

## SGI PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL PEACE PROPOSAL RELEASED

On Jan. 26, in commemoration of SGI day—the anniversary of the SGI's establishment in 1975—SGI President Ikeda's annual peace proposal was released. Beginning in 1983, the SGI leader has submitted a proposal each year to the United Nations outlining his ideas for the establishment of lasting peace throughout the world.

Reaffirming his long-standing support for Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, President Ikeda urges the Japanese people to “breathe new life into and universalize the spirit and principles” of the war-renouncing clause.

In the proposal, President Ikeda criticizes Japan's failure, during the 55-year history of the post-war constitution, to effectively contribute to the cause of peace. He attributes this to what he terms an “egotistical and ultimately false form of pacifism” that is concerned only with the security of the Japanese people and is blind to the larger concerns of Asia and the world.

Since the “right” to wage war has long been considered a key element of national sovereignty, Japan in this sense has been in a state of “semi-sovereignty” under the post-war constitution. President Ikeda asserts that this should be seen as a forward-looking precedent for the voluntary, partial transfer of national sovereignty to the United Nations. He calls on Japan to take the lead in creating an effective, U.N.-based global security and conflict prevention system.

The proposal also stresses the key roles of women and civil society organizations in creating the foundations for lasting peace. In addition, it urges a rethinking of development assistance to position people as the participants and protagonists of development, rather than as the passive recipients of aid.

This year's peace proposal is currently being translated into English and will appear in an upcoming issue of *Living Buddhism* magazine. In addition, *For The Sake of Peace*, a book based on President Ikeda's peace proposals, has been published by Middleway Press and will be available in public bookstores in March. A review of the book will appear in the April issue of *Living Buddhism*.

*Information courtesy of SGI Office of Public Information.*