London & South East Region

Resolutions for discussion at Policy Forum on

10.30, 16th May 2020, by Zoom

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A. Resolutions and updates to be considered on April 4th

i) New topics

1. Cybersecurity

London & South East Region:

1. Notes that UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in introducing his priorities for 2020 to the General Assembly on 22 January 2020, referred to the dark side of the digital world and to the work of the two UN ongoing initiatives, the Open-Ended Working Group on information and telecommunications in the context of security (OEWG), and the Group of Government Experts on advancing responsible behaviour in cyberspace and within the General Assembly (GGE);
2. Notes further that the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in May 2020 intends to review policies developed since the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration (2018);
3. Fears that the coexistence of the OEWG and the GGE points to rival ideologies more than to a concerted effort to reach agreement to benefit all UN Member States, large and small.

The Region calls on the UK government:

4. To take a stance in UN-led negotiations which primarily seeks to protect the victims of aggressive cyber-attacks;
5. To assist all Commonwealth Nations implementing national cybersecurity capacity reviews in order to become more cyber secure.

Proposed: Westminster branch

2. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)

UNA London and South East Region notes:

1. The deterioration of civil and political rights in Hong Kong and the challenges facing the 'one country, two systems' model agreed between the UK and China in 1984;
2. The mass peaceful protests for democracy and full implementation of the Basic Law, exercising fundamental rights to freedom of assembly and expression.

The Region expresses deep concern about:

3. Incidents of violence on all sides;
4. The sentencing of pro-democracy demonstrators and reports of police violence in HK in contravention of the Sino-British declaration.

The Region urges the UK Government:

5. To work with the Chinese government to fulfil the promises made during the handover;
6. To call for open dialogue between the Hong Kong authorities and people on this sensitive issue;
7. To grant UK residence to those with British National (Overseas) Citizenship in Hong Kong;
8. To restate the UK governments' moral and legal responsibility to support democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Hong Kong;
9. To suspend (with our partners) all crowd control equipment export licenses to Hong Kong.

And to work with the UN and all member states:

10. To call for an immediate end to violence;

11. To ask the authorities for restraint and to protect the human rights and freedoms in the Basic Law;
12. To appoint a UN special rapporteur to investigate claims that demonstrators faced excessive force.

Proposed by Marguerita Morton, individual member.

3. Proposed laws restricting boycotts divestment or sanctions

UNA London and South East Region believes that:

1. Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) actions by public bodies or individuals with a legal or moral motivation may be justifiable whether directed at the Israeli government, other countries or at private corporations;
2. Honourable precedents exist, including apartheid South Africa/Rhodesia and Nestle (over baby milk);
3. Laws that outlaw such actions may be incompatible with the right to freedom of speech and expression;
4. Many opponents of the Israeli government's actions towards Palestinians (including Palestinians and their Jewish supporters) are responding to well-documented human rights infringements identified by the UN and others as incompatibility with international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Chapter VII of the UN Charter. They should not be labelled as anti-Semitic for doing so.

The Region urges the UK Government:

5. to withdraw plans to prohibit public bodies from supporting BDS campaigns in relation to any country
6. to avoid defining opposition to Israeli government policies as automatically anti-Semitic;
7. not to infringe the rights to freedom of speech and self-expression on international issues that have a legal or moral basis.

Proposed: by Executive Committee of UNA London and SE Region

4. Syria

London & South East Region:

1. Deeply concerned at the on-going suffering and misery of the Syrian people in the nine-year civil war and the scattering of many Syrians to other countries;
2. Particularly concerned at the intolerable position of those currently living in the Idlib province.

The Region demands that Security Council, led by the P5 working in partnership,

1. Instructs the re-opening of all necessary crossing points into the Idlib region;
2. Demand the end of attacks of medical centres, in line with Security Council Resolutions 1674 and 2286, whereby it not only condemns attacks but also demands compliance with international humanitarian law in armed conflict,
3. Convene a meeting of its members before the end of June, within the Idlib region, to demonstrate to the global community that, after 75 years, its members continue to honour and uphold the principles underpinning the creation of the United Nations as set out in the Preamble to its Charter.

Proposed: Westminster branch

ii) Updated or amended motions

5. Climate

~~**London and South East Region notes:**~~

1. ~~The commitments made by leaders in both the political and the business world at the San Francisco Climate Action Summit;~~
2. ~~The report of the Bangkok UNFCCC Climate Change Conference which called for a 1.5% cap on carbon emissions.~~

~~**The Region calls on the UK Government:**~~

3. ~~To adopt strategy across government for implementing the Paris Agreement;~~
4. ~~To appoint a cabinet minister whose priority is climate change;~~
5. ~~To publish a "Clean Growth Plan" as soon as possible;~~
6. ~~To take further action to persuade the US not to leave the Paris Agreement (noting the 4th national climate assessment published by the US global change research programme in November 2018);~~
7. ~~To adopt a more ambitious and urgent plan to phase out petrol/diesel vehicles and fossil fuel subsidies as being inconsistent with SDGs and Paris Agreement;~~
8. ~~To encourage investment in known technologies that can ensure carbon capture, and clean renewable energy;~~
9. ~~To include all emissions including military activity in climate accounting and action.~~

~~Agreed 24th November 2018~~

Replace with
London and South East Region of UNA:

1. Notes that climate impacts are rising rapidly, affecting people and wildlife;
2. Notes that while fires, floods and droughts linked to climate change are increasingly widespread, the worst effects are felt in developing countries, who have been least responsible for its causes;
3. Recognises that, from 2008 to 2019, the UK cut its territorial emissions by one-third, while the economy was still growing; and welcomes the net zero target for 2050 adopted in 2019 and the 2035 phase out of internal combustion engines for new cars;
4. Notes that the UK still finances fossil fuel investments abroad.

The Region calls upon the international community at COP 26:

5. To ensure the voices of most vulnerable from impacted countries and communities are heard and responded to;
6. To prioritise the protection of ecosystems as huge carbon stores of benefit to the climate, communities and wildlife.

In addition, the Region calls upon the UK government:

7. To lead a just transition to a zero-carbon world by 2050 limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C;
8. To put our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on track to net-zero and adopt policies, laws and investment approaches to match.
9. To use its diplomatic weight to close the gap between existing Paris Agreement pledges for 2030 and those needed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5° C and to persuade the US to reverse its decision to leave the Paris Agreement;

10. To champion increased, targeted financial support to cope with climate change impacts for those countries and communities who need it most;
11. to halt all new investments in coal, oil and gas overseas, reviewing and phasing out existing investments and to achieve universal access to energy by scaling up support for renewable and efficient energy systems and for carbon capture;
12. To include the emissions from military activity in climate accounting and action.

Proposed by London & South East Region Executive Committee

6. Nuclear weapons

London & South East Region:

1. Applauds the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (7th July 2017) by 122 member states which prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon-related activities and gives nuclear weapons a similar legal status to biological and chemical weapons and prohibits the production, testing, use, threat of use, and assisting other groups in such actions;
2. Congratulates the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on being awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its work towards this end;
3. Regrets that despite being committed, since 1968, to negotiating the elimination of all nuclear weapons 'in good faith' by Article V1 of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty the UK Government refused to participate in the multilateral negotiations leading to the treaty and ~~Prime Minister Theresa May~~ has been dismissive of any suggestion that this country should sign up to it;
4. Welcomes the joint statement by UNA-UK and the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) which criticised the UK government's failure to attend the Treaty conference, indicating a degree of indifference to the concerns of the 122 states who signed the treaty and setting a poor example to other nations;
5. Urges the UK government to attend future UN-led meetings which seek to take the Treaty forward ~~including the planned High Level Conference in May 2018~~;
6. Further urges the UK government to give full support to this treaty: to sign and then ratify as soon as possible;
7. Notes that the UK government plans to replace our own nuclear weapons that will continue to be wholly dependent on a regular supply of missiles from, and regular maintenance by, the United States at a cost, including construction and running, of over £200 billion;
8. Calls upon the UK Government to cancel the current Trident replacement contracts, to spend the billions of pounds saved on real human needs, both here and abroad and publicly reactivate its commitment to the NPT.

Agreed 25th November 2017 and amended 24th November 2018
Removal of dated references proposed by the Policy Committee

7. Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration

London & South East Region:

1. Notes that November 2017 marked the centenary of the Balfour Declaration by the UK Government about the future of Palestine as a shared Jewish and Arab homeland which established the "dual obligation" that became part of the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine:
   (i) the establishment in Palestine of a national home for Jewish people ...;

(ii) the clear understanding that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine;

2. Believes that attention should be drawn to failure to respect or carry out the second part of the dual obligation as the land allocated to Palestinians has dwindled to tiny broken-up areas, and over 620,000 settlers live in illegal Israeli settlements built on Palestinian land;
3. Whilst acknowledging Israel's right to full membership of the UN, urges the UK government to work at the UN to achieve the recognition of the rights of Palestinians to be full citizens of a sovereign UN member state;
4. Opposes the continuation of the occupation and further settlement activity and any attempt at annexation of the Occupied Territories by Israel ~~to annex any part of Area C as solutions to the conflict~~;
5. Urges the UK Government to encourage the Israeli government at the UN to give Palestinians now living in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory the same rights as their Jewish neighbours to ensure greater trust between both communities as a first step towards a more long term durable resolution of the conflict.

Agreed 26th May 2018
Update amendment proposed by Policy Committee

8. Sri Lanka

London & South East Region:

13. Notes that it is ~~8~~ 11years since the war in Sri Lanka ended and the hardships and distress of the North and East people, especially widows, is the same as before, and that restrictions on freedom of expression remain;
14. Regrets the decision of the recently elected Sri Lankan government in February 2020 to withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council's resolution 30/1 on reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.
~~14.~~15. Calls upon the UK government to press for rapid implementation of calls for an international, independent judicial investigation in line with the UN Human Rights Council resolution of 2015 into the crimes committed by both parties (i.e Sri Lanka Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam [LTTE]) to expedite the Peace and Reconciliation Process;
~~15.~~16. Believes that such international involvement will help the people in the North and East to build some trust and faith in the outcome of the investigation.

Agreed 25th November 2017
Update Amendment proposed by Policy Committee

9. Strengthening UN peacekeeping and peace building missions

London and South East Region:

1. Believing that effective ~~deployment of~~ UN peacekeeping and peace building is the best and most cost-effective way to maintain international peace and human security;
2. Concerned at the reduction of ~~that~~ the annual UN Peacekeeping budget for 2019/20 ~~has been~~ to $6.51 Billion (less than 0.5% of ~~cut to $7.3 billion (only 0.4% of annual~~ global military spending~~) of $1,739 billion*)~~ and noting the additional Coronavirus challenges facing troop contributing countries;
3. Welcomes the new deployment of UK troops to UN peacekeeping missions in Africa in late 2020~~decision of HMG to double its support for the UN Peacekeeping Fund~~.
4. Welcomes the implementation of the Santos Cruz report (published 2018) to overcome ~~Expressing sadness at~~ the increasing loss of life amongst ~~of~~ UN Peace Keepers ~~in their line of duty~~;
5. Recognises the challenges in achieving broad mandates, cost effectiveness and minimum casualties simultaneously;

~~5.~~ Recognising the need for new approaches in relation to ~~to Peace Keeping for dealing with~~ non-state actors and the importance of ~~;~~

6. ~~Advocating~~ gender sensitivity in word and action ~~to enhance the moral legitimacy of Peace Keeping~~;

~~7.~~

Calls upon the UK government:

7. To lead on reforming the UN's Peacekeeping/building arrangements within ~~infrastructure~~ the new Department for Peacebuilding and Political Affairs and the Department for Peace Operations; ~~– including the Peace Building Commission – in accordance with the Secretary-General's proposals (**);~~
8. To advocate for a combination of more effective peacekeeping, accountability for any misdeeds and prioritized and sequenced mandates built on stronger financial foundations;
9. To develop the UKs capacity ~~within the national military defence and police systems, peacekeeping/building units able to link with civilian agencies~~ to respond to UN Security Council calls for military, police and civilian personnel to work together ~~to serve~~ in international UN Peacekeeping/building Missions.

~~(*) SIPRI Fact Sheet, *Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2017,* March, 2018~~
~~(**) UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, Restructuring of the United Nations Peace and Security Pillar, Report to the UN General Assembly, 13th October 2017~~

Agreed 24th November 2018
Revisions proposed by Westminster Branch

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals

~~**London & South East Region:**~~

~~1. Welcomes the UN Sustainable Development Goals programme (SDG);~~
~~2. Applauds the roles played by David Cameron and his co-chairs of the UN Secretary General-appointed High-level Panel which successfully led to its adoption by the UN General Assembly;~~
~~3. Notes that the SDGs require every State to set out its National Strategy to promote and implement the SDGs, raise public awareness and encourage engagement with the Global Goals;~~
~~4. Is Concerned that the UK government has yet to publish its Strategy;~~
~~5. Shares the concerns of the All Party Parliamentary group on the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development that it may be for the UK NGO community to set out the required strategy and ensure adequate resources for data collection are available;~~
~~6. Urges the government to fulfil its obligations in this respect and publish its National Strategy forthwith.~~

~~Agreed 25th November 2017~~

Replace with

London & South East Region notes that:

1. Since the Region's previous call for a UK National Strategy, the UK's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) was announced at the UN High Level Political Forum in June 2019;
2. The UK parliament's International Development Committee (IDC) expressed its concerns at the lack of progress and late engagement with civil society;
3. The widely-supported UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) SDG Scorecard identified positive elements but concluded that none of the eleven areas identified by partners in UKSSD's advocacy action fully satisfied the expectations of a VNR process;
4. BOND, the UK's international development network called for civil society and other stakeholders to engage with the planning, budgeting, implementation and accountability processes and for government to help them do so in line with the 2030 Agenda and as part of capacity-building.

London & South East Region:

5. Welcomes the announcement in 2019 that Baroness Sugg, Minister for the Overseas Territories and Sustainable Development, will be responsible for the SDGs;
6. Urges the UK government to
    a. Clarify its lines of cooperation with civil society,
    b. Prepare its second VNR, taking account of comments from civil society,
    c. Publish a public-friendly update on its progress.

Updated resolution proposed by Westminster Branch

11. Yemen

London & South East Region notes that:

1. After nearly six years of war, Yemen's famine is ~~facing~~ the world's worst ~~famine~~ in 100 years: ~~with~~ 100,000 children have died. ~~14~~ 10 million adults and 500,000 children face ~~facing~~ starvation ~~according to the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator~~;

2. Four million people are internally displaced. Only 22% of rural and 46% of urban population have public water supplies (intermittently). There are one million suspected cholera cases;

~~1.~~

~~2.~~3. The UN Security Council's Panel of Experts has described Saudi Arabian airstrikes against civilians as violations of International Humanitarian Law, and the UK is second to the US in supplying arms, including aircraft and bombs;

~~3. The Saudi-Emirati led attack on the port city of Hudaydah is putting at risk 90% of humanitarian aid and commercial food and fuel supplies for the 22 million dependent on aid.~~

The Region calls upon the UK Government:

4. To begin informal Security Council discussion ~~pursue through a Security Council~~ on a fresh resolution following UNSCR 2216 recognising the pluralistic nature of post-Conflict Yemen and reinforcing the need for a negotiated nationwide ceasefire;

~~4. resolution that Saudi Arabia and the UAE:~~

~~a. Immediately cease attacks on Hudaydah;~~

~~b. Enter into ceasefire and peace negations without pre-conditions;~~

5. To use its leverage with Saudi Arabia, Iran and through direct talks with the Houthis:
   a. To pursue a ceasefire and the resumption of direct talks;
   b. To demand that ~~immediately cease~~ Saudi Arabian ~~their~~ airstrikes on populated areas cease;
   c. To demand that Houthi cross-border attacks into Saudi Arabia cease and they provide credible long-term assurances of Saudi border security;

~~5. civilians and on civilian towns and cities in Yemen;~~

6. To ~~immediately~~ suspend all arms sales to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and all combatants in Yemen;
7. To support the independent international investigation mandated by the UN Human Rights Council into violations of International Humanitarian Law by ~~Saudi Arabia, the Houthis, Emirati forces and~~ all combatants in Yemen.

Agreed 24th November 2018
Updates proposed by Paul Tippell, UNA Yemen Campaign Co-ordinator

iii) Resolutions about London and SE Region responsibilities

12. Acting on our own Carbon Footprint

The London & SE Region requests branches:

1. To acknowledge their own individual responsibility to be active participants in practical ways to contribute to reduction of their own carbon footprint.
2. To ensure that adopted policies to mitigate increasing global atmospheric CO2 are both practical, actionable and applied with a sense of urgency.
3. To report annually to the LASER committee on their progress with respect to 1 & 2 above.

The London & SE Region calls on:

4. The UNA-UK and all nationwide branches to adopt the initiative of the regional branches in the London & SE Region to make a significant statement of their intention to be pro-active in reducing their carbon footprint.

Proposed Eastbourne Branch

B. Past resolutions that will remain current

13. Atrocity prevention

London and South East Region welcomes:

1. The UK government's advocacy for the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in relation to mass atrocities;
2. The existence of a Focal Point within the Foreign Office to co-ordinate the government's approach;
3. the call by Foreign Affairs Select Committee for the government to set out an atrocity prevention strategy by April 2019.

The Region calls upon the UK Government:

4. To develop a strategy for preventing atrocities detailing the measures and indicators that would lead the R2P Focal Point to declare that there is an imminent risk of atrocity crimes occurring in a given country and what mechanisms and actions this would trigger;
5. To elevate the role of R2P Focal Point to ministerial level to ensure full engagement with political decision making (including on military action);
6. To champion the doctrine of R2P across Government, making atrocity prevention a 'lens' to analyse and review policy in all areas including peacekeeping, arms exports, immigration and asylum policy.

Agreed 24th November 2018

14. How did Dag Hammarskjold die?

London & South East Region

1. Notes that the UN General Assembly reached an open verdict (1962) on the causes of the crash of the plane carrying the UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld on a peace mission in the Congo in 1961, making possible an independent UK-led inquiry in 2013;
2. Welcomes the three UN General Assembly resolutions which it triggered, pursuing newly discovered evidence of foul play;
3. Regrets that the UK has acted slothfully in its responses to the UN investigation, failing to co-sponsor any of the GA resolutions and resistant to sharing documents even though more than sixty years have elapsed;
4. Urges the UK government to cooperate fully with the UN investigators, and share relevant documents (after more than sixty years), held by MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, all of which were active in the region at the time of the event.

Agreed 25th November 2017

15. Human Rights

UNA London & South East Region welcomes:

1. The UK's leadership at the UN Human Rights Council on issues such as violence against women and girls, modern slavery, Sri Lanka and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Iran;
2. DfID's contribution of £2.5m to the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights noted in UNA UK's 2018/19 global scorecard.

The Region calls upon the UK Government:

3. To ensure that any future changes to UK human rights law strengthen, rather than weaken, universal human rights protections (including social and economic rights) in the UK and to refrain from introducing exemptions for acts taking place outside the UK;
4. To continue to seek to strengthen the Human Rights Council and engage constructively with all UN human rights mechanisms, including UN Special Procedures, responding positively (and with respect) across government to UN expert investigations and enquires;
5. To adopt an ethical foreign policy which prioritises the advancement of human rights as an aim in itself;
6. To desist from shielding allies where criticism is justified;
7. To ensure that aid spending takes account of human rights concerns;
8. To refrain from withdrawing from existing human rights commitments.

Agreed 24th November 2018
(Global Scorecard reference added by Policy Committee)

16. Localising the SDGs

London and South East Region notes that:

1. The UK Government is committed to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets internationally, but also domestically;
2. Other countries are implementing the SDGs domestically across Government and locally, and raising public awareness;
3. UNDP has emphasised a bottom-up "localisation" of the SDGs with a multi-stakeholder approach involving civil society, local government, academia and the private sector
4. DfID will co-ordinate and present to the UN a UK Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDG implementation in 2019;
5. The UK Government has committed to work with local civil society and local government on SDG implementation in response to a Parliamentary Question from Ms Rosie Duffield, MP for Canterbury.

Calls on the UK Government:

6. To develop a fully coordinated SDG implementation strategy across Government and locally, including DFID provision of financial resources to local SDG initiatives in the UK and globally, and to ensure that the localisation of SDGs is fully reflected in the UK VNR to the UN in 2019.

Agreed 24th November 2018

17. Oceans

London and South East Region acknowledges:

1. The call for ambitious co-ordinated action to protect the world's oceans in the Commonwealth's 2018 Blue Charter to protect and improve our oceans;
2. The importance of SDG 14 "Life below water".

The Region calls on the UK Government:

3. To work more forcefully at the UN, the IMO and the Security Council for a sustainable future for the world's oceans and to strengthen international law against pollution, and the negative effects of armed conflict;
4. To create Marine Conservation Zones in UK Waters.

The Region calls on the UN to work with member states:

5. To create Marine Protected Areas including at least 10% of the global oceans;

6. To carry out environmental impact assessments of all fishing fleets, stop activities damaging ecosystems; ensure that fish quotas are sustainable, strictly observed, and exclude endangered and protected species;
7. To require that all ocean-going commercial fleets be pollution free and CO2 neutral, whenever possible;
8. To curb and regulate industries contributing to the acidification of the world's rivers and oceans;
9. To tackle all sources of ocean pollution especially plastic;
10. To progress SDG 14 significantly by 2020, reporting back annually.

Agreed 24th November 2018

18. Protection of journalists

London and South East Region notes:

1. That the murder of Jamal Khashoggi is a shocking reminder that journalists worldwide are frequently victims of governments and other hostile forces who resent criticism and exposure;
2. That since 1990, 3,000 journalists have been killed. In addition many have been kidnapped for ransom and hundreds are "detained" by governments e.g. Turkey;
3. Yet honest journalism and freedom of the media is part of the lifeblood of any state. Even autocrats need to know what is going on, what policies are effective, which public servants are corrupt and which ordinary criminals are still at large.

The Region calls on the UK Government:

4. To insist on the protection of journalists and their work in bi-lateral diplomacy with offending states, and also in the UN whose Plan of Action for the Safety of Journalists has been endorsed by UNESCO, the Human Rights Council and throughout the UN system.

Agreed 24th November 2018

19. The role of women in the UN

London & South East Region:

Calls upon the UN to reinvigorate the issue of the representation of women at all levels in the UN (including the highest) as a matter of urgency.

Agreed 25th November 2017

20. Women, peace and security

The London & South East Region of the UK recognising that Security Council resolution 1325 (and those which have followed) are essential to the protection of international peace and security and welcoming the UK government's commitment to this agenda over time including through the UK's 4th National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security,

Welcoming the commitment to strengthen the UK capabilities in Strategic Outcome 7 of the National Action Plan, but concerned that no indication of budget has been given for this important initiative,

Calls upon the UK government to:

1. Apply a human rights approach as the framework for future work on Women Peace & Security including economic and social rights rather than focussing solely on security considerations;

2. Include the post conflict situation in Northern Ireland within the scope of work on Women Peace & Security;
3. Identify and take steps in the way the Arms Trade Treaty is implemented to further the Women, Peace and Security agenda;
4. Examine how upholding the rights of refugees and asylum seekers coming to the UK can advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda and to make any necessary improvements;
5. Ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
6. Provide adequate funding for the implementation of the UK National Action Plan.

Calls upon the Security Council to:

1. Encourage countries to allocate military and police officers to peacekeeping operations which include women at all levels;
2. Ensure standard and globally consistent training of peace-keeping troops to include gender equality issues, and proper screening of peacekeepers in relation to past behaviour;
3. Ensure that there is verifiable independent monitoring and accountability of peacekeeping forces not only by the contributing countries;
4. Adopt a periodic review of resolution 1325 incorporating updates to reflect innovatory practice from local, national and regional level.

Agreed 10th March 2018

C. Historic resolutions to be removed from current list

21. Asia Bibi case

London and South East Region:

1. Notes that Prime Minister Imran Khan's 'Naya Pakistan' formula made no mention of religious minorities, marginalised communities, attacks on women and religious intolerance;
2. Congratulates him, however, on his promise to resolve outstanding court cases within a year, and thus;
3. Welcomes the decision of Pakistan's Supreme Court to acquit Asia Bibi, ending her eight years in remand awaiting review of her case;
4. Regrets that Pakistan has not repealed its draconian blasphemy laws which conflict with the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and only serve to encourage religious extremists now seeking to overturn the due process of its Supreme Court.

The Region calls upon the UK Government:

5. To grant asylum immediately to Asia Bibi and her immediate family;
6. To make the strongest possible representations to the Pakistan Government.

The Region further calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council to consider this matter at the earliest opportunity.

Agreed 24th November 2018

22. North Korea

London & South East Region:

1. Notes the dangerous degree of hostility and climate of fear on the North Korean issue;
2. Calls upon the UN to accept the fact that North Korea is a nuclear power;
3. Believes that along with all other nuclear powers, North Korea must commit itself formally and irrevocably to a no-first-strike policy;
4. Believes that provided this is agreed and acceded to, in order to assist North Korea to move towards prosperity, and to ensure that the country becomes part of the international community, sanctions against North Korea should begin to be phased out, and aid provided to mitigate the current hardship experienced by vulnerable groups;
5. Believes further that as part of the agreement, all sides should stop issuing threats and drop the unproductive and provocative war games in the region;
6. Believes all sides should take part in meaningful talks to reduce tension and produce meaningful outcomes.

Agreed 25th November 2017

23. UN reform

London & South East Region:

1. Applauds the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in leading reform initiatives as set out in his annual report on the UN's work (see below for summary);
2. Regrets the UK Prime Minister's comments at this year's General Assembly that Britain could withhold up to 30% of its £90m core funding each year unless the organisation and its agencies reform by 'showing they are efficient and transparent (so) they may win our trust';
3. Challenges the grounds and evidence for that assessment;
4. Acknowledges the need for further improvements to UN operations and performance but noting that this will not be achieved through grandstanding and uncritical adherence to US policy positions;
5. Expects the UK, which enjoys privileged status at the UN, to take a constructive lead in UN reform through example, and;
6. To report periodically to the UK public through the FCO website on progress made in these efforts.

Summary: Introduction of cabinet-style weekly Executive Committee meetings to enhance decision-making and promote cross-pillar perspectives; appointing a new USG-led Office of Counter-Terrorism; strengthen prevention through appointing a Special Adviser on Policy and a High-level Advisory Board for Mediation; strengthened whistle-blower protection policy; combatting sexual exploitation and abuse; introducing a new strategy for the UN system to strengthen its investigative capacities and engage the responsibility of senior leaders; commit to achieving gender parity at the senior leadership level by 2021; agree with AU to enhance coordination of UN-AU activities at all levels; a joint EU-UN initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; introduce strategy on financing for development to facilitate investments in the SDGs, including a proposal to the G20 on an international finance facility for education; and set in motion a process of reform of the development system, peace and security architecture and management of the UN.

Agreed 25th November 2017