

## Preventing the Use of Nuclear Weapons *as a Step toward a Peaceful World*

The Soka Gakkai International (SGI) has released a statement titled *“Preventing the Use of Nuclear Weapons as a Step toward a Peaceful World”* on 15 January 2025, in advance of the 50th anniversary of its establishment on January 26. Below summarizes key points of the statement:

In this year, which also marks the eightieth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) provide a critical opportunity to deepen deliberation on the threat of use of nuclear weapons and their inhumane nature.

In 2023, the SGI held a side event titled *“No First Use as a Path to Nuclear Disarmament”* at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference. And in December 2024, during Nobel Week, the University of Oslo, Peacebook and the SGI co-organized a high level panel on No First Use at the University of Oslo.

The risk that nuclear weapons might actually be used is today higher than at any time since the end of the Cold War, and in this regard we would like to make two concrete proposals that must be realized with urgency. The first is to **urge states to pledge never to be the first to use nuclear weapons** (No First Use). The second calls for **the establishment of a center dedicated to the prevention of nuclear war**.

We call on the five states signatory to the NPT as nuclear-weapon states—the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China—to initiate dialogue aimed at achieving agreement on pledges of No First Use as a first step in placing explicit limits on nuclear weapons as weapons that must never be used. We urge the NPT Preparatory Committee in particular to further discussion of No First Use pledges, actively exchanging views on the challenges that need to be overcome and requisite institutional assurances.

Even if it proves difficult to immediately agree upon an enduring commitment to the principle of No First Use, states could surely begin by agreeing to a one-year moratorium. If that first step could be taken, and if that pledge could be renewed year by year, the justifications put forward for continuing an endless nuclear arms race would gradually lose their potency. This would open a path for a reduction in the threat to which these weapons expose not only the nuclear-weapon and nuclear-dependent states but all of humankind.

The pledge to adhere to the principle of No First Use would inevitably require the nuclear-weapon and nuclear-dependent states to fundamentally reconsider their national security policies. Given this, it will be crucial to develop systems and measures to alleviate the fears and concerns of these countries. As one such possible measure, we would like to highlight the idea of a nuclear war prevention center.

The aim of a nuclear war prevention center would not only be to forestall missile launches caused by false information. Through regular face-to-face communication, it would also serve as a platform for fostering mutual trust between the countries involved and deepen the shared understanding that nuclear war in any form must be averted.

Even if it proves difficult for all five states to act on this at the same time, as a first step, those states with an especially strong appreciation of the need for measures to prevent unanticipated outcomes could come together to implement some of its functions. As for the location of this center, one possibility would be to establish it in a key state party to one of the five Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ)—Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia—with support from the United Nations.

In light of ongoing global conflicts and persistent tensions, taking such steps is urgently required if we are to avoid putting our future at even greater risk. And doing so would in fact constitute significant progress toward building a global society of peace and humane values.



To read the full SGI statement, *scan the QR code.*

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## Why No First Use?

SGI has urged the nuclear-weapon states to adopt a policy of No First Use, as part of its broader commitment to nuclear disarmament and peace, to avoid catastrophe, defuse the climate of mutual fear and promote nuclear disarmament. In recent years, Daisaku Ikeda (1928-2023), the president of SGI, has issued three statements since July 2022 on this theme.

- **Adoption of a policy of No First Use can significantly enhance the global security climate.** If the goal of preventing nuclear war is pursued through existing deterrence policies, whatever reduction in risk might be achieved in the short run, it will leave the structures of confrontation and mutual threat in place. As more states adopt this principle of No First Use, the norm that nuclear weapons are weapons that must never be used will be further strengthened, reducing the incentive to build up nuclear arsenals.
- **By making pledges of No First Use, nuclear-weapon states' shared recognition of the inadmissible nature of nuclear weapons can find expression in changed policies.** The pledge of No First Use is a measure that nuclear-weapon states can take even while maintaining for the present their current nuclear arsenals. Yet, should this policy take root among nuclear-armed states, it will create an opening for removing the climate of mutual fear.
- **Commitment to No First Use can serve as the axle connecting the twin wheels of the NPT and TPNW, speeding realization of a world free from nuclear weapons.** There should be a shared and common recognition of the importance of preventing the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons use.



To read the full texts of No First Use statements by Daisaku Ikeda, *scan the QR code.*