



February 17, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

Loving Sai Rams to all of you.

We are blessed and fortunate to be the members and officers of Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO) which bears the sacred name of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He founded, nurtured, instructed, and guided this organization at every step for more than five decades and continues to guide us.

## Global Council Proposal by SSSCT

On November 23, 2020, the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust (SSSCT) made a surprise announcement of its intention to create a new Global Council (GC). This announcement followed from a Concept Paper prepared by the SSSCT. There was no agreement with the SSSIO beforehand in the preparation of the Concept Paper. Since then, the communications from the SSSCT have not been consistent with the details given in the Concept Paper.

## The SSSIO Response

- After careful study of the Concept Paper, due deliberations, and wide consultations, the senior leaders, and officers of the SSSIO have made it very clear to the SSSCT that the concept of the **Global Council is not acceptable.**
- **The Global Council is in violation of the Divine command and is contrary to the structure Bhagawan Himself had established.** It is disruptive and detrimental to the successful functioning and structure of the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation (SSSWF) and the SSSIO, as entrusted by Bhagawan Baba.
- The Concept Paper for the GC indicates that the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of India and the SSSIO will function under the “authority,” “orders and instructions,” and “overall superintendence” of the GC and the SSSCT. **Swami is still in “overall superintendence” of the SSSWF and SSSIO as our God and Guide. No person or entity should purport to usurp this role.**

## Historical Overview

Few decades ago, there was a World Council started with Divine guidance and in 1987 Swami in His infinite wisdom dissolved the World Council because of the expansion of the International Organization, and the resulting diversity of cultures, language, religion and nationality and the laws of different lands. **Swami established the SSSWF and the Prasanthi Council to govern and administer the SSSIO.** It was published in





# Sri Sathya Sai International Organization

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Sanathana Sarathi, March 2006 that: “The “Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation” is hereby established. By the divine command of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, this foundation will henceforth assume responsibility for the governance of all functions of the international Sri Sathya Sai Organisations. The Foundation will work together with the Prasanthi Council to accomplish the administration of these Organisations.”

Over the years, by Swami’s Grace, the SSSIO has blossomed with this structure, with presence in 120 countries, and supported by an elaborate infrastructure of Zone Chairs, Committee Chairs, Central Coordinators and National Council Presidents, who are doing excellent work with devotion and dedication.

Dr. Narendranath Reddy and Mr. Gary Belz were both blessed and appointed by Swami. Dr. Michael Goldstein voluntarily resigned from his position and Mr. Gary Belz was appointed as Chairman, SSSWF by the board. Additionally, all the officers of the SSSIO were appointed as per the guidelines of the SSSIO, which was blessed by Swami.

**The SSSCT has no authority over the SSSIO. As per Swami’s guidance and decision the SSSIO has always been functioning independently.**

## The SSSIO Today

The SSSIO is serving its members and their societies and countries through various services including, medical relief, educational activities, humanitarian relief, and public outreach, thus sharing His message of love and selfless service.

- Among the many humanitarian service activities, notable are the recent hunger relief in 11 countries of Africa, the disaster relief in Nepal, Indonesia, Australia, and other countries, which were solely supported by the members of the SSSIO and not anyone else.
- Swami says, “Help Ever; Hurt Never” and so members of SSSIO have also generously supported disaster relief efforts in India after floods impacted Kerala, Uttarakhand, and Orissa, for example.
- The SSSIO has also been supporting the SSSCT by contributing to the education institutions, medical institutions, and other projects. The SSSIO has made significant contributions to the establishment of major facilities like the planetarium, sports stadium, Chaitanya Jyoti Museum, some college buildings, and various units in the hospitals.



## The Divine Command

- Swami dissolved the World Council in 1987: “Hitherto we have had a world council. It served its purpose, but now Sai centres have grown on large scale in overseas countries. **The world council will cease from today.** It will be appropriate if in each overseas country there is a committee looking after the workings of Sai centres according to the conditions and requirements of those countries.” Sri Sathya Sai Baba, November 24, 1987
- Swami clearly directed that the SSSWF and the Prasanthi Council are the sole bodies to govern and administer the various units of SSSIO around the world.

For the above reasons and many more, we believe that it would be directly going against the Divine Command for the SSSIO to participate in the Global Council. Furthermore, on May 17, 1968 in the First world conference, Swami said that implicitly and completely following His commands is more beneficial than all the austerities to attain Self-Realization.

**Swami assured us, that as devotees of Bhagawan, our relationship with Swami and our home, Prasanthi Nilayam, is heart to heart and is forever and immutable. This will not change.**

The SSSIO will continue to work transparently with pure heart and selfless love under the present structure without any change. Following current practices, when required, the SSSIO will continue to support the sister organizations, including the SSSSO of India and the SSSCT.

**In conclusion, SSSIO Officers have resolved that the SSSIO will not participate in the proposed Global Council.**

We pray for the blessings of Bhagawan for His continued guidance, so that we move forward in the Divine Mission with one pointed focus on Him, His message, and His works. Thank you.

Jai Sai Ram

Prasanthi Council  
Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation