen Tamang women, youth, artists, Lawyers, professionals and student organizations to be fully empowered and enabled to voice their concerns in the national and international arena,
33. RESEARCH the songs and music, the pillars of the Tamang culture, to revitalize the Tamang identity at national and international level and promote them,
34. RECOGNIZE the Tamang unity in diversity of our dresses, ornaments, dialogues, customs within the community and commit collective actions for its preservation and promotions,
35. CALL for immediate measures to stop child labor, child sexual exploitation, girl trafficking, child soldiers, execution of minors and all forms of exploitations and injustices against Tamang women and girl children,
36. ADVOCATE the rights of Indigenous women and their vital role in human and environmental protection

as custodians and sustainable manager of traditional knowledge, culture and biological diversity; and work towards fair and equitable access of the Tamang women to land, resources, education and other social and welfare services and to ensure Tamang women's participation in all levels of governance and leadership both locally, nationally and internationally,

37. DEMAND all the states to preserve and protect sacred, ceremonial and culturally significant sites and areas, burial, archeological and historical sites, including the unqualified right to restrict access to those sites, as the spiritual places and allocate sufficient budgets for the developments of all these sites,
38. COMMIT ourselves to safeguard, protect and reaffirm the use of indigenous knowledge and practices, respecting the spiritual values and dimensions of such knowledge, and protect our collective intellectual property for the preservation of cultural and biological diversity,
39. CONTINUE to utilize, strengthen and protect our traditional health systems within our communities and

demand recognition for and financing and equitable partnerships for our own health programs, projects and initiatives,

40. REVITALIZE, strengthen and develop our traditional education institutions and systems for learning at all levels based on egalitarian value of tamang culture and demand education in Tamang language and scripts, and use in official affairs,
41. STRENGTHEN the capacity of our own indigenous systems of conflict resolution and reaffirm the role of our leaders and traditional authorities in resolving issues of conflict such as rape, torture and all other forms of human rights violations, and
42. ESTABLISH networks of research, planning, conservation, information, communication, scientific and technical cooperation to strengthen our specialized and diversified learning and capacity building, and if required, constitute necessary committees to implement this declaration and plan of action.

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