

## Opening Remark

# Global Governance for Human Security

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Good afternoon, everyone. I am the director of the Soka University Peace Research Institute and the chair of this year's JAHSS conference - the Japan Association of Human Security Studies. It is our great honor and pleasure to host this year's conference here at Soka University.

I am deeply grateful to the many people who have contributed to make the conference possible. I would like to especially express my gratitude to the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research for their sponsorship.

I also wish to thank our distinguished panelists for their cooperation and support in making this year's conference a reality. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for taking time from your busy schedules to participate. Thank you very much.

Allow me to say a few words about this year's conference venue, Soka University. When Soka University was established in 1971, the

founder, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, articulated the three founding principles as follows;

Be the highest seat of learning for humanistic education

Be the cradle of a new culture

Be a fortress of peace for humankind

The Peace Research Institute was then opened in 1976, our institute celebrated 40th anniversary this year, based on the principle of becoming a fortress for the peace of humankind, for the purpose of contributing to the establishment of a peaceful society and the improvement of human welfare by conducting surveys and research on the various problems related to the achievement of peace.

Dr. Ikeda has written a Peace Proposal every year since 1983. He often refers to the importance of efforts toward Human Security in his proposals. He has emphasized the importance of Human Security values, including survival, livelihood and dignity - and related initiatives in the area of peacebuilding. In this connection, this year's proposal quotes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind".

All of us gathered here today have been contributing to research and educational projects to promote a broader understanding of Human Security and its implementation. With these aims, it is our great pleasure as this year's host to play an active role in JAHSS and its future development.

A focus of this year's conference, the 6th one to date, we would like to assess our capacity to put the values of Human Security into action. As you know, it has been over 20 years now since UNDP announced the concept of Human Security. Since then, the idea has evolved and has been advocated by various governments and civil

society organizations. We can see the development of the idea in the international community through a significant volume of reports and resolutions, for example, the HSC report in 2003, the Reports of the Secretary-General and the General Assembly Resolutions in 2010 and 2012 among many others. Taking such developments into account, it can be said that Human Security has indeed been “prioritized as a foreign policy goal” in the international community.

We chose “Global Governance for Human Security” as the title of this symposium. Our question is whether the international community is implementing policies for Human Security as effectively as it could, in other words, whether a form of global governance for Human Security is actually being carried out and to what extent.

We are most fortunate this year to have with us experts from UN organizations to help us assess issues related to the implementation and implications of Human Security.

Mr. Tetsuo Kondo, Director of the UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo

Ms. Mehrnaz Mostafavi, Chief of Human Security Unit, United Nations

Mr. Dirk Hebecker, Representative of the UNHCR Representation in Japan

Needless to say, these experts represent the core organizations for the implementation of Human Security. Learning from their experience, we hope to better understand some of the challenges of putting the values of Human Security into practice.

We are also pleased to receive Professor Kiyoko Ikegami of Nihon University Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies as a discussant. We can benefit greatly from Professor Ikegami’s broad perspective and deep experience from her work both at the UN with

UNHCR and civil society organizations such as JOICFP.

In the first session, we will hear presentations from the three panelist's presentation and comments from the discussant. We will take a break after the presentation session. We will then have the second session, the panel discussion. In that session, the panelists will respond to questions and comments from audience.

I would like to express my gratitude again, and hope that everyone can enjoy this symposium. Thank you very much.