



**Mikhail Gorbachev**  
*GCI Founding President*

Mikhail Gorbachev is the former President of the Soviet Union. During his presidency, he initiated the process of change in the Soviet Union - what was later called perestroika, the fundamental transformation of the nation and society. Glasnost became perestroika's driving force. A sweeping process of the nation's democratization was launched and reforms were planned to put the nation's ineffective economy back on track to market economics.

In recognition of his outstanding services as a great reformer and world political leader, who greatly contributed in changing for the better the very nature of world development, Mikhail Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 15, 1990.

He is also the founding president of Green Cross International. In January 1990 during an address to the *Global Forum on Environment and Development for Survival* held in Moscow, President Gorbachev brought up the idea for an organization that would apply the medical emergency response model of the International Committee of the Red Cross to ecological issues and expedite solutions to environmental problems that transcend national boundaries. Developing this idea, delegates at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (June 1992), approached President Gorbachev, mandating him to create and launch this organisation.

President Gorbachev also founded the Gorbachev Foundation in 1992. He is a member of the Club of Madrid and the Club of Rome. He is also founder of the World Political Forum and the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates.