

London & South-East Region
Resolutions for discussion at Policy Conference on Saturday 9th
March 2024 from 12noon-5pm
in person at Bermondsey Village Hall, SE1 3TD
and on-line on Zoom

Contents

A.	Introduction	2
B.	Minor Updating Amendments	3
1.	Financial levy for clean water	3
2.	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)	4
3.	Nuclear weapons	5
C.	Replacement Resolutions	6
4.	Climate	6
5.	How did Dag Hammarskjold die?.....	7
6.	Our world after the pandemic	8
7.	Treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and Europe	9
8.	Ukraine.....	10
D.	Amended Resolutions	11
9.	Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration.....	11
10.	Proposed laws restricting boycotts, divestment or sanctions	12
11.	Second Voluntary National Review of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.....	13
E.	New resolutions	14
12.	Collective Punishment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).....	14
13.	Kashmir.....	14
14.	Strengthening the UN charter.....	15
15.	The UK’s diminished role in the UN’s Human Rights treaty bodies.....	15
16.	Resourcing to strengthen the UN for current global challenges	16
17.	Universal healthcare & family planning.....	16

A. Introduction

This year we will continue the practice of discussing policy resolutions from UNA members, supporters and groups at a Policy Conference open to all UNA members and supporters from London & South East Region plus invited guests from elsewhere. Any resolutions that are agreed will become the policy of UNA London & South East Region. They will be presented to the UK government and to UNA nationally with the suggestion that they become national UNA policy as well.

The Regional Policy Committee has met and combined (and in some cases shortened or edited) the resolutions submitted to form an agenda for discussion which is set out below. We have also proposed a series of small updates to previous resolution and in some cases combined a series of previous resolutions into new ones with more substantial amendment and updates. Resolutions focus on calls for action by the UK government or the UN.

We now invite members, supporters and local group to submit any amendments they would like to make in writing by **Monday 26th February at 5pm** to webster.home@btinternet.com.

Amendments should state clearly which of the numbered clauses in a resolution they wish to delete or edit. In the case of “edits” they should say which words or phrases should be deleted or replaced by other words, and which words or phrases added. Additional clauses can also be added, as long as they are brief and on the same subject, rather than introducing new subjects, and don’t add more than 75 additional words in total.

The Policy Committee will combine these to form the final agenda.

Example amendment

Amendment to resolution 1. (“Name of resolution”)

- a. Delete clause 4 (“to do X & Y”)
- b. In clause 5 replace “what is says now” with “what you want it to say”
- c. Add a new clause “Whatever you want to add”

B. Minor Updating Amendments

1. 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 is entirely speculative, and does 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

Proposed amendments, Policy Committee for 9th March 2024

2. 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 the establishment of a Committee of Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong,
- b. Noting 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~~ Recalling that, since the UK government enabled ~~those with~~ British Nationals (Overseas) status holders 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 honour the promises it made in 1997, under the *One Country, Two Systems* model;
2. To call ~~for~~ the right of all candidates to stand for Legislative Council seats, without being 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 all future ~~the~~ elections of the Chief Executive or the ~~on 8th May 2022 and in all future~~ Hong Kong Legislative Council ~~polls~~.

Agreed 23rd April 2022

Proposed amendments, Policy Committee for 9th March 2024

3. Nuclear weapons

UNA London & South-East Region:

- a. ~~Applauding~~ Expressing its satisfaction about 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

[Proposed amendments, Policy Committee for 9th March 2024](#)

C. Replacement Resolutions

4. Climate

UNA London & South-East Region:

- a. Noting the Climate Governance Commission’s statement that “The world faces a deepening planetary emergency—and is on a reckless path toward runaway, catastrophic climate change—having already over-shot six of nine scientifically-identified Planetary Boundaries”,
- b. Noting that 2023 was the hottest year on record and that several irreversible tipping points may occur between 1.5 and 2 degrees,
- c. Noting that the worst climate effects are felt in developing countries, who have historically been the least responsible for its causes, and that climate ‘refugees’ are increasing,
- d. Bearing in mind the opportunities from sustainable production and consumption, and risks of increased insurance costs and stranded assets,

Calls on all governments at COP 29

1. To focus on 2030 targets and actions to keep 1.5 degrees alive;
2. To ensure voices of the most vulnerable including Indigenous people and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), are heard and responded to;
3. To prioritise stewardship of freshwater resources, forests and protection of ecosystems as huge carbon stores of benefit to the biodiversity, climate, communities and wildlife;
4. To ensure calculations don’t overlook substantial emissions, such as military emissions;

Calls upon the UK government:

5. To publish plans to reduce (cf 1990 emission) by 68% in 2030, and 78% in 2035 and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on track to net-zero by 2050, that are judged credible by the UK Climate Change Committee;
6. To meet the £11.6bn climate finance commitment for 2021-2026 including loss and damage grants, not loans or ODA cuts;
7. To support a Just Transition ensuring that the substantial benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically;
8. To ban new fossil fuel investments.

Proposed by the Policy Committee for 9th March 2024
Replacing existing resolutions 4 (“Climate”), 5 (Climate Change and its impact on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the resolution passed on CoP 28 at the AGM on October 28th 2023

5. How did Dag Hammarskjold die?

UNA London & South-East Region

Notes that:

- a. The UN General Assembly, in 1962, reached an open verdict, pending further information, on the causes of the plane crash in which UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold died in 1961, while on a peace mission in the Congo,
- b. Following publication of further information, the UN General Assembly in 2014 opened a new inquiry led by Justice Mohamed Othman, appointed by the UN Secretary General,
- c. Following each of his interim reports, support in the UN General Assembly has grown,

Regrets that the UK government has:

- d. Declined access to – or denied the existence of – documents believed by Judge Mohamed Othman to be in its possession,
- e. Refused to provide documents dated between February and November (2018) specified by Westminster UNA in its Freedom of Information Request (March 2019),

Urges the UK government:

To extend full cooperation to Judge Othman's inquiry and to grant him access to documents held for over 60 years by MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, all active in the region at the time of the event.

[Proposal by Westminster UNA to replace existing resolution 9 on the same subject](#)
[For 9th March 2024](#)

6. Our world after the pandemic

UNA London & South-East Region:

- a. Aware badly designed lockdowns are economically ruinous and disproportionately impact poor and vulnerable people,
- b. Mindful WHO reported 14.9 million excess deaths associated with COVID-19 between January 2020 and December 2021,
- c. Aware only 16% of people in lower income countries were fully vaccinated by 30th June 2022,
- d. Acknowledging ill-preparedness for pandemics and regretting Member States prioritised national action over a co-ordinated international response,
- e. Regretting EU and UK delayed wavering COVID-19 patents forcing other nations to develop their own vaccines,
- f. Conscious WHO's mandate is to inform, rather than direct, global health policy,
- g. Recognising world leaders decisions in September 2023 including creating a Pandemic Fund, and WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Tolerance,
- h. Aware the draft WHO Pandemic Treaty was criticised by NGO's for not compromising on use of patents for diagnostics and therapies,

Calls on the UN:

1. To encourage the Inter-governmental Negotiation Body to fully submit the new WHO Pandemic Treaty for debate at the 77th World Assembly in May 2024;
2. To encourage Member States to invest in and strengthen WHO to fulfil its mandate, including more effective monitoring and evaluation;
3. To audit Member State's pandemic responses to explain origins, causes and spread, and propose ways of preventing similar catastrophes;
4. To urgently reform IMF towards equitable funding between rich and poor countries
5. To encourage Member States to:
 - i) ensure access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for all;
 - ii) strengthen national healthcare systems, especially in lower and middle income countries to withstand pandemics;
 - iii) conclude negotiations on the Pandemic Treaty by May 2024;
 - iv) identify pandemic control measures that better respect people's human rights;

Calls on the UK Government:

6. To fully support the endeavours of the Pandemic Treaty;
7. To observe recommendations from the Pandemic Treaty.

[Proposal by the Policy Committee to replace resolution 14 on the same topic for 9th March 2024](#)

7. Treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and Europe

UNA London & South-East Region:

- a. Recalling our concerns about the treatment of Refugees and Asylum seekers in London hotels and the impact of NHS charging upon them in resolutions passed in 2021 and 2022,
- b. Concerned that, not only in the UK but throughout Europe, the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers have fallen short of acceptable human standards,
- c. Noting that LASER has joined the Europe-wide Campaign to Stop the Inhumanity on Europe's Borders, launched in London on 30 January, and which has gathered wide support throughout Europe,

Urges the UK government to:

1. Align its policies relating to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with the seven-point Collective Demand of the Campaign to Stop the Inhumanity on Europe's Borders:
 - i) Ending Pushbacks on land or sea;
 - ii) Ending any prevention of rescue at sea;
 - iii) Operating humane borders;
 - iv) Providing justice and compensation for harms;
 - v) Providing safe routes;
 - vi) No externalization of refugee responsibilities;
 - vii) Reform of the EUs Frontex force;
2. Return to providing NHS care to asylum seekers and refugees on the basis of need, rather than challenging their immigration status.

Proposed by Westminster and Streatham & Clapham to replace resolution 20 on the treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in London hotel and elsewhere, for 9th March 2024

8. Ukraine

UNA London & South-East Region:

- a. Notes that it is now 2 years since Russia invaded Ukraine in flagrant breach of international law with attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure as well as other war crimes and threats to European and global security and food supplies,
- b. That the front lines appear static but the casualties and suffering continue to mount,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To remain clear in its support for Ukraine and for international law and in working with partners to maintain international support;
2. To use our diplomatic capabilities to promote co-operation between the African, Chinese and Ukrainian peace initiatives to build a global consensus;
3. To continue supporting international legal initiatives on accountability for war crimes, the crime of aggression and challenging Russian claims of genocide as a pretext for the invasion, and look to advancing the role of the International Criminal Justice (ICJ) in resolving territorial or other disputes between the parties;
4. To continue strengthening sanctions that can reduce Russia's aggression by blocking sales of military equipment or battlefield components (including dual use and hi-tech items) or foreign currency earnings from high value items or major exports while sanctioning individuals in the Russian elite who support the aggression or individuals on either side who bear personal responsibility for war-crimes;
5. To work with non-aligned countries on as much of that agenda as possible and also on limiting the activities of Russian military and aerospace companies globally;
6. To contribute to planning for the reconstruction of Ukraine after the war as well as the maintenance of civilian infrastructure while hostilities continue;
7. To prepare an offer to Russia for a re-entry to global markets and mechanisms if the conflict ceases with a peace agreement that respects international law and provides for the future security of Russia, Ukraine and all neighbouring countries;

Calls on the UN:

8. To continue to assist where possible on issues including the safety of nuclear power plants, the grain deal and prisoner exchanges and to prepare scenarios for peace negotiations or the use of UN peacekeepers;
9. To encourage the use of all personal contacts who may have influence with the Russian leadership to maintain efforts to persuade them to change course.

[Proposal by the Policy Committee to replace resolution 28 on Ukraine and the Executive Committee resolution on the use of international law in relation to the invasion, for 9th March 2024.](#)

D. Amended Resolutions

9. Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration

UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting ~~the 1917 that November 2017 marked the centenary of the~~ Balfour Declaration ~~for the by the UK Government about the~~ future of pre-1948 Palestine ~~to be as~~ a shared Jewish and Arab homeland ~~under a which established the~~ “dual obligation” ~~involving that became part of the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine:~~
 - i. the establishment within Palestine of a national home for Jewish people,
 - ii. ~~the clear understanding that~~ nothing to shall be done to which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine,
- b. ~~Noting Believing that attention should be drawn to failure to respect or carry out the second part of the dual obligation’s failure~~ as the land now remaining allocated to Palestinians has dwindled to less than 22 per cent of pre-1948 Palestine including more than 750,000 tiny broken-up areas, and some three quarters of a million settlers live in illegal settlers 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 by Israel of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) as defined by the cease-fire ‘Green Line’ of 1967 by Israel;
2. To call on all parties to renounce the use of violence as a means to resolve this conflict and to renounce any current or previous commitments to the destruction of other parties.
3. To require 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, and to fulfil its duties – according to international law as an occupying power – for those Palestinians living in the OPT by respecting their fundamental rights, to ensure greater trust between both communities as a first step towards a viable more long term durable resolution of the conflict either on through the establishment basis of a 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 or through a single democratic state, based on the equality of individuals, regardless of religious, ethnic, or national background.
4. To recognise Palestine as a full UN member state on the 1967 ‘Green Line’ borders, as a contribution towards advancing the negotiations 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;
5. To call on Israel to allow full access for UN staff and special rapporteurs, respect all UN resolutions, International Court of Justice (ICJ) rulings, relevant treaties, including agreements relating to the treatment of occupied peoples.
6. To oppose comprehensively any attempt by Israel or individuals to remove Palestinians from Israel or the OPT or to relocate Palestinians within Israel or the OPT.
7. To encourage the referral of relevant aspects of proposed solutions to international bodies including the ICJ.

First agreed 26th May 2018, updated May 16th 2020, 27th February 2021 & 23rd April 2022
Amendment proposed Brian Beeley and Antony Vallyon for 9th March 2024

10. 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 Israeli government, other countries or at private corporations,
- b. Believing that honourable precedents exist, including apartheid South Africa/ Rhodesia and Nestlé (over breast milk substitutes~~baby milk~~),
- c. Believing that Laws that outlaw such actions may be incompatible with the right to freedom of speech and expression,
- d. 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,
- e. Noting that the present Bill contains a specific exemption for Israel, preventing the Secretary of State from adding them to a list of countries that can be the subject of economic action by public bodies in future, while the UK government has begun to use sanctions in this conflict in relation to settler violence in the OPT,
- f. Noting also that the recent International Court of Justice (ICJ) decision means that Israel may be in breach of the Genocide Convention which requires all state parties to prevent and punish the Crime of Genocide rather than exempting states who may be committing Genocide from censure by public bodies,
- g. That the Bill as currently drafted exempts decisions made in relation to bribery, a limited list of labour offences (which may not include Uighur forced labour), competition law offences, harm to the environment, plants or animals or action that would place the UK in breach of its obligations under international law,

Urges the UK Government:

1. To withdraw plans to prohibit public bodies from supporting BDS campaigns in relation to any country or specifically to exempt decisions made on the basis of the risk of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity or breaches of International Humanitarian Law and to widen the definition of labour offences that may be considered to include all International Labour Organisation (ILO) Core Labour Standards;
2. To avoid defining opposition to Israeli government policies or actions 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

Amendments proposed by Policy Committee for 9th March

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

UNA London & South-East Region:

- a. Bearing in mind ~~Noting~~ that, in 2015 and in the 2019 UK Voluntary National Review (VNR), the UK government committed to implement, internationally and domestically, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets,
- b. Noting that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has emphasized a bottom-up localization of the SDGs, 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. 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.~~ 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,~~ 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,
- d. Noting that the UK government published its Outcome Delivery Plans (ODPs) in 2021, which set out each government department's SDG priority outcomes, their strategies for achieving them and the metrics that will be used to track performance,
- e. Alarmed that it has now been three years since the UK government presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) and little information is available about meaningful progress on the goals,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To ~~clarify its lines of co-operation with civil society~~ consult and engage with actors such as civil society organisations, ensuring a whole-of-society approach to implementing the SDGs;
2. To commit to prepare its second VNR by the beginning of 2025, following the anticipated General Election 2023 taking account of comments from civil society;
3. Alongside the formal report, to ~~publish~~ publish a consumer and an friendly (public friendly) an accessible report aimed at the general public ~~popular update on progress aimed at the general public;~~
4. To provide financial resources to local SDG initiatives in the UK and globally, and to ensure the localization of SDGs, including by promoting the use of Local Voluntary Reviews (LVRs) and consistent approaches to LVRs, such as are given in the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews (2020);
5. To publish a whole-of-government action plan with clear guidelines on how it will monitor progress on the ODPs.

Agreed May 16th 2020 and amended 23rd April 2022
Amendments proposed by Canterbury for 9th March 2024

E. New resolutions

12. Collective Punishment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

UNA London & South-East Region notes that:

- a. Non-combatant Palestinians in the OPT are being considered guilty by association with the Palestinian resistance who attack Israeli Jews or resist attacks from occupation forces or from illegal Jewish settlers. Despite not being charged with any offence such non-militant civilian Palestinians are suffering collective punishment including eviction and house demolitions. UK Ambassador to the UN Barbara Woodward condemned such collective punishment by Israel in the Security Council in March 2023,
- b. Since 7 October 2023, many Palestinians have lost their jobs in Israel, others have been prevented from praying in Jerusalem or Bethlehem, and 7,000 have been arrested in raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Some of those seized are women and children and few have been charged under credible legal procedures,
- c. Around the time the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued orders to Israel to prevent or punish genocidal acts in Gaza, Israel reported that twelve employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) were involved with the HAMAS-led raids into Israel on 7 October 2023. In response to Israel's report the UK withdrew its funding for UNWRA, as have other national donors, thereby causing grievous collective suffering to millions of Palestinians,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To restore UK support for UNWRA immediately;
2. To condemn in the strongest terms direct and indirect collective punishment of innocent civilians in militarily occupied areas;
3. To require Israel to comply with its responsibilities as an Occupying Power, and its ICJ orders, including providing access to food, water, energy, shelter, medical care and support from relevant agencies such as UNWRA and the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
4. Until Israel complies with these requirements and ceases collective punishment of innocent civilians, to stop the sale and transfer of weapons, vehicles, materials and equipment that Israel could use in the OPT, including via the Navy or RAF base in Cyprus.

Proposed by Brian Beeley and Antony Vallyon for 9th March 2024

13. Kashmir

UNA London and South-East Region:

- a. Concerned about the recent decision by India's Supreme Court to uphold the Indian government's decision to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its special status,
- b. Deeming unacceptable the Indian government's Revocation of Article 370 of the Indian constitution, and the subsequent media blackout and security lockdown,
- c. Condemning the prevention of international journalists from visiting Indian controlled Kashmir,
- d. Condemning the Indian Media Policy of 2020, which monitors and allows local government to censor output,
- e. Condemning the militarisation of Indian controlled Kashmir,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To encourage both Pakistan and India to uphold UNSC Resolutions and Simla Agreement;
2. To condemn any brutal treatment of Kashmiri citizens and media control.

Proposed by Zeeshan Choudry, with minor amendments by the Policy Committee for 9th March

14. Strengthening the UN charter

UNA London and South-East Region:

- a. Noting that Article 51 of the UN Charter states that “Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security”,
- b. Believing that this is ambiguous and open to misinterpretation, meaning that, should nations go to war, their citizens are not protected against mass slaughter,
- c. Noting further that since the Charter was instated, most Security Council Permanent Members have continued to advance their interests through military means ,
- d. Noting, too, that self-defence was defined as ‘defending against attack’ but is now seen to include ingress, slaughter and destruction of the ‘enemy’s’ citizens and infrastructure,

Call upon the UN Secretary-General to:

- i) Call a Special Session of the General Assembly (SSGA) to review the construct and function of the Security Council to make it fit for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security;
- ii) Call a SSGA to obtain clarification through relevant channels of the UN what should constitute ‘self-defence’ under Article 51 ;
- iii) Seek advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice in both respects.

Proposed by Bexhill & Hastings, with minor amendments by the Policy Committee
for 9th March

15. The UK’s diminished role in the UN’s Human Rights treaty bodies

UNA London and South-East Region:

- a. Recalling that in 2020, despite representations made by UNA London and South-East Region and UK-based human rights organisations, the UK government stated that it would not nominate a candidate for any one of the 172 seats on the ten Human Rights treaty bodies due for election that year,
- b. And in 2023 marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, noting:
 - i) a weakened international human rights framework, increasingly open to exploitation by those seeking to rein in its oversight role, and
 - ii) *Human Rights and Democracy*, the 2022 FCDO report (July 2023), refers to human-rights-linked initiatives it supports but without reference to any of the UN Human Rights treaty bodies,
- c. And believing that the UK’s influence in the UN’s Human Rights structures has greatly diminished,

Call on the UK government:

1. To immediately revise its current stance on UK membership of UN Human Rights bodies;
2. To re-engages with them, nominating candidates for election as soon as possible.

Proposed by Westminster UNA for 9th March 2024

16. Resourcing to strengthen the UN for current global challenges

UNA London and South-East Region:

- a. Recalling the UN Charter and the extensive role envisaged for the UN system in peace and security, development and human rights,
- b. Mindful that UN finances have tracked well behind inflation since 2008, and it needs more, not less, to meet the ambition,
- c. Noting that only 16% of the SDG are on track, and more is demanded and needed of the UN to meet Agenda 2030,
- d. Noting the gaps between UN humanitarian annual appeals (like those of the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and those of the World Food Programme (WFP)), and the funding pledges and then the money actually delivered, .
- e. Noting the ambition of the Summit of the Future,

Calls on the UK Government

1. To keep its pledges by fully funding what it pledges to pay;
2. To double its funding to UN and UN Agencies for the next five years, and encourage other member states to do likewise;

Calls on the UN to

3. To double the budget of the UN and UN System Agencies for the next 5 years, and to allocate 80% for the 5 years, to enable funding certainty and delivery of multi-year programmes; with the 20% remaining put into an annual pot to be tactically allocated across the UN system by the UN General Assembly 5th Committee (dealing with administrative and budget matters);
4. To setup a High Level Panel to report back in 2026 on mechanisms like a Tobin Tax to enable a more stable UN system funding.

Proposed by Antony Vallyon & Brian Beeley for 9th March 2024

17. Universal healthcare & family planning

UNA London and South-East Region:

- a. Mindful that health and adequate nutrition are universal human needs,
- b. Aware that women's health depends on control of their fertility, eliminating involuntary childbirth which can place too great a burden on their physical health and even their lives,
- c. Recognising also that access to family planning is essential for the welfare of families and communities,
- d. Acknowledging that enabling reproductive choice contributes to biodiversity and climate resilience,

Calls on the UK Government to:

1. Promote universal health care, including family planning, in its own aid programme and contributions to multilateral agencies;
2. Initiate resolutions at the UN General Assembly and the policy conferences of UN agencies, particularly the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), requiring these agencies to incorporate family planning, using their own core budgets, and, where appropriate, to work in partnership with the UN Fund for Population (UNFPA).

Proposed by Bexhill & Hastings, with minor amendments by the Policy Committee for 9th March 2024