

London & South East Region

Policy resolutions adopted and still current at April 2022

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The resolutions which follow were the result of inviting all UNA members, branches & supporters in the London & South East Region to submit resolutions, and then providing an opportunity to submit amendments to those resolutions before debating and agreeing upon them at annual policy meetings open to members and supporters in November 2017 & November 2018 and on a Zoom call for members and supporters in May 2020 (where we also retired some older resolutions) a further Zoom call in February 2021 and then a hybrid Zoom on 23rd April 2022. The resolution on women, peace and security was originally agreed at a Regional meeting in March 2018, and the one on Palestine 100

years after the Balfour Declaration was the result of a specific Regional meeting called to discuss that matter in May 2018 at the request of the previous policy meeting.

The Policy Committee intends to reduce the length of some of the resolutions while retaining their essential content in the autumn of 2022, but for now these appear as they were agreed in our Policy Conferences.

1. Afghanistan's assets

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that in February 2020, the US Trump administration and the Taliban signed the *Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan*, also known as the Doha Agreement,
- b. Noting that the US completed its withdrawal of its armed forces from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021, marking the end of the nearly 20-year-long war in Afghanistan since 9/11,
- c. Regretting the decision taken by the US Biden administration on 11 February 2022 to allocate \$3.5B or 50% of Afghanistan's foreign currency reserves to cover lawsuits by US 9/11 families,
- d. Reminding the US that the Afghan people themselves were victims of 9/11 and according to UNHCR, 24m Afghans are in need of vital humanitarian relief of at least \$8B,
- e. Concluding that the US position is fuelling Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis, making an already serious situation, almost catastrophic,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To use its 'special relationship' with the US to release the currency reserves of Afghanistan in full without delay;
2. To raise a motion to table a UN resolution to return the full \$7B foreign currency reserves to Afghanistan.

Agreed 23rd April 2022

2. Arms Trade impacts on the lives of women and children

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Recognising that women and children suffer disproportionately through armed conflicts which depend heavily on the arms trade, and the proliferation of small arms,
- b. Deeply concerned that the UK may be in breach of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), by continuing to sell arms to authoritarian regimes such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia who directly and indirectly target women,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To cease all arms sales to countries (such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia) who violate international humanitarian law;
2. To ensure that women comprise at least half of the UK parliamentary committees monitoring arms exports: International Development (currently 4/11); Foreign Affairs (2/11); Defence (2/11); International Trade (1/11)), and of the Department for International Trade's Export Control Joint Unit;
3. To re-establish regular and thorough scrutiny of Arms Export through the Committee on Arms Export Control or a new select committee devoted to the task;
4. To support judicial review of UK arms sales to regimes wherever there is firm evidence of very serious violations of human rights, in particular violence against women and girls or sexual violence;

5. To work with international and UK Women's NGOs on the impact of UK arms exports on women and girls;
6. To cease co-hosting UK Arms Trade Fairs with states that violate international humanitarian law in conflicts.

Agreed 27th February 2021.

3. Atrocity prevention

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Welcoming the UK government's advocacy for the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in relation to mass atrocities,
- b. Welcoming the existence of a Focal Point within the Foreign Office to co-ordinate the government's approach,
- c. Welcoming the call by Foreign Affairs Select Committee for the government to set out an atrocity prevention strategy,
- d. Welcoming the government's Integrated Review published on 16 March 2021 with atrocity prevention and strengthening fragile countries' resilience to external interference being one of the highest priority actions,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. 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;
2. To elevate the role of R2P Focal Point to ministerial level to ensure full engagement with political decision making (including on military action);
3. 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 and amended 23rd April 2022.

4. Climate

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that climate impacts are rising rapidly, affecting people and wildlife, and that the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has issued its bleakest warning yet on the accelerating climate breakdown that: "any further delay in concerted global action will miss a rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future",
- b. Noting 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,
- c. Recognising 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,
- d. Noting that the UK still finances fossil fuel investments abroad,
- e. Noting the potential impact of population growth on climate,
- f. Noting the plans set out by the Ministry of Defence to reduce climate emissions in its 'Climate Change and Sustainability Strategic Approach',

Calls on all governments at COP 27:

1. To ensure the voices of the most vulnerable from impacted countries and communities are heard and responded to;
2. To prioritise the stewardship of freshwater resources and the protection of ecosystems as huge carbon stores of benefit to the climate, communities and wildlife;
3. To include the emissions from military related activity in climate accounting and action;

Calls upon the UK government:

4. To lead a just transition to a zero-carbon world by 2050 limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and 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;
5. To put our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on track to net-zero by 2050 and adopt policies, laws and investment approaches to match;
6. To shift financial flows to support developing countries in their own fight against the devastating impact of climate change and ensure they become 'climate resilient';
7. 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;
8. To aim to stabilise our own population through advocacy of smaller families and to increase its assistance to family planning in developing countries;
9. To promote 'green' infrastructure and ensure that both public and private buildings are equipped with necessary structures to be more energy efficient;
10. To recognise that reducing warfare and diverting some of the \$2 trillion of global military spending to climate mitigation and transition and to conflict avoidance or resolution is the most sustainable way of reducing military emissions which might be achieved by redefining security and regulating the arms trade;
11. To promote the aims of the UN and of the IPCC in schools and among the public.

Agreed May 16th 2020 and amended 23rd April 2022

5. Climate change and its impact on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting the outcome of the recent COP26 which endorsed:
 - i the 'Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and
 - ii the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS',
- b. Regretting States' failure at COP26 to address issues of 'loss and damage' caused by climate change,
- c. Noting that the majority of SIDS are members of the Commonwealth,
- d. Further noting that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will take place in Kigali (Rwanda) in June 2022,

Calls upon the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Member States:

To adopt a strategy at CHOGM which addresses the issue of 'loss and damage' effectively.

Agreed 27th February 2021 and amended 23rd April 2022.

6. Cybersecurity

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting 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),
- b. Noting further that the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in June 2022 intends to review policies developed since the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration (2018),
- c. Fearing 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,
- d. Welcoming recent initiatives by forty states to end 'dual track discussions' and establish a permanent UN forum to consider the use of ICTs by States in the context of international security',

Calls on the UK government:

1. To support the proposed Permanent UN Forum;
2. To take a stance in UN-led negotiations which primarily seeks to protect the victims of aggressive cyber-attacks;
3. To provide effective assistance to all Commonwealth Nations implementing national cybersecurity capacity reviews in order to become more cyber secure.

Agreed May 16th 2020 and amended 23rd April 2022

7. Financial levy for clean water

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Concerned that every day international financial transactions and markets generate millions of dollars in profit, a large proportion of which are entirely speculative, and do not create real wealth,
- b. Deeply concerned that such transactions create little income for the wider population,
- c. Noting that a 0.05% levy on such transactions would yield enough income to ensure that every man, woman and child on the planet had access to clean water and sanitary provision,
- d. Conscious of the need to control international health issues that can exacerbate global pandemics,
- e. Keeping in mind that in 2016 both China and the US Democratic presidential candidate urged similar measures,

Calls upon the UK government:

1. To work for the adoption by the UN of an international agreement to impose such a levy on all financial transactions over £100,000, including high frequency transactions;
2. To set up, with the income thus generated, a special fund to ensure that every man, woman and child on the planet gains access to clean water and sanitary provision.

Agreed 27th February 2021

8. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting the introduction of a National Security Law on 30th June 2020 and a Committee of Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong,
- b. Further noting the new security law signed by President Xi Jinping criminalised four offences of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign and external forces to jeopardise national security,
- c. Further noting that since the UK government enabled those with British Nationals (Overseas) status to come to the UK under a Visa Scheme, more than 100,000 Hongkongers have arrived in the United Kingdom to seek a peaceful life here with their children,

UNA London and South East Region expresses deep concern:

- d. That hundreds of pro-democracy legislators and activists were arrested and charged under the new National Security Law,
- e. That Chinese mainland agents have power to operate freely in Hong Kong and outside any supervision of local law enforcement, while a mainland Chinese security office will be set up in Hong Kong,
- f. That Beijing set up a liaison office to influence Hong Kong elections by approving “patriots” as Legislative Council candidates, by refusing opposition candidates their right to stand and coordinating key aspects of the elections in December 2021, such as by trying to make it easier for residents with Hong Kong ID cards living across the border in mainland China to vote,

Urges the UK Government:

1. To call on the Chinese government to fulfil the promises made in 1997, under the *One Country, Two Systems* model;
2. To call for the right of candidates to stand for Legislative Council seats, and not be falsely accused of not being a “patriot”;
3. To restate the moral and legal responsibility of the UK and Hong Kong governments to support processes to ensure that democracy, the rule of law and human rights are upheld in Hong Kong;

Calls on the UN and all member states:

4. To ask the authorities in Hong Kong and China to enact gradual reform of the electoral system towards universal suffrage in the election of the Legislative Council;
5. To call for election monitoring by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in the election of the Chief Executive on 8th May 2022 and in all future Hong Kong Legislative Council polls.

Agreed 23rd April 2022

9. How did Dag Hammarskjöld die?

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting 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,
- b. Welcoming the four UN General Assembly resolutions – 69/246 (2014), 70/11 (2015), 72/252 (2017) and 74/248 (2019) – which it triggered, pursuing newly discovered evidence of foul play,
- c. Regretting that the UK has not been diligent 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,
- d. Further regretting the refusal of the FCDO to respond to Westminster UNA's Freedom of Information Request (March 2019) seeking records documenting its decisions

Urges the UK government:

To cooperate fully with the UN investigator due to deliver his final report in September 2022, 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 and amended 23rd April 2022

10. Human Rights

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Mindful that in 75 years the UN has created an impressive body of law between nations greatly contributing to world peace and to fundamental human rights for all,
- b. Recognising that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is widely respected, and is given enhanced status by customary international law, and that all international human rights treaties take their source from the UNDHR,
- c. Seriously concerned that not all UN member states ratify or accede to all human rights treaties and that many make reservations to a number of specific provisions of the treaty on becoming a party,
- d. Welcoming the UK's past 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 and congratulates the UK on its election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2021-2023,
- e. Welcoming the UK's contribution of \$9.2m to the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights in 2020,

Calls on the UN:

1. To intensify efforts to achieve ratification of all human rights treaties by all member states;
2. To encourage the withdrawal or removal of all reservations made to human rights treaties, and work towards the prevention of any reservations upon future ratification of, or accession to, existing and future human rights treaties;
3. To strengthen the Human Rights Council and human rights treaty bodies and to increase their capacity to ensure full implementation of human rights treaties and the protection of human rights worldwide;

Calls upon the UK Government:

4. To honour the declarations of government ministers to “help strengthen the Council, and to support countries working to improve their human rights record” including by engaging constructively with all UN human rights mechanisms and Special Procedures, responding positively (and with respect) across government to UN expert investigations and enquires and by ensuring that the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies are given all the means necessary to fulfil their mandates;
5. To ensure that any future changes to UK human rights law strengthen, rather than weaken, the protection of universal human rights (including social and economic rights) in the UK and to refrain from introducing exemptions for acts taking place outside the UK;
6. To adopt an ethical foreign policy which prioritises the advancement of human rights as an aim in itself;
7. To desist from shielding allies where criticism is justified;
8. To ensure that aid spending takes account of human rights concerns;
9. To refrain from withdrawing from existing human rights commitments.

Agreed 24th November 2018 & amended 27th February 2021

11. Maximising the impact of the UN’s work

UNA London & South East Region:

Recognising the value of a continuous focus on good practice, and alignment of efforts across the UN system to maximise the impact of its work,

Calls on the UN to maintain a focus on:

1. Identifying and combatting the root causes of problems globally;
2. Encouraging in-country projects to be community-led;
3. Establishing global reward and recognition schemes to incentivise change and embed goals such as the SDGs in economic systems (for example the food system);
4. In work requiring social transformation, working with all members of civil society, particularly marginalised groups, to build a social revolution that promotes shared ownership and responsibility;
5. Ensuring that youth is represented even in the highest fora, despite local and national cultural obstructions;
6. Adopting multi-stakeholder approaches to new challenges (such as digital issues) including a wide range of actors such as companies, civil society, NGOs and human rights watchdogs.

Agreed 27th February 2021

12. Nuclear weapons

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Applauding the entry into force in January 2021 of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon-related activities including prohibiting the production, testing, use, threat of use, and assisting other groups in such actions,
- b. Congratulating the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on being awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its work towards this end,
- c. Regretting that despite being committed, since 1968, to negotiating the elimination of all nuclear weapons "in good faith" by Article VI of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty the UK Government refused to participate in the multilateral negotiations leading to the TPNW treaty and has been dismissive of any suggestion that this country should sign up to it, thus setting a poor example to other nations,
- d. Noting 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,
- e. Noting that disarmament and non-proliferation are both important aspects of the NPT, which has a Treaty Review conference due to be held in August 2022,
- f. Noting the declaration by the P5 in January 2022 that a Nuclear War cannot be won and must never be fought,

Urges the UK government:

1. To constructively participate in future UN-led meetings to take both the TPNW and NPT Treaties forward including by attending as an observer the meeting of States Parties to TPNW planned for June 2022;
2. To give full support to the TPNW treaty: to sign and then ratify as soon as possible;
3. To cancel the current Trident replacement contracts and publicly reactivate its commitment to the NPT;
4. To commit to No First Use of its nuclear weapons.

First agreed 25th November 2017, amended 24th November 2018, May 16th 2020
& 23rd April 2022

13. Oceans

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Acknowledging 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,
- b. Acknowledging the importance of SDG 14 *Life below water*,
- c. Welcoming and supporting the Sussex Blue Charter launched in October 2021 at the Ocean Symposium,

Calls on the UK Government:

1. To work more forcefully at the UN, the International Maritime Organisation (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,
2. To create Marine Conservation Zones covering at least 30% of UK Waters,

Calls on the UN to work with member states:

3. To create Marine Protected Areas including at least 30% of the World's Oceans;
4. 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;
5. To require that all ocean-going commercial fleets be pollution free and CO2 neutral, whenever possible;
6. To curb and regulate industries contributing to the acidification of the world's rivers and oceans;
7. To tackle all sources of ocean pollution especially plastic;
8. To progress SDG 14 significantly by 2030, reporting back annually.

Agreed 24th November 2018 and amended 23rd April 2022

14. Our world after the pandemic

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Mindful that over nearly 6m people have died worldwide from COVID-19,
- b. Aware that lockdowns are economically ruinous and are impacting disproportionately the lives of the poor and vulnerable,
- c. Acknowledging that many countries were ill-prepared for the crisis,
- d. Regretting that member states gave priority to national action over a co-ordinated international response,
- e. Regretting that the EU and UK are delaying waiving Covid-19 vaccine patents to letting other nations create their own generic versions,
- f. Conscious that the WHO's mandate is to inform rather than to direct global health policy,

Calls on the UN:

1. To set up a task force to develop a blueprint for the management of future pandemic outbreaks, including:
 - i The fair and equitable distribution of all available vaccines globally;
 - ii Measures to mitigate the spread of the virus that are proportionate to the severity and limited to the duration of the crisis in conformity with the fundamental principles of human rights;
 - iii Financial support for countries least able to withstand severe economic trauma;
2. To undertake an extensive audit of Member States' responses to the pandemic in order to explain its origins and causes and to propose ways of preventing similar catastrophes;
3. To strengthen the WHO to enable it to lead proactive monitoring and intervention to halt potential pandemics, as well as to coordinate pandemic responses;
4. To strengthen the legal obligations of all member states to take all possible steps to prevent the spread of communicable diseases (to safeguard their own residents, as well as the populations of other countries) and to give early, full, accurate and honest information of outbreaks of new infectious diseases to the WHO to enable it to take appropriate action;

Calls on the UK Government:

5. To support and work to build consensus behind a rapid conclusion to the present WTO negotiations in favour of developing countries being able to manufacture Covid vaccines, testing and therapeutics without requiring the permission of patent holders for the duration of the pandemic.

Agreed 27th February 2021 and amended 23rd April 2022

15. Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting 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,
- b. Believing 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 some three-quarters of a million settlers live in illegal Israeli settlements built on remaining Palestinian land,
- c. Denouncing the discriminatory regime codified by Israel’s Nation-State law,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To oppose the continuation of the occupation and further settlement activity and any attempt at annexation of the Occupied Territories by Israel;
2. Whilst acknowledging Israel’s right to full membership of the UN, to work at the UN to achieve the recognition of the rights of Palestinians to be full citizens of a sovereign UN member state;
3. 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 on the basis of the two states solution in accordance with long-standing UN resolutions and international opinion or, if that cannot be achieved, to reconsider the practicality of all approaches that have previously been advanced to solve the problem, one of which could be a single democratic state.

First agreed 26th May 2018, updated May 16th 2020, 27th February 2021 & 23rd April 2022

16. Promoting peace

UNA London & South East Region:

Recognising the importance of the UN Culture of Peace programme as reinforced through the UN General Assembly adoption of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010,

Calls on the UN:

1. To encourage nations to strengthen the capacities of education institutions and other civic society bodies to raise awareness of conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
2. To encourage negotiators in all settings to respect, understand and take account of each others’ interests, and share publicly evidence to that effect as part of reaching mutually acceptable outcomes;
3. To encourage media regulatory reform which promotes post-conflict peace settlements and their implementation, and which restricts the use of the media for non-inclusive factionalism.

Agreed 27th February 2021

17. Proposed laws restricting boycotts, divestment or sanctions

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Believing that Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) actions by public bodies or individuals with a legal or moral motivation may be justifiable whether directed at the
- b. Israeli government, other countries or at private corporations,
- c. Believing that honourable precedents exist, including apartheid South Africa/Rhodesia and
- d. Nestle (over baby milk),
- e. Believing that Laws that outlaw such actions may be incompatible with the right to freedom of speech and expression,
- f. Believing that 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 and that they should not be labelled as anti-Semitic for doing so,

Urges the UK Government:

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

Agreed May 16th 2020

18. Protection of journalists

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting 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,
- b. Noting 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,
- c. Believing that honest journalism and freedom of the media is part of the lifeblood of any state and that 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,

Calls on the UK Government:

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. Recognising Ecocide as an international crime

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Recognising that the nations of the world have a collective duty to protect the natural world,
- b. Believing that long term damage to the environment of planet Earth is caused by actions seeking short-term economic benefits by both corporations and governments,
- c. Concerned that irreparable and long-term damage is being done to soil, forests, atmosphere, oceans, and fresh water threatening to make much of the world uninhabitable for all forms of life,
- d. Concerned also that the damage is rendering all development unsustainable and is causing long term harm to the world population and biodiversity by contributing to the pollution of the air, land and water as well as to the food chain,
- e. Welcomes the development of legal precedents by Courts all over the world including rulings that governments' efforts in fighting climate change are inadequate, as in the case of Urgenda Foundation vs the State of Netherlands and the ruling of the Paris administrative court against the French Government,
- f. Noting proposals to establish an International Court for the Environment,

Calls on the UN:

1. To adopt a new international legal instrument and to encourage the adoption of national legislation which provide for personal civil and criminal liability of corporate executives and government ministers for damages made to the eco-system;
2. To set up monitoring and prevention procedures and legal enforcement mechanisms.

Agreed 27th February 2021

20. Refugees and Asylum Seekers in London hotels and elsewhere

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Concerned by continuing shocking reports of poorly organized hospitality in London hotels for asylum seekers and refugees awaiting determination of their status by the Home Office (The Independent, 14 Feb 2021),
- b. Welcoming the decision of the Home Office to ensure the transfer of these asylum seekers and refugees from these hotels to suitable long-term accommodation (The Independent, 24 Feb 2021),
- c. Being determined to prevent any repetition of the chaotic decant of asylum seekers and refugees to those hotels in 2020 in the course of this new initiative,
- d. Dissatisfied with the continuing lack of an overarching strategy shown by the Home Office,
- e. Confident that as a member of the London Initial & Contingency Accommodation Civil Society Forum, the Region can closely monitor the process of assisting asylum seekers and refugees in acquiring secure, safe, affordable, and appropriate accommodation,
- f. Alarmed that this process continues to be unsatisfactory,
- g. Regretting the apparent lack of will to improve the efficiency of the process,
- h. Resolving to maintain a close oversight and continuing to call to account failures in policy and process,
- i. Noting that some asylum seekers and undocumented migrants are being charged 150% of the cost of NHS treatment assessed as non-emergency as a matter of policy, or in error, and that the fear of charges or of Home Office involvement in the NHS is deterring others from seeking treatment,

- j. Further noting that there are plans to make non-payment of NHS debts in the last five years a reason to reject otherwise valid asylum claims and to widen the scope of charging,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To ensure that the Home Office works with NGOs experienced in asylum and refugee matters to resolve these matters and report upon the steps taken to the Home Affairs Committee before parliament recesses in July 2022;
2. To ensure that the Department of Health and Social Care - taking appropriate clinical advice - fully investigates and reports to the Health and Social Care Committee the health, financial and administrative impacts of the NHS charging policy on asylum seekers and refugees and upon public health and the NHS;
3. To abandon plans to link decisions on asylum and refugee status to whether applicants have been charged and not paid immediately for medical treatment and base such decisions solely on the merits of their claim;
4. To return to providing NHS care to asylum seekers and refugees on the basis of need, rather than immigration status.

Agreed 27th February 2021 and amended 23rd April 2022

21. Second Voluntary National Review of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that the UK government committed to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets in 2015 and in the 2019 UK Voluntary National Review (VNR), internationally and domestically,
- b. Noting that the UNDP has emphasized a bottom-up localization of the SDG's using a multi-stakeholder approach, involving civil society, local government, academia and the private sector and that the UK government has committed to follow this approach,
- c. Noting that the UK's first Voluntary National Review was released at the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2019 under DfID,
- d. Noting that 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 UK SSD's advocacy fully satisfied the expectations of a VNR process,
- e. Noting that the UK Parliament's International Development Committee (IDC) stated in 2019 that there was an opportunity to use the UK's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) as a launchpad for greater action on the SDGs, and to use them as a blueprint for domestic and international policy to 2030,
- f. Further noting that the IDC stated it is essential that an appropriate mechanism be created—at the heart of Government, in the Cabinet Office—to lead on communication and implementation of the SDGs,

Calls on the U.K. government:

1. To clarify its lines of co-operation with civil society;
2. To commit to prepare its second VNR by 2023 taking account of comments from civil society;
3. Alongside the formal report, to publish a consumer friendly (public friendly) update on progress;
4. To provide financial resources to local SDG initiatives in the UK and globally, and to ensure the localization of SDGs.

Agreed May 16th 2020 and amended 23rd April 2022

22. Sri Lanka

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that it is 13 years since the end of the war in Sri Lanka,
- b. Welcoming the adoption by the UN Human Rights Council of resolution 46/1 in March 2021 which mandates the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to collect, analyse and preserve evidence of human rights violations in Sri Lanka, for use in future prosecutions,
- c. Recognising that Sri Lanka is being rocked by protests, police violence, curfews, and political turmoil, while the fallout from the economic crisis and the President's declaration of a state of emergency on 1 April 2022 is ongoing,
- d. Noting that on 4 and 7 March 2022, the OHCHR presented damning [reports](#) on the state of human rights, accountability, and rule of law in Sri Lanka,

Calls upon the UK government:

1. To encourage the continuation of engagement and dialogue between the government of Sri Lanka and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, calling upon Sri Lanka to implement the recommendations made by the Office;
2. To help ensure that the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations have adequate support and that their independence is safeguarded;

Calls upon the UN:

3. To support a comprehensive accountability process for all violations and abuses of human rights committed in Sri Lanka by all parties;
4. To refer Sri Lanka to the International Court of Justice, and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

First agreed 25th November 2017, amended May 16th 2020, 27th February 2021
& 23rd April 2022

23. Strengthening training and leadership for UN peacekeeping and peace-building missions

UNA London & the South East Region:

- a. Firmly believing that effective UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding is the best and most cost-effective way to maintain international peace and human security
- b. Noting that the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) has members in 45 countries but none in the UK,
- c. Further noting that the UK has agreed to the UN Action for Peace (A4P) Declaration of Shared Commitments on Peacekeeping Operations,

Calls upon the UK government:

1. To increase its contribution to UN Peacekeeping duties, both troops and police, with an increased number of women, consistent with the latest National Action Plan; and to improve the sharing of expertise;
2. To increase support for the UN's Integrated Training Service (ITS);
3. To establish a dedicated Peacekeeping Training Centre in the UK which would be open to UK troops, police and civilians of all ranks/grades, and to those from other countries contributing to UN Peacekeeping deployments, and would include training in working with local and international NGOs and in awareness of the positive role of women in peace and security.

Agreed 27th February 2021 and amended 23rd April 2022

24. Stripping foreign fighters of their citizenship: International human rights & humanitarian law

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Aware that some countries have abandoned their nationals involved in foreign conflicts, sometimes stripping them of their citizenship,
- b. Fearful that stateless individuals could represent a dangerous long-term threat to international security,
- c. Noting Article 8, paragraph 1 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, states that “[a] Contracting State shall not deprive a person of its nationality if such deprivation would render him stateless”,
- d. Also noting UN Security Council Resolution 2178 that states “Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism [such as deprivation of nationality] comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law”,

Urges the UN to call on all states:

1. For compelling moral, legal, and pragmatic reasons, to accept responsibility for all individuals who claim citizenship;
2. To repatriate and bring to justice those accused of crimes, to rehabilitate where possible, and to treat humanely those who are innocent.

Agreed 23rd April 2022

25. Syria

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Deeply concerned at the on-going suffering and misery of the Syrian people in the eleven year civil war and the scattering of many Syrians to other countries,
- b. Noting that in 2018 an agreement was reached to form a 150-member committee to write a new constitution, leading to free and fair elections supervised by the UN,
- c. Further noting that after the October 2021 round of talks the UN special envoy Geir Pedersen expressed great disappointment that the committee's members had not yet found a common path, commenting that “a military solution is an illusion” while a political solution is “perfectly doable if the will is there”,
- d. Noting that Syria is among the countries in the world worst affected by the COVID pandemic with less than 8% of the population vaccinated,
- e. Further noting that, according to the UN in February 2022, 14.6 million people inside Syria required humanitarian assistance, with 5 million being in extreme or catastrophic need,
- f. Further noting that more than 12 million people are struggling to find enough food each day - a 51% increase since 2019 - and half a million children are chronically malnourished,
- g. Particularly concerned at the intolerable position of those currently living in the Idlib province,
- h. Regretting the continuing stalemate in the UN Security Council which, throughout this period, has only adopted two resolutions on Syria (UNSCR 2533 (2020), UNSCR 2585 (2021), both equally weak and inadequate,
- i. Expressing its satisfaction at the progress made by the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), established by UN General Assembly Resolution 71-248 (of 21 December 2016), to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the most serious crimes under international law, in particular the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes,
- j. Welcoming the IIIM’s recent opening of new case files related to unlawful attacks involving use of chemical and conventional weapons, including attacks against medical facilities,

Demands that the 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 on 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;

Urges the UK government:

4. To press for a further meeting of the UN GA in which the Head of the IIIM can report on the Mechanism’s progress;
5. To provide further humanitarian assistance to the 5 million in dire need within Syria, as well as supporting Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan in their current hosting of nearly 6 million Syrian refugees.

Agreed May 16th 2020 and amended 23rd April 2022

26. The role of women in the UN

UNA London & South East Region calls upon the UN:

To take practical enabling action to address 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 and amended 23rd April 2022

27. UK Aid budget

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting that the UK is one of the P5 at the UN and should lead by example,
- b. Further noting that the Covid pandemic has decimated progress achieved by the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals and has increased poverty,
- c. Noting that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has created an additional humanitarian crisis and is putting severe strain on the world's food and energy supplies, adding to the risk of famine in a number of vulnerable countries.
- d. Noting that in its Voluntary National Review (VNR) of progress towards the SDGs in 2019 the government restated its commitment to allocate between 0.15% and 0.2% of GNI to support the least developed countries, (LASER Aid Group)
- e. Agreeing with statements of the chair of the UK Foreign Affairs Select Committee in March that there is now a very urgent need to step up UK assistance,

Calls upon the U.K. government:

1. To honour its legal commitment to 0.7% of its GNI for aid spending and seek to resume its pre-pandemic spend;
2. To direct aid to where it is most needed rather than to pursue national interest;
3. To fully support the continued existence of a robust review committee on aid;
4. To improve the capability and capacity to deliver aid effectively by FCDO as was the mandate of DFID;
5. To improve communication and co-operation with NGOs in order to enhance efficient, effective and equitable delivery of aid;
6. To reverse cuts in the UK support of UN agencies and programmes and dramatically increase their contributions to UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNAIDS and the World Food Programme and the other UN agencies concerned with development and victims of conflict and natural disasters, at this time of great escalation of humanitarian need;
7. To meet new needs from new funds, rather than becoming a further pressure on the current 0.5% GNI aid budget;
8. To immediately rectify the drastic cuts in aid spending announced in 2021 with special reference to humanitarian spending in Yemen, Afghanistan, and Africa, Education of Girls in Bangladesh and family planning (under the umbrella of United Nations Population Fund) and the Global Polio Initiative.

Agreed 27th February 2021 and amended 23rd April 2022

28. Ukraine Crisis

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Reaffirming that Ukraine is a sovereign state and a full member of the UN,
- b. Outraged by Russia's invasion as a grave breach of international law, and the UN Charter,
- c. Asserting that the charges of fascism, genocide and aggression Russia has made against Ukraine are entirely false,
- d. Strongly condemning the criminal attacks on civilians and civilian targets, in complete violation of the rules of war,
- e. Welcoming the measures so far carried out by the UN and the UK Government,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To rigorously enforce sanctions against the Russian regime;
2. To support Ukraine without committing NATO to any military action that is more than defensive, citing R2P;
3. To remove unnecessary obstacles for, and facilitate access to, Ukrainian refugees seeking refuge in the UK;
4. To abandon the requirement for online applications, recognising possible language barriers, and difficulties in accessing computers;

Urges the UN:

5. To use all powers at its disposal to obtain an immediate cessation of hostilities;
6. To use its good offices to achieve a diplomatic solution.

Agreed 23rd April 2022

29. Vaccination for Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

UNA London & South East Region noting:

- a. That Israel has vaccinated Palestinian prisoners, health workers and a number of other Palestinians living in East Jerusalem,
- b. That a number of international organizations such as the WHO, are trying to secure and administer the vaccines in the OPT,
- c. That Israel has a legal responsibility to vaccinate the 5 million Palestinians subject to military occupation of the area,
- d. Under Article 56 of the 4th Geneva Convention, an occupying power has the legal responsibility to ensure that all citizens are vaccinated to 'combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics', a responsibility which is not currently being fulfilled in Israel/Palestine,

Calls upon the UK Government and the WHO:

1. To put pressure on the Israeli government to ensure a fair distribution of the vaccine;
2. To highlight the two-tier health system which operates in Israel/Palestine;
3. To send observers to Israel to monitor and highlight the flaws of their health policies concerning the Palestinian people.

Agreed 27th February 2021

30. Women, Peace and Security

UNA London and SE Region:

- a. Recognising that Security Council Resolution 1325 (and those which followed) are essential to the protection of women in conflict and to the achievement of international peace and security and welcoming the government's commitment to this agenda over time including the UK's 4th National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security,
- b. Welcoming the commitment to strengthen the UK capabilities in Strategic Outcome 7 of the National Action Plan, but concerned that no indication of the budget has been given for this important initiative,

Calls upon the UK government and the Security Council:

1. To apply a human rights based approach as a framework for the future work on Women, Peace and Security including economic and social rights rather than focussing only on security considerations;

Calls upon the UK government:

2. To include the role of the Arms Trade Treaty (UNATT) and also the post conflict situation in Northern Ireland within the scope of work on Women, Peace and Security;
3. To examine how upholding the rights of refugees and asylum seekers coming to the UK can advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda and make necessary adjustments;
4. To ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
5. To appoint a special envoy for Women, Peace and Security at the FCDO;
6. To Provide adequate provision of funding for implementation of the National Action Plan;
7. To encourage implementation of gender training in all international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE;

Calls upon the Security Council:

8. To adopt a periodic review of resolution 1325 incorporating updates to reflect innovatory practice from local, regional and national level;
9. To support a significant and stable provision of financial resources to women's NGOs at all levels who are working to prevent armed conflict;
10. To provide emergency rapid response grants to women's human rights defenders;
11. To implement the Murad Code for survivors of sexual violence in conflict;
12. To make Security Council resolution 1325 legally binding;

On Mediation/Peace Building

Calls upon the UK government:

13. To encourage funding, promote training and work towards the establishment of international professional standards for international peace mediation monitors;
14. To call for the provision of gender training for all UN peace mediators;

Calls upon the Security Council:

15. To enable the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA) to strengthen partnerships with women NGO peace-makers;
16. To insist that 40% of participants in peace talks are women;

On Peacekeeping

Calls upon the UK government:

17. To ensure a better gender balance in the UK armed forces, reserve forces and the UK Cadet Class Association;
18. To expand gender training conducted by the British Peace Support Team;
19. To show global leadership by both advocating the provision of - and providing more - female peacekeepers;

Calls upon the Security Council:

20. To encourage countries to allocate military and police officers to peacekeeping operations which include women at all levels;
21. To ensure high standards and globally consistent training of peacekeeping troops. And to include gender training and awareness of sexual violence with proper screening of peacekeepers in relation to past behaviour;
22. To ensure there is a verifiable independent monitoring and accountability of peacekeeping forces from different countries.

First agreed 10th March 2018, amended 27th February 2021 & 23rd April 2022

31. Yemen

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that after nearly six years of war, Yemen's famine is the world's worst in 100 years: 100,000 children have died. 10 million adults and 500,000 children face starvation,
- b. Noting that four million people are internally displaced; only 22% of rural and 46% of urban population have public water supplies (intermittently); and that there are one million suspected cholera cases,
- c. Further noting that 24.3 million people, including 12m children require humanitarian assistance, that women and girls are disproportionately affected with 1m malnourished pregnant women and 120,000 women and girls at risk of violence, while UN Donors have cut pledged funds by 50% and the number of people the UN can feed has dropped from 13m to 8m,
- d. Noting that the UN Security Council's Panel of Experts has described Saudi airstrikes against civilians as violations of international humanitarian law, that the UK is, behind the US, the second supplier of arms, including aircraft and bombs to Saudi Arabia, and that the Houthis have also been accused of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, laying 100,000 land mines, killing children by sniper fire in Taiz and shelling refugee camps and civilians notably in Marib as they advanced on the city which is home to a million internally displaced people thus increasing the risk of a further humanitarian crisis,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To begin informal Security Council discussions on a new resolution following UNSCR 2216 which will recognise the pluralistic nature of post-Conflict Yemen and reinforce the need for a negotiated nationwide ceasefire;
2. To use its leverage with Saudi Arabia, Iran and through direct talks with the Houthis:
 - i To pursue a ceasefire and the resumption of direct talks;
 - ii To demand that Saudi Arabia put an end to its airstrikes on populated areas;

- iii To demand an end to Houthi cross-border attacks, credible long-term assurances for the security of the Saudi border and a halt to Houthi military advance on Marib;
- iv to demand an end to Saudi blockade and resumption of fuel supplies to Yemen;
- 3. To double UK humanitarian funding for Yemen from £200m to £400m;
- 4. To urge the Saudis, Kuwait and the UAE to increase humanitarian funding to the UN, Noting that these countries have substantially cut back their funding for Yemen, with the UAE not providing any aid in 2020;
- 5. Noting the US decision to stop supporting the Saudi military campaign, to suspend all arms sales to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and all combatants in Yemen;
- 6. To support the independent international investigation mandated by the UN Human Rights Council into violations of international humanitarian law by all combatants in Yemen.

First agreed 24th November 2018, amended May 16th 2020 & 27th February 2021