

**SGI President Proposes New Disarmament Initiatives**  
**Courtesy of SGI NEWSWIRE**  
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The need to strengthen global systems of human rights protection is stressed in the annual peace proposal released today by the SGI and written by SGI President Ikeda. The SGI president also expresses his hope that the lessons of the recently signed land mine treaty will be reflected in disarmament efforts to control the proliferation of small arms and toward the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Ikeda says that small arms are a leading cause of destruction and death in civil and regional conflicts throughout the world and calls for effective international controls on these weapons. The SGI also supports the Abolition 2000 campaign, which seeks the signing by the year 2000 of a treaty requiring the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

Noting that 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr. Ikeda proposes the establishment of a network of independent human rights agencies in each country that would promote — through reporting, public education and relief efforts — the implementation of existing human rights treaties.

These agencies would function based on the principle of transgovernmentalism, a shared sovereignty that avoids the limitations of both purely domestic human rights bodies and intergovernmental forums. These agencies would not only support one another's efforts but would also actively cooperate with different national and international non-governmental organizations active in the protection and promotion of human rights.

The basis for a new globalism must be the spirit to benefit both oneself and others, President Ikeda says. Pointing out that unbridled competition often leads people and countries to prey upon those weaker than themselves, Mr. Ikeda suggests that a qualitative transformation in the nature of competition — toward what he terms humanitarian competition — is necessary.

He calls on the world's largest, most powerful countries to act with a renewed sense of responsibility for the welfare of all humanity.

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