



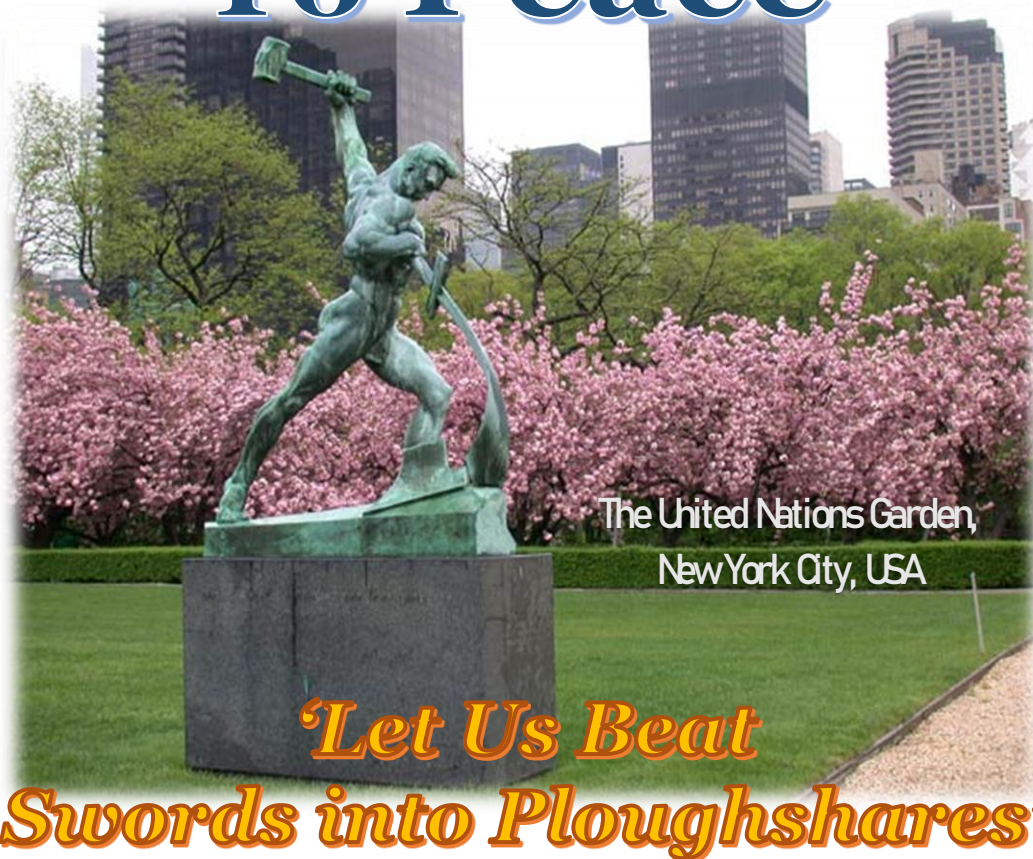
*"We the Peoples of  
the United Nations..."*

The United Nations Association  
Bexhill & Hastings Branch



Peace is in our Hands  
UN Culture of Peace

# The Warless Road To Peace



## A UNA Peace Policy Strategy

This dual purpose document, first outlines the relevant policy rules and regulations grounded in the UN Charter (and associated international law). Then it serves as a strategic plan for redirecting the UN member states away from imprudent and inhumane warfare - presently, escalating all around to the world - towards a renewed judicious and compassionate worldwide peace in-keeping with the Purposes and the Principles of the United Nations.

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## SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

Although there are extensive rationale and footnotes provided with each of its four parts, overall, this Peace Policy Strategy is inspired by, and grounded on .....

### Isaiah's 'Sword into Ploughshares' Prophecy

Between 750 and 700 BC, Isaiah prophesied that the House of God would be established as a place to where all nations would flow and all people would come to learn his ways and walk in his paths, and then .....

***“He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning forks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”***

(Source: Isaiah 2:4, the Holy Bible, revised standard version, 1952)

This is the epitome of what, 27 centuries later, the United Nations was founded to achieve.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 1959, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics gifted the United Nations, a sculpture depicting a man beating his sword into a ploughshare. Inspired by Isaiah, Evgeny Vuchetich created the sculpture in bronze entitled, ***Let us Beat Swords into Ploughshares***<sup>i</sup>

Regardless of particular faith, belief or religion – or none at all – the 'Swords into Ploughshares' sculpture has come to symbolise human desire to put an end to war, and to do so by converting the means of destruction into creative tools for the benefit of humankind. It has given rise to many non-government peace movements. The sculpture stands in the UN Garden in New York City and the words of Isaiah's prophecy are inscribed on a nearby wall.

### Ploughshares into Swords!!

Notwithstanding the existence of the United Nations, the escalation of worldwide warfare is causing many nations to beat their Ploughshares into Swords by upgrading and increasing their aggressive, war mongering defence policies. Policies that accept war as normal and inevitable, thus making it ever more difficult to avoid a Third World War.

### Reversing Ploughshares into Swords

However, the aforementioned escalation of worldwide warfare has been accompanied by an escalation of worldwide peace movements, which are augmenting those inspired by the two World Wars. These include: the Christmas Truces between German and British soldiers in the trenches 1914-1916; the enduring worldwide network of the Community of the Cross of Nails that grew in response to the bombing of Coventry Cathedral in 1940; and the Peace Parks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki built to memorialise the 1945 Atomic Bombing as an advocate for everlasting world peace. Examples of many other peace initiatives include the joint Jewish/Israeli, Muslim/Palestinian and Christian Peace Movements in the war-ridden Middle East and more lately, the LAW not War Campaign.

### The LAW not War Campaign<sup>1</sup>

LAW not War is a new global campaign to enhance the jurisdiction and use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The plan here, is to assist countries to resolve international disputes peacefully rather than through recourse to the threat of, or use of, military force. The principal objective of the campaign is to increase the number of UN Member States accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, with the aspiration to achieve universal acceptance of jurisdiction by 2045, the 100th anniversary of the United Nations.

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<sup>1</sup> LAW not War: Legal Alternatives to War: Increasing the universality and effectiveness of the International Court of Justice

[UNFOLD ZERO <https://www.unfoldzero.org> › law-not-war](https://www.unfoldzero.org › law-not-war)

## **INTRODUCING THE UNA PEACE POLICY STRATEGY**

Over the course of the last six years (2018-2023) UNA-Bexhill & Hastings (B&H) carried out a series of annual UN Day Peace Events through which, the Branch explored various aspects of peace. Each event was supported by the UNA-London & Southeast Region (LaSER) and had its own background information paper and post-event report. This enabled us to draw up a Peace Policy Strategy (PPS) based on the accumulated outcomes of the whole series. It is, therefore, a comprehensive document. It addresses the question of how bringing a halt of all kinds of warfare is a necessary precondition to securing sustainable solutions to all other global problems. These include: inequitable social & economic development and the neglect of human development, which are inter-related with the decline of comprehensive, universal health & education services, and environmental damage & man-made climate change.

### **THE NATURE OF PEACE FROM THE UN PERSPECTIVE**

At the time of the UN's foundation in 1945, it was assumed that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (P5)<sup>2</sup> would work together to lead the implementation of the UN Charter<sup>3</sup> so as to transform the prevailing culture of war into the culture of peace. But in 1947, the P5 embarked on the Cold War that forced them to work against each other to maintain the culture of war. The consequential 20<sup>th</sup> Century 'war & peace' history has distorted the term 'peace', so that now, it can mean different things to different people in different contexts and circumstances. However, the same 20<sup>th</sup> Century war & peace history shows how the United Nations – itself and an outcome of that same history – holds the key to the meaning and promotion of peace.

### **The UNA-London & Southeast Region's Summer Council Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

The first round of consultation on the PPS took place at the UNA-LaSER's Summer Council Meeting. The two speakers, Richard Sakwa – a professor in European and Russian Politics and Alyn Ware – a founder-director of the LAW not War Campaign – approved the draft PPS in principle and contributed to its revisions. They strongly advised an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary approach, to executing functional changes. And to do so within, the existing UN Charter System and international law and within, the existing structural framework.

### **Common Security<sup>ii</sup>**

Furthermore, the combative 'allies & enemies' approach to achieving international peace and security, should be replaced by the Common Security approach. This aims to achieve the same by taking into account the security needs of other nations, including one's adversaries, as well as one's own security needs. It is based on the assumption that sustainable security cannot be obtained by undermining or threatening the security of others, but rather on resolving conflicts with one's adversaries and ensuring the security of all is upheld. Therefore it relies on diplomacy, negotiation, mediation and other forms of conflict resolution, as well as on the application of international law, to ensure peace, fairness and security for all.

### **The Final UNA-Peace Policy Strategy**

Following the second round of consultation, the PPS will be revised accordingly. Thereby confirming it as a UNA instrument for education, campaigning and for lobbying parliament.

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<sup>2</sup> Although this Peace Policy Strategy is focusing on the P5, it should be noted that at the time of its foundation, the Security Council actually had 11 members. In addition to the P5 there were 6 non-permanent members, the first of which were Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, the Netherlands and Poland. In 1965, the number of non-permanent members was expanded to ten making a total of 15.

<sup>3</sup> The UN Charter, as an international treaty, obliges all the UN Member States to abide by the Charter or be in breach of international law.

## SECTION ONE – DEFINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE

### RATIONALE

The United Nations was founded on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1945. The day when its original 51 member states had ratified the UN Charter they had signed in San Francisco on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the preceding June. The UN Charter is an international treaty that states the purposes of the United Nations and embodies the major principles for operating international relations.

The Preamble to the UN Charter<sup>4</sup> begins with:

*“We the Peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war that twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind<sup>5</sup>.....”*

It appears that civil society is to take the lead in keeping this promise. Therefore, we must have a consensus about the type of peace we intend as a replacement to “the scourge of war...” Is it to be the peace that simply exists between the wars or is it something more?

This question is also relevant to the UN Security Council (UNSC) whose prime responsibility is the maintenance of International Peace and Security. A formal definition of International Peace, from the UN perspective, is required. This will serve to clarify the type of peace the UNSC should be maintaining, so that ‘*We the Peoples ....*’ will know exactly what we are campaigning for, and also we will know when we have achieved it.

A definition of peace from the UN perspective is indicated in the Preamble to its Charter. A peace based on the concept of Human Security and the prohibition of all forms of warfare. Thus allowing for an everlasting peace to be maintained by the UN System; in a world where all nations are equal and are united in the belief and practice of friendly international relations.

### Human Security

The foundation of the UN in 1945 broadened a government’s ‘first duty’ to protect the state from military invasion to include the protection of people from multi-dimensional threats including, crime, drugs, poor health, poverty, intolerance, social exclusion, individual envy, power & greed, as well as those arising from arms, landmines, terrorism & warfare. This led to the people-centred concept of Human Security. In 2005, the UN General Assembly convened a second World Summit to review progress of the first, held in 2000. At the second Summit, the UN’s entire membership (191 states at the time) reaffirmed their commitment to:

- The UN Charter
- The UN Millennium Declaration 2000
- The Concept of Human Security, which they described as:

*“We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations System and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognise that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.”*

(Source: UN General Assembly, 2005, World Summit Outcome Document A/60/L.1)

However, the UN did not revise the UNSC’s prime responsibility to read as to maintain international peace and human security. Thus, permitting the Member States to continue with their aggressive defence policies based on state security. Such policies divide nations into allies and enemies and increase the risk of the wars they are supposed to be preventing.

Therefore, a two-part policy for defining International Peace is required as follows:

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<sup>4</sup> Please see the Appendix for a copy of the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

<sup>5</sup> ‘Mankind’ is an anthropological term used to refer to humankind, human beings or the human race.

## THE TWO-PART POLICY FOR DEFINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE

### A. Amending the term 'Security' to 'Human Security' in the UN Charter

By application of Article 109 (quoted in footnote<sup>6</sup>), replace the word 'security' with the words 'human security' in Articles 1; 24 & 51 (quoted in footnotes<sup>6&8</sup> pages 6&7). This will also match the Declaration signed by the UN Member States at the 2005 UN World Summit as described on page 5 above. The amendments should read as follows: Article I "The Purposes of the United Nations are: 1.To maintain international peace and human security ....." and in Article 24 "1..... by the United Nations, its members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and human security, ..." Article 51 "...have taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and human security."

### B. THE DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE

The nature of peace from the UN perspective is strongly implied in the Preamble to its Charter. Therefore, the definition of the type of international peace that the UNSC should be maintaining is devised along the same lines as the Preamble as follows:

#### **International Peace is a State where People are Assured:**

Of fundamental human rights and freedom to fulfil their obligations to one another;

Of equality in dignity and worth of men & women and among all nations large and small;

And Are Able: to live under conditions of morality, justice and the rule of international law, and thus, able to live together in tolerance and peace in local communities;

And Are Empowered: to promote equitable and sustainable social, economic and environmental development based on the UN concepts of Human Security and Human Development;

And are Permitted: to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security, and thus to ensure the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods for securing sustainable peace in accordance with the UN Charter, so that armed force shall not be used except in the circumstances deemed legal and necessary under the terms of the UN Charter.

And Are Protected from War by non-provocative national defence policies that are interconnected with the UN international operations for peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

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<sup>6</sup> Article 1. "1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;"

Article 24, "1. In order to ensure prompt and effective actions by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on its behalf."

Article 109, "1. A general conference of Members of the United Nations for the purposes of reviewing the present Charter may be held at a date and place to be fixed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote by any seven members of the Security Council. Each Member of the United Nations shall have one vote in the conference.

2. Any alteration in the present Charter recommended by a two-thirds vote of the conference shall take effect when ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all the permanent members of the Security Council."

## SECTION TWO: THE SECURITY OF PEOPLE AND NATIONAL MILITARY DEFENCE

### RATIONALE

Since the foundation of the UN, the object of national military defence is to keep civilian populations safe while dealing with armed invasion or attack, within the bounds of international law. In order to meet this objective, three things should be taken into account.

#### 1) Compliance with the Concept of Human Security

The UN Millennium Declaration (see page 5) implies that each UN Member State should re-make their national defence policies to be compliant with Human Security. But instead of doing this, the five permanent members of the UNSC (P5)<sup>7</sup> and many other Member States have continued to operate a divided 'allies & enemies' mentality.

#### 2) Pertinent Interpretation of Article 51<sup>8</sup> in the UN Charter

Notwithstanding, that the UN's foundation made war unlawful, its founding Member States recognised that time was required to eradicate war. Therefore, they preserved the right of self-defence in Article 51, Chapter VII in the UN Charter - "*Actions with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*". Article 51 (quoted in footnote 8) describes that a Member State can legally defend itself against an armed attack from another Member State until the UNSC has taken the necessary measures to restore peace. However, difficulties over interpreting such terms as 'self-defence' and 'collective self-defence', can cause the exercise of the right to self-defence to become an offensive attack. Also, persistent disunity among the P5 prevents the UNSC from restoring peace, especially when the P5 are involved, on opposite sides, in the wars reported to the UNSC for resolution (!).

Furthermore, Common Security (see page 4) gives credence to Article 51 in that it recognises that the right of self-defence is part of the national defence system. But in regard to rest of Article 51, it would appear that collective self-defence should be replaced with Common Security, because it obliges the UNSC to place a greater emphasis on conflict resolution and international law. While reserving military force as a last resort (when all other methods fail) to restore peace and then, such use of force must be in accordance with international law.

#### 3) Differentiating between Defensive and Offensive Weapons

Israel has over-exercised its right to self-defence (in response to an attack by Hamas on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2023) to become an offensive attack of civilians. Despite its licensing restrictions to sell arms only for use within international humanitarian law, the British Government refused to stop selling arms to Israel pending a review delayed by the legal difficulty in distinguishing between offensive and defensive weapons<sup>9</sup>. This universal difficulty prevents the arms trade from being regulated according to international humanitarian law. However, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, the British Government did suspend 30 of its 350 arms export licences to Israel.

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<sup>7</sup> The P5 are the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, the Peoples Republic of China (since 1971) and the Russia Federation (since 1991)

<sup>8</sup> Article 51 "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 measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take any such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."

<sup>9</sup> Source: Israel perpetrating war crimes in plain sight in Gaza says Mark Smith, former counter-terrorism official at the British Embassy in Dublin 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.

The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com > world > article > aug > i...>

## TWO-PART POLICY FOR RE-MAKING NATIONAL DEFENCE SYSTEMS

### A) Amending Article 51 to Clarify a Nation's 'Right to Self-Defence'

By application of Article 109 (see footnote 6, page 6) amend parts of Article 51<sup>8</sup> as follows:

“Nothing in the present Charter shall impair a UN Member State's inherent right of self-defence and human security and well-being if an armed attack occurs... until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and human security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council to take any such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and human security, in keeping with the terms of the Charter.”

### B) Revising National Defence Policy in-keeping with the Ethics and Legality of Warfare

Although it guards the sovereign equality of the state, the UN Charter prohibits the use of force that would be inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Therefore, all UN Member States shall revise their national defence systems as follows:

- 1) Convert their aggressive policies into defence policies with only the capability required for exercising the right to self-defence according to the amended Article 51 of the UN Charter. This would preclude the hire and deployment of non-state military groups.
- 2) Accept that in addition to actual or threatened armed conflict, warfare includes sanctions, cyber warfare and the weaponisation of technical, financial and economic systems.
- 3) No nation shall sell or donate arms or other means of warfare, to nations engaged in war, and nor shall they initiate or enter foreign war zones either as combatants or by proxy.
- 4) Many weapons can be used for either defence or offense. Therefore, the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council shall convene an international conference to differentiate between defensive and offensive weapons, by defining exactly how and when weapons may be used in defence. The resultant Declaration should clarify what and how weapons are to be used in the exercise of the right of self-defence as described in Article 51, as amended in 'A' above. Further, the arms trade and warfare would be restricted to trading in, and the using of, only defensive weapons.
- 5) No nation shall trade in, or make donations of, weapons deemed offensive by the UNSC/UNGA Declaration on the Differentiation of Defensive and Offensive weapons.
- 6) Nuclear weapons pose such a grave humanitarian threat that they cannot ethically ever be used. Furthermore, the practicalities of deploying nuclear weapons make them to be expensive useless weapons, especially as it had been well-demonstrated over the last 60 years, nuclear weapons are also useless as a deterrent to warfare.
- 7) All nine nuclear states shall abandon their plans to increase their nuclear arsenal and return to the reduction of the same, in active and continuous compliance with the 1968 Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- 8) All nations shall work towards the final abolition of nuclear weapons by signing and ratifying the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> The U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

After a decade of advocacy by International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and its partners, on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017, a majority of the world's nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons. The official document is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It entered into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021. To date (September. 2024): of the 94 countries who have signed it, 73 have ratified this Treaty. (Source: [Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor https://banmonitor.org/tpnw-status](https://banmonitor.org/tpnw-status))

## SECTION THREE: COMMON SECURITY and INTERNATIONAL PEACE

### RATIONALE

It's already been shown that the exercise of the right to self-defence can quickly become an offensive attack, while the right to collective self-defence does not really make sense.

Large international military alliances like NATO, consider themselves to be compliant with the right to 'collective self-defence' even when nuclear armed and acting in an offensive, threatening manner. Such thinking overlooks how the UN Member States have modified the context of Article 51. At the 2005 UN World summit, the Member States proclaimed a more accurate and appropriate term than 'collective self-defence', as is shown underlined in the following quote taken from the Summit's Outcome Document.

*"We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognise that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing."*

(Source: UN General Assembly, 2005, World Summit Outcome Document A/60/L.1)

In regard to the pragmatics of this conceptual thinking, UNA-UK has reported that the most cost-effective form of collective security is UN Peacekeeping<sup>11</sup>, which the Department of Peace Operations describes as follows:

*"UN Peacekeeping is the largest and most visible representation of the United Nations. It is a collective investment in global peace, security, and stability.....Peacekeepers protect civilians, actively prevent conflict, reduce violence, strengthen security and empower national authorities to assume these responsibilities. This requires a coherent security and peacebuilding strategy that supports the political strategy. UN peacekeeping helps host countries to become more resilient to conflict, laying the groundwork to sustain long-term peace, including by addressing root causes of conflicts."*<sup>12</sup>

However, despite its considerable progress since 1992, the news media only reports failures in UN Peacekeeping. This contributes to why it is so badly funded by the UN Member States.

### **Total Global Military Spending versus the Annual UN Peacekeeping Budget**

Each April, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) publishes its annual report on total global military expenditure. In 2023/24 the annual total global military expenditure reached US\$2443 billion<sup>13</sup>, which is an all-time record high.

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024, the UN General Assembly approved the UN Peacekeeping budget for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> June 2025 to be US\$5.6 billion<sup>14</sup>, which is an all-time record low.

Furthermore, the current UN Peacekeeping annual budget of US\$ 5.6 billion is 0.23 per cent of the current annual total global military expenditure of US\$2,243 billion.

The comparative statistics of total global military spending versus the annual UN Peacekeeping budget, indicate what the world values most (!)

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<sup>11</sup> UN Briefings: Peacekeeping: published by the UNA-UK on 22 May 2017  
[UN briefings: peacekeeping | UNA-UK](#)

<sup>12</sup> What we do - United Nations Peacekeeping <https://peacekeeping.un.org> › [what-we-do](#)

<sup>13</sup> Stockholm International Peace Research Institute  
<https://www.sipri.org> › [media](#) › [press-release](#) › [global-mi...](#)

<sup>14</sup> UN Press <https://press.un.org> › [gaab4463.doc.htm](#)

## FOUR-PART POLICY FOR SECURING INTERNATIONAL PEACE

### A) Amending UN Charter Articles 2 & 33 to Ensure Human Security is Maintained

(Both Articles are quoted in full in footnote 15 below)

By application of Article 109 (see footnote 6, page 6) replace 'security' with 'human security'

Article 2: "3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and human security, and justice, are not endangered."

Article 33: "1. The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and human security,...."

### B) Ensuring UNSC deals with Peace Issues in Accordance with the UN Charter

The UN website describes the considerations and procedures for how the Security Council may deal with a threat to international peace according to the UN Charter where, in addition to Article 51, Articles 2 & 33<sup>15</sup> are the most relevant.

The procedures should begin by first exploring ways to settle the dispute peacefully, which includes the following steps:

- Discuss with the parties involved how to get a peaceful settlement
- Appoint special representatives
- Ask the Secretary-General to use his good offices to undertake investigations and mediation procedures.
- The Council may use non-military means that it has developed and refined such as arms embargoes, travel bans, and restrictions to guard against the exploitation of natural resources to fuel conflicts
- In the event that a dispute has erupted into armed conflict, the Council tries to secure a ceasefire. It may send a peacekeeping mission to help the parties maintain the truce and to keep opposing forces apart until a political and peaceful solution has been secured.

#### ***If all this fails, then ....***

- The Council may, in some cases, authorise the utilisation of military force by a coalition of member states or by a regional organisation or arrangement. This can only be carried out as a last resort when all possible peaceful means of settling a dispute have been exhausted, or after a threat to the peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression have been determined to exist.

Finally, in order to hold combatants accountable for their actions, the Council may also create international tribunals to prosecute those accused of grave human rights violations and serious breaches of international humanitarian law, including genocide.

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<sup>15</sup> Article 2 the relevant principles: 1. The Organisation is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members. 2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter. 3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered. 4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

Article 33 1. The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice. 2. The Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their dispute by such means.

### **C) Replace International Military Alliances with Regional Peace Alliances**

It is duly noted from the above that when UNSC fails to resolve wars by peaceful means, it may, as a last resort, authorise the utilisation of military force by a “coalition of member states or by regional organisation or arrangements”. However, it is also noted that the UNSC cannot mandate the use of military force according to the national interests of the P5 or any other Member of the Council. Such mandates must be written and implemented within the bounds of UN Charter and associated international law, which requires understanding of the difference between ‘Community Security and Collective Security’.

#### **Common Security versus Collective Security (see page 4)**

In order to avoid confusion and their misuse, in its Briefing on Common Security (see Ref. ii) UN Fold Zero has differentiated between these two terms in the following quotes.

##### ***Collective Security***

“Collective Security involves a group of nations cooperating to ensure security of all members of that group. NATO is an example of a collective security organization with a focus primarily on military defence. The European Union is a collective security organization which focuses primarily on economic, environmental and human security within the EU. Collective security organizations can contribute to common security in their relations with those outside the group, and are encouraged to do so. But they are primarily concerned with the members of their group, which often places them in competitive and adversarial relations with those outside the group.”

##### ***Common Security***

“Common Security is an approach to achieving national, regional and international security by taking into account the security needs of other nations, including one’s adversaries, as well as one’s own security needs. It is based on the assumption that sustainable security cannot be obtained by undermining or threatening the security of others, but rather on resolving conflicts with one’s adversaries and ensuring the security of all is upheld. Common Security relies on diplomacy, negotiation, mediation and other forms of conflict resolution, as well as on the application of international law, to ensure peace, fairness and security for all.”

#### **The Right to Self-Defence and Regional Arrangements for Restoring Peace**

In addition to preserving the right to self-defence, the UN’s founding Member States provided for geographical regions to make their own arrangements for maintaining peace. The relevant Articles are 52 & 54 in Chapter VIII ‘Regional Arrangements’ as quoted in footnote<sup>16</sup> below.

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##### <sup>16</sup> Article 52

1. Nothing in the present Charter precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.
2. The Members of the United Nations entering into such arrangements or constituting such agencies shall make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies before referring them to the Security Council.
3. The Security Council shall encourage the development of pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies either on the initiative of the states concerned or by reference from the Security Council.

##### Article 54

The Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In summary, Articles 52 & 54 permits Member States to form their own regional organisations to negotiate pacific settlements for disputes occurring in their own region, while keeping the UNSC fully informed of their activities.

This means that groups of allied nations that have formed military alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are incompatible with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. In addition to not being regional, such military alliances usually fail to understand how to achieve pacific settlements for disputes, and/or how to make appropriate regional arrangements for maintaining peace & security consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN.

Therefore, this Policy advocates that international military alliances such as NATO be replaced with Regional Peace Alliances as described below.

### **Regional Peace Alliances (RPA)**

1. To operate according to Common Security rather than Collective Security as described on page 11 above.
2. Unlike NATO and some other military alliances, RPAs shall only consist of Member States in the same geographical region. While it would be expedient to use the same regions as the UN Peace Building Commission (see footnote 21, page 15, Section Four), which are Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, individual RPAs should also have the option to determine the limits and boundaries of their own regional area. Also, where regions have many countries, they may form smaller RPAs within the same geographical area and relate to the same regional PBC office.
3. In consultation and collaboration with UN Integrated Training Service each RPA should set up a facility for training personnel in peacekeeping and peace building. The personnel should be drawn from each of the RPA's member state's national military defence & police systems and also from civilian institutions specialising in peacekeeping/building operations. This would then create a standing regional peacekeeping/building unit able to respond rapidly to UN Security Council calls for military, police and civilian personnel to serve in international UN Peacekeeping Missions.

### **D) 'Swords into Ploughshares' Conversion**

As a reminder from a more detailed account given on page 3, in 1959, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presented a sculpture depicting a man beating his sword into a ploughshare to the United Nations. Inspired by the prophet Isaiah (Holy Bible Isaiah 2:4), people of all faiths or religion – or none at all – perceive the 'Swords into Ploughshares' sculpture as a symbol of human desire to put an end to war. Pragmatically, this can be done by converting the means of destruction into creative tools for the benefit of humankind.

Presently, the total global military spending is at an all-time high, while the annual UN Peacekeeping budget is at all-time low. This presents an opportunity for a 'Swords into Ploughshares' conversion.

If the UN member states comply with the Policy for National Defence (part two) this will greatly reduce the total global military expenditure. A major part of the released money and resources could then be transferred to the UN Secretary-General to increase the funding and resources to up-grade and expand the work of the various UN departments and programmes designed to prevent war and promote peace, such as:

- a) Department of Peace Operations
- b) The Peace Building Commission
- c) The Disarmament Programme
- d) Diplomatic services

## SECTION FOUR: Re-ENABLING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

### RATIONALE

The P5 are heavily involved in a world-wide re-arming exercise for what the news media has deemed to be a “new pre-war period”<sup>17</sup>. This renders the UN Security Council even more dysfunctional, which calls for its functional re-enablement rather than structural reform.

### UN Security Council (UNSC)

Under the terms of the UN Charter, the General Assembly (UNGA) appointed the 5 main victors of the Second World War as the 5 permanent members of the UNSC each with a veto vote. The P5 – as they are known - are the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the United States of America; the French Republic; the Republic of China, replaced by the Peoples Republic of China in 1971; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, replaced by the Russian Federation in 1991. In 1965, the number of non-permanent Member States was extended from 6 to 10. However, this made little difference, as the disunity between the P5 continued to inhibit the proper function of the UNSC until the end of the Cold War in 1991.

### The Hope of the New Millennium

When the Cold War ended, a new dawn was heralded for the United Nations, especially in regard to peace. And indeed, it did appear as if the UN would at last to come into its own. At the UN World Summit in 2000, all the UN Member States (189 at the time) signed up to the Millennium Declaration. This provided a renewed international framework to ensure that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century would not repeat the tragic mistakes of the last one. But by 2024, the ‘Hope of the New Millennium’ had long become but a distant dream as each decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century had begun with intense and terrible warfare.

2001 9/11 & Afghanistan and 2003 Iraq. Despite the UNGA’s and the UNSC’s timely and appropriate attempts to deal with these crises by legal and peaceful means, the US, supported by the UK, led a coalition of the willing to conduct illegal warfare in those countries.

2011 The violent side of the Arab Spring, the wars in North Africa and the Middle East were exacerbated by the P5 taking part as combatants (actual or by proxy) on opposite sides.

2022 The War in Ukraine that, after 2 years & 8 months, is looking like a war of attrition

2023 On 7<sup>th</sup> October, the Israel/Gaza war caused a tragic flare-up of the Israel/Palestinian war that began in 1948, which is spreading to other countries in the Middle East.

It has now become absolutely imperative to address the hitherto intractable problem of the dysfunctional UNSC. This requires the adoption of the new collaborative<sup>18</sup> and carefrontational<sup>19</sup> approach to negotiating changes in the UNSC to enable it to resolve wars and restore International Peace as defined on page 6 in Section One.

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<sup>17</sup> By this, they mean the post-war peace period (so called because, notwithstanding the frequent outbreak of wars worldwide, a third world war has been avoided) is now over. A new pre-war period (so called because, notwithstanding the existence of the United Nations, many nations, in accepting war as inevitable, are preparing for continued worldwide warfare) has just begun.

<sup>18</sup> Collaborating Style is a combination of being assertive and cooperative, those who collaborate attempt to work with others to identify a solution that fully satisfies everyone’s concerns.

Source: [What's Your Conflict Management Style? | Walden University](#)  
[Walden University https://www.waldenu.edu](https://www.waldenu.edu) > ... > [Walden News](#)

<sup>19</sup> Carefrontation is a positive confrontation where all parties genuinely care about one another and are aiming to work toward mutually beneficial resolutions

Source: [The Art of "Carefrontation" & Other Learnings from the 1st Best ...](#)  
[LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com) > pulse > [art-carefrontation-ot...](#)

## **POLICY for Re-ENABLING THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL**

Contrary to some other agencies, we believe that neither the UNSC nor the P5 should be replaced at this time. Such reforms would not automatically improve the UN's capability to fulfil its prime responsibility, because there is no guarantee that the replacements would be any the less dysfunctional. Also, it would take years to execute the structural reorganisation during which time, the wars and all the other global problems, would become a whole lot worse. Therefore, we are advocating re-enablement rather than structural reform. Which requires an evolutionary rather than revolutionary approach to executing functional changes within the existing international law and structural framework and with the same P5.

### **Steps to be taken for the Re-Enablement of the UN Security Council**

The rationale in this Peace Policy Strategy indicate that in order to re-enable the UNSC to function as intended by the UN Charter, the following steps shall be taken:

- 1) The P5 and all UN Member States should abandon the 'allies & enemies mentality'. Instead of dividing nations into allies and enemies, all member states should unite on equal terms in their common interest of promoting international friendly relations in accordance with Purposes and Principles of the UN.
- 2) The abandonment of the 'allies & enemies' mentality should assist the P5 in complying with the UN General Assembly's Resolution A/RES/76/262. In which it was decided that within 10 days of one or more of the P5 casting a veto vote, the General Assembly would debate the situation with a view to holding P5 to account for the use of the veto. Towards this end, the UNSC would be invited to submit a report of the use of the veto in question to the General Assembly 72 hours before the relevant debate<sup>20</sup>.
- 3) In order facilitate working together, the P5 shall undertake to:
  - a) Bring an end to cold wars and the practice of cold-war-politics in international relations
  - b) Recognise that in addition to armed conflict, other types of warfare include cyber and/or sanctions warfare, and the weaponisation of financial and economic systems
  - c) Recognise that all types of warfare harm civilians and/or their institutions, infrastructure and natural environment. This is a violation of the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
  - d) Excepting the exercise of the 'right to self-defence' of their own nation, the UNSC shall refrain from participating in all types of warfare - either actually or by proxy – so as to avoid taking sides when dealing with disputes between other nations.
- 4) As part of exploring peaceful means, the UNSC shall make better and more frequent use of the Responsibility to Protect<sup>iii</sup>, the UN Mediation Services, the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for resolving threats of, or actual outbreaks of, war. While referral to these UN bodies does not preclude taking other measures such as securing a cease fire and deploying a UN Peacekeeping Mission, it should preclude recourse to the use military force, even as a last resort.

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<sup>20</sup> UN General Assembly's (UNGA) Resolution A/RES/76/262 adopted on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022, during the Assembly's Seventy-sixth Session Agenda item 124 Strengthening of the United Nations System. The UNGA holds annual meetings to strengthen the UN System, which focus on reform of the UNSC, especially in regard to the behaviour of the P5 (including use of the veto vote) that inhibits the UNSC from fulfilling its prime responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

- 5) The UN Security Council shall use its legally binding authority to the jurisdiction of the ICJ. For example, if a member state considers the other side has not fulfilled the obligations incumbent upon it, the UNSC shall ensure enforcement of ICJ's judgment.
- 6) Notwithstanding, that some UN member states (mostly African ones) voted against war prevention being part of the UN Peace Building Commission's ((PBC) remit<sup>21</sup>, The UNSC shall allow the PBC to take part in its meetings to deal with war prevention and for preparing to secure a ceasefire and to deploy a UN Peacekeeping Force. This should then be followed with a customised UN Peacekeeping/building Mission linked to, and supported by, the nearest country PBC office that the UNSC has established in the regions of: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.
- 7) In cases when the P5 renders the UNSC unable to resolve threats of, or actual outbreaks of, war, the UNSC should refer the case – as it did with the outbreak of the War in Ukraine on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022 - to the UN General Assembly under the 'Uniting for Peace Mechanism'<sup>22</sup>. Such referrals shall be accompanied with the UNSC's Chapter VII authority, which makes its resolutions legally binding on all the UN Member States.

### **A New Format to support the Re-Enablement of the UN Security Council**

- 8) The UNSC shall permit the creation of a **New Format** to assist the fulfilment of its prime responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, described as follows:

#### **Setting up a High Level Panel**

In long protracted and complicated wars such as the two Koreas, Israel/Palestine and in wars where the P5 are involved as combatants on opposite sides, such as the War in Ukraine, the UNSC shall temporarily step down and direct the UN Secretary-General to set up a High Level Panel (HLP) for the Restoration of Peace (RoP).

#### **Purpose and Function of the HLP/RoP**

The purpose of the HLP/RoP is to undertake an in-depth review of the case in question. This should include a thorough investigation of the views, concerns, grievances, position and situation of all nations and parties involved in the war. So as to identify common ground, points of negotiation and opportunities, for a fair and just compromise.

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<sup>21</sup> In accordance with the outcome document of the 2005 UN World Summit, the General Assembly and the Security Council established the Peace Building Commission. This is an intergovernmental advisory body of the UN to support peace efforts in countries emerging from armed conflict.

[Source: Peacebuilding Commission | United Nations Security Council](#)

[Welcome to the United Nations https://www.un.org › securitycouncil › content › repertoire](https://www.un.org › securitycouncil › content › repertoire)

<sup>22</sup> “Uniting for Peace” mechanism stems from the General Assembly Resolution (377(v)) ‘Uniting for Peace’ 3rd November 1950, which states:

“If the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to Members for collective measures, including in the case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain or restore international peace and security. If not in session at the time, the General Assembly shall therefore meet in emergency special session within twenty-four hours of the request. Such emergency special session may be called if requested by the Security Council on the vote of any seven members (nine since 1965) or by a majority of the Members of the United Nations.”

[Uniting for Peace General Assembly resolution 377 \(V\)](#)

[United Nations https://legal.un.org › avl › ufp › ufp](https://legal.un.org › avl › ufp › ufp)

The in-depth review should be done in collaboration with:

- The UN Mediation Services
- The UN Permanent Court of Arbitration
- The UN International Court of Justice
- The UN Peace Building Commission
- The Law not War Campaign<sup>iv</sup>
- The World Federation of United Nations Association and organised civil society
- The relevant non-government organisations with consultative status with the UN
- Local civilian peace organisations without consultative status with the UN
- Local and regional inter-government organisations

The HLP's Report should offer 2 - 4 options for proceeding to a final resolution of the war leading to a lasting sustainable peace. The options should then form the basis of the agenda of a subsequent international peace conference convened by the UN Security Council.

## CONCLUSION

In 1945, when Nye Bevan (the Minister for Health in the Atlee Labour Government) was struggling to get the NHS Bill through Parliament, someone asked "How long do you think this National Health Service will last?" And he replied, "As long as people have faith in it."

In 1945, no one asked how long the United Nations would last or spoke of it needing faith. It was taken for granted that the UN would last as a better planned replacement for the League of Nations. And especially because, the opening line to the Preamble to the UN Charter ....

***"We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."***

..... implies that people would have enduring faith in the UN.

Notwithstanding its current dire state, the NHS has lasted because people have retained their faith in it. At the same time, the equally dire state of the UN is aggravated by "*We the Peoples...*" seemingly having lost faith in it.

Therefore, we should recognise that civil society has to accept some of the responsibility for the current state of a world at war. Also, although it is failing largely by its own malfunction, we must realise that the P5 has an extraordinary difficult job to do. And so instead of censure, we in the UNA should educate ourselves and the public on how to take a more impartial, empathic and charitable approach to supporting and guiding our governments on how they should represent us at the UN. This especially applies to the peoples of the nations of the P5.

Furthermore, the two UN World Summits of 2000 and 2005 put in place the ideological, conceptual and pragmatic means for the renewal of the United Nations as it was founded to be in 1945. And with that came renewed faith, hope and trust in the soundness and the enduring relevance of the UN Charter.

This emphatically means that we cannot allow the original P5 to fail absolutely.

And we can prevent this, if we hold our nerve and accept our responsibility as "*We the Peoples of the United Nations .....*" Then we can become better organised to work with the UN General Assembly to make good on the 1945 assumption that the five victors of the Second World War would go on to win the World Peace. And in so doing, we will enable the P5 and the UN Security Council to at last succeed in achieving the peace as envisaged in the UN Charter.

## APPENDIX



# The Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations



***We the Peoples of the United Nations,***

***Determined***

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

***And for these ends***

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

***Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims***

**Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representations assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organisation to be known as the United Nations.**

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<sup>ii</sup> UN FOLD ZERO: Briefing on Common Security

[Common Security – UNFOLD ZERO](#) [www.unfoldzero.org/common-security](http://www.unfoldzero.org/common-security)

<sup>iii</sup> Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Chair of UNA-UK, *Responsibility to Protect*, presentation to the UNA London & Southeast Region's Spring Council Meeting, 26 April 2012

At the 2005 UN World Summit, the UN Member States unanimously accepted their collective responsibility to protect civilians from the full range of crimes against humanity. The subsequent amended Millennium Declaration formally described the 'Responsibility to Protect' as where the international community is:

***"... prepared to take collective action, in a timely manner and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity."***

It is clear that in the first instance, the 'Responsibility to Protect' is laid upon each individual state to protect its own population from crimes against humanity. It is only in situations where the state will not, or cannot, do this - or indeed is itself the perpetrator of such crimes - that the international community through the United Nations will step in and accept the responsibility to protect.

<sup>iv</sup> The UN Secretary-General opens a debate organised by the Law not War Campaign for the UN Member States. **Antonio Guterres**, UN Secretary-General. Remarks to the [UN Security Council Thematic Debate on the Rule of Law amongst Nations](#), January 12, 2023