

UNA London and South East Region

Policy resolutions adopted in March 2025

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The resolutions which follow were the result of inviting all UNA members, branches & supporters in the London and South East Region to submit resolutions, and the Region's Policy Committee reviewing existing resolutions and considering other urgent topics.

Members and supporters were then offered an opportunity to submit amendments to those resolutions before debating and agreeing upon them at our annual policy conference attended by 40+ members and supporters in person or on-line on March 15th 2025. Three resolutions were referred back for further work and subsequently approved by the Regional Executive on March 30th 2025.

1. Accountability for the use of the UN Security Council Veto

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Believing that if an emergency session of the General Assembly under Resolution 377A*¹ concludes that a veto was deployed unlawfully, this would constitute evidence that the Security Council has failed to exercise its responsibility under Article 24 of the Charter to maintain international peace and security,
- b. Further believing that any consequent General Assembly resolution calling for collective action, including the use of armed force, should therefore be considered legally binding as if it was a Security Council resolution under Article 25 of the UN Charter,

Calls on the UN General Assembly:

To build upon the Assembly's commitment in *Pact for the Future* to develop a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order, including reform of the Security Council, by passing a resolution mandating that, whenever a debate is called under Resolution 76/262*² following deployment of a veto, the elected members of the Security Council should call an emergency session of the General Assembly under Resolution 377A*¹ and present a report which:

- i) Assesses compliance of the veto with international law;
- ii) Recommends action, including collective action, to maintain international peace and security.

Agreed 15th March 2025

(* See [Supplementary Information](#))

2. Climate

UNA London and 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 2024 was the hottest year on record and that several irreversible tipping points may occur between 1.5 and 2 degrees Centigrade,
- c. Noting that the worst climate effects are felt in developing countries, who have historically been the least responsible for their 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,
- e. Welcoming the UK Government's new tougher Nationally Determined Contribution of an 81% reduction in emissions by 2035,

Calls on all governments at COP 30:

1. To focus on 2030 targets and actions to "keep 1.5 degrees alive";
2. To ensure that the 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 biodiversity, climate, communities and wildlife;
4. To ensure calculations don't overlook substantial emissions, such as military emissions;

Calls on the UK government:

5. To publish plans to reduce (cf 1990 emission) by 68% in 2030, and 81% 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, without reducing other ODA spending or increasing the debt of the poorest countries;
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 make progress on adaptation planning, given that the latest National Adaptation Programme (NAP) published in 2023 is an improvement on its predecessors, but that an Independent Assessment of the Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) indicates that delivery of adaptation is still fundamentally limited by issues of governance, investments, and lack of a monitoring framework;

9. Clearly set out the processes to coordinate the new UK-led Global Clean Power Alliance, including how it will complement other multilateral and industry coalitions also working on fossil fuel reduction and clean energy;
10. To ban new fossil fuel licences and investments.

Agreed 9th March 2024 to replace previous resolutions on the topic
and amended 15th March 2025

3. **Cybersecurity & Cybercrime**

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting that UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in introducing his priorities for 2020 to the General Assembly on 22 January 2020, referred to the dark side of the digital world and to the work of the two UN ongoing initiatives, the Open-Ended Working Group on information and telecommunications in the context of security (OEWG), and the Group of Government Experts on advancing responsible behaviour in cyberspace and within the General Assembly (GGE),
- b. Fearing that the coexistence of the OEWG and the GGE points to rival ideologies more than to a concerted effort to reach an agreement to benefit all UN Member States, large and small,
- c. Welcoming recent initiatives by forty states to end ‘dual track discussions’ and establish a permanent UN forum to consider the use of ICTs by States in the context of international security,
- d. Welcoming the adoption of the UN Convention against Cybercrime by the UN General Assembly agreement on 24 December 2024, the first comprehensive global treaty on this matter, which provides States with a range of measures to be undertaken to prevent and combat cybercrime,
- e. Noting the publication of the UN’s AI Advisory Body report, *Governing AI for Humanity*, in September 2024,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To support the proposed Permanent UN Forum and the Convention against Cybercrime;
2. To further promote the 11 norms in the UN Framework of Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace, helping to embed these as rules of the road and in supporting partners across all continents to be better able to implement both the norms and the Convention;
3. To take a stance in UN-led negotiations which primarily seeks to protect the victims of aggressive cyber-attacks;
4. To promote dissemination of the tools and means within the Convention against Cybercrime to strengthen international cooperation in preventing and combating cybercrime, protecting people and their rights online;
5. To support an AI capacity development network to link up a set of collaborating, United Nations-affiliated capacity development centres making available expertise, computer and AI training data to key actors;
6. To provide effective assistance to all Commonwealth Nations implementing national cybersecurity capacity reviews in order to become more cyber secure.

Agreed May 16th 2020 and amended 23rd April 2022 & 15th March 2025

4. **Israel/Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration**

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting the 1917 Balfour Declaration for the future of pre-1948 Palestine to be a shared Jewish and Arab homeland under a “dual obligation” involving:
 - i) the establishment within Palestine of a national home for Jewish people,
 - ii) nothing to be done to prejudice the civil and religious rights of non-Jewish communities in Palestine,
- b. Noting the dual obligation’s failure as the land now remaining to Palestinians has dwindled to less than 22 per cent of pre-1948 Palestine including more than 750,000 settlers in illegal settlements,
- c. Denouncing the discriminatory regime codified by Israel’s Nation-State law,

Calls on the UK Government:

1. To meet its obligations under the 2024 International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on Israel's occupation of Palestinian Territory and to work with other states to secure the end of occupation, settlement activity and annexation by Israel of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) as defined by the cease-fire 'Green Line' of 1967 by September 2025 as called for by the UN General Assembly in September 2024;
2. To work with France as fellow permanent members of the Security Council to immediately recognise Palestine as a full UN member state based on the 1967 'Green Line' borders, as a contribution towards advancing the negotiations;
3. To require the Israeli government to give Palestinians now living in Israel the same rights as their Jewish neighbours, and to fulfil its duties – according to ICJ, UNGA and international law as an occupying power – for those Palestinians living in the OPT by respecting their fundamental rights, as a first step towards a viable resolution of the conflict either through the establishment of a two states solution or through a single democratic state, based on the equality of individuals, regardless of religious, ethnic, or national backgrounds;
4. To oppose comprehensively any attempt by Israel, USA or private individuals: to remove Palestinians from Israel or the OPT; to relocate Palestinians within Israel or the OPT; or to confiscate or annex their land or property;
5. To encourage the referral of any further legal aspects of proposed solutions to international bodies including the ICJ and to urge the implementation of its decisions.

First agreed 26th May 2018 and amended May 16th 2020, 27th February 2021,
23rd April 2022, 9th March 2024 & 15th March 2025

5. Israel/Palestine latest developments

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Concerned about Israel's:
 - i) Violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in its treatment of humanitarian workers, journalists, UN staff and residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT),
 - ii) Ill treatment (including administrative detention and torture) of Palestinians throughout Israel and the OPT,
 - iii) Forcible displacement of thousands of Palestinian refugees across the OPT,
- b. Concerned about the use of the US veto to prevent the Security Council from addressing Israel's illegal actions in the OPT,
- c. Concerned about the harmful treatment and continued detention of Israeli hostages,
- d. Welcoming the UK government's support of UN General Assembly Resolution A/ES-10/L.33, requiring that Israel comply with international law concerning persons they detain, including releasing all those arbitrarily detained,
- e. Welcoming the joint statement by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, Italy and the UK in support of the Arab Plan for the Reconstruction of Gaza,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To call on all parties to renounce the use of violence as a means of resolving the conflict and to renounce any current or previous commitments to the destruction of other parties;
2. To require Israel to comply with its responsibilities as an Occupying Power, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and the International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s rulings, including:
 - i) providing access to sufficient nutritious food, clean water and sanitation, energy, shelter, education, health and medical care (including vaccines and medicines);
 - ii) protecting healthcare facilities, humanitarian workers and journalists;
3. To oppose proposals involving the forced removal of Palestinians from Gaza by Israel, the USA or others or the confiscation or annexation of their land or property;
4. To continue to work with governments across the region, Europe and globally to develop and create momentum behind the Arab League Gaza plan and a future that respects the rights of the Palestinian people and guarantees the safety and security of all those living in the area;
5. To seek solutions within the framework of international law, including by endorsing and implementing ICJ Advisory Opinions and Rulings and supporting the ICC Chief Prosecutor – the UK nominee for the post – who has been sanctioned by the US;

6. To call on Israel to allow full access for UN system staff and special rapporteurs, respect all UN resolutions, Geneva Conventions, International Court of Justice (ICJ) and International Criminal Court (ICC) decisions, including those relating to the Genocide Convention, and to remove restrictions on UNRWA supporting Palestinians' humanitarian needs;
7. To immediately cease all trading with illegal settlements and to cease military support to Israel until they comply with their international obligations and humanitarian law and end the collective punish of innocent civilians;
8. In drawing the line between free speech and antisemitism in the UK in relation to criticism of the actions of the Israeli government or advocacy for Palestinian rights, to use the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism as a tool to interpret the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition or as a replacement for it.

Agreed on 15th March 2025 to replace a previous resolution
on collective punishment in the OPT

6. Nuclear weapons

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. 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 the production, testing, use, threat of use, and assisting other groups in such actions,
- b. Reiterating its congratulations to 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 (NPT) – 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,
- e. Noting that the annual in-service costs of running the four Vanguard submarines housing Trident are more than £3 billion per year,
- f. Noting that a programme is underway to replace, by the early 2030s, the Vanguard submarines by Dreadnought, costing £31 billion,
- g. Noting that overall expenditure on the nuclear programme over the next 10 years is forecast at £117.8 billion,
- h. Noting that disarmament and non-proliferation are both important aspects of the NPT,
- i. Noting the declaration by the P5 in January 2022 that a Nuclear War cannot be won and must never be fought,
- j. Noting that former NATO Secretary General Lord George Robertson is leading the government's defence review, which is expected to be published in the Spring of 2025,

Urges the UK government:

1. To reconsider the parameter for the defence review which maintains a “total commitment to the UK's nuclear deterrent” and include at least pathways to reduce and phase out nuclear weapons to be offered in international negotiations;
2. To constructively participate in future UN-led meetings to take both the TPNW and NPT Treaties forward;
3. To give full support to the TPNW treaty: to sign and then ratify as soon as possible;
4. To cancel the current Trident replacement contracts and publicly reactivate its commitment to the NPT;
5. 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, 9th March 2024 & 15th March 2025

7. Our world after the pandemic

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Aware that the risk of another pandemic is high,
- b. Mindful that WHO reported 14.9 million excess deaths associated with COVID-19 between January 2020 and December 2021,
- c. Aware that 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' prioritization of national action over a co-ordinated international response,
- e. Regretting that the EU and UK delayed waiving COVID-19 patents forcing other nations to develop their own vaccines,
- f. Conscious that the WHO's mandate is to inform, rather than direct, global health policy,
- g. Recalling world leaders' decisions in September 2023 which included setting up a Pandemic Fund, and WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Tolerance,
- h. Aware that the draft WHO Pandemic Treaty was criticised by NGOs for not compromising on the use of patents for diagnostics and therapies, and, in particular, that USA raised concerns on sovereignty and vaccines before withdrawing,

Calls on the UN:

1. To encourage input from civil society and relevant NGO stakeholders towards the final pandemic agreement;
2. To encourage Member States to increase their contributions to WHO to enable it to fulfil its mandate, in particular in 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 urge the IMF to ensure equitable funding between rich and poor countries in relation to pandemic expenditures in future;
5. To urge Member States to prioritise support for the World Bank pandemic fund given that the USA has provided 35% of the funds thus far;
6. To encourage Member States to:
 - i) ensure access to vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for all;
 - ii) strengthen national social and healthcare systems, especially in lower and middle income countries to withstand pandemics;
 - iii) conclude negotiations on the Pandemic Treaty by May 2025;
 - iv) identify pandemic control measures that better respect people's human rights;

Calls on the UK Government:

7. To fully support the endeavours of the Pandemic Treaty;
8. To ratify and implement the Pandemic Treaty, once agreed.

Agreed 9th March 2024 to replace a previous resolution and amended on 15th March 2025

8. Peaceful coexistence in the Middle East

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Acknowledging the potential for new beginnings provided by the change of government in Syria,
- b. Acknowledging the appointment of Lebanon's new Prime Minister and the significantly reduced influence of Hezbollah,
- c. Alarmed by Israel's bombings of Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Yemen, and the expanded occupation of parts of Syria and Lebanon, in spite of the presence of UN peacekeepers,
- d. Further alarmed by Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu's description of 'Israel's 7 battle fronts'*,
- e. Being aware of the apparent willingness of Iran, Saudi Arabia and the USA to negotiate and update the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), limiting Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief,
- f. Recognising the major security implications of the war in Gaza on shipping in the Red Sea and throughout the region,
- g. Being aware of the opportunity for regional peace offered by the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran,

- h. Welcoming the statement by Jordan's Foreign Minister at UNGA 2024 that all Arab states agree to live in peace with Israel, as long as Israel recognises Palestinian self-determination,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To support the peoples of Syria and Lebanon in determining their own future;
2. To help rebuild Syria and Lebanon, including by removing sanctions and increasing financial support;
3. To urge Israel to remove its forces from the OPT, Lebanon and Syria and to focus on working for peaceful resolutions of all their conflicts in the region;
4. To support negotiations with Iran aiming to renew or improve upon the JCPOA;
5. To support humanitarian relief in Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, including by increasing support for the work of UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and UNOCHA with displaced people throughout the region;
6. To work with governments across the region to resolve long-standing issues on a sustainable basis and to normalise relations with Israel on the basis of good neighbourly relations, international law and mutual security;
7. To develop a coherent UK- Middle East Strategy, taking account of the whole Middle East and the various conflicts and potential partners;

Calls on the United Nations Secretary-General:

8. To use all organs of the UN to work towards compliance with international law and respect for sovereign borders throughout the region.

Agreed 30th March 2025

(* See [Supplementary Information](#))

9. Protection of journalists

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Recalling Article 19 of UDHR which states that "Everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers",
- b. Recalling UN General Assembly Resolution 68/163, which proclaimed 2 November as International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists,
- c. Noting with regret the assault on, and decline of, democratic institutions around the world,
- d. Deeply concerned by the increase of attacks targeting journalists and that according to UNESCO and human rights NGOs:
 - i) since October 2023, over 145 journalists have been killed by the Israeli army,
 - ii) 550 journalists are currently imprisoned worldwide (a 7% increase from last year), and 55 journalists are held hostage,
- e. Deeply disturbed that this violence — often perpetrated by governments and armed groups - enjoys total impunity,

Urges the UK Government:

1. To exercise maximum pressure on perpetrating states:
 - i) To release all detained journalists and insist, where necessary, on a democratic and transparent legal process;
 - ii) To speedily provide information about the status and location of journalists held hostage and to ensure their release;
2. To encourage UN member states to honour their international human rights obligations, and to activate the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*;
3. To work with other nations towards universal implementation of UN SDG 16.

Agree 15th March 2025 to replace a previous resolution on the same topic

10. Protection of Minorities in India

UNA London and South-East Region:

- a. Reaffirming the principles of the UN Charter*¹, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, and Religious and Linguistic Minorities,
- b. Emphasising the constitutional*² responsibility of the Union and State governments of India to uphold religious freedom and secularism,
- c. Taking into account India's diversity of cultures shaped by millennia and which includes 200 million members of the Abrahamic and Zoroastrian faiths*³,
- d. Recalling the commitment of the National Commission of Minorities*⁴ to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Minorities*⁵,
- e. Reaffirming that religious discrimination violates human rights under the UDHR and India's Constitution,
- f. Noting with concern the UN Human Rights Council's 2024 report on discrimination and violence against minorities in India*⁶,
- g. Noting also with concern the 2024 US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) report on abuses against religious minorities and discriminatory state-level laws*⁷,

Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To endorse the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council calling on India to adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination, to raise awareness among the general public, and to provide training to civil servants, law enforcement officers, the judiciary and community leaders for the promotion of respect for diversity;

Calls on the UN Human Rights Council:

2. To ensure that the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues monitors India's progress in implementing the Human Rights Council recommendations on the situation of minorities in India and makes any necessary further recommendations to relevant UN bodies to ensure timely implementation of these recommendations.

Agreed 30th March 2025

(* See [Supplementary Information](#))

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

UNA London and South-East Region:

- a. Bearing in mind 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 Parliament's International Development Committee (IDC) stated in 2019 that 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 four years since the UK government presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) and little information is available about meaningful progress on the goals,
- f. Welcoming the government's commitment to reach net zero by 2050,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To consult and engage with actors such as civil society organisations, including youth organisations, ensuring a whole-of-society approach to implementing the SDGs;
2. To commit to preparing a second VNR soon;
3. Alongside the formal report, to publish an accessible report 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;
6. To support the use of guidance produced by the International Organization for Standardization in partnership with UNDP, ISO/UNDP PAS 53002, which provides a framework for organisations to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (<https://www.iso.org/standard/87945.html>).

Agreed May 16th 2020 and amended 23rd April 2022, 9th March 2024 & 15th March 2025

12. Sri Lanka

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting that it is 16 years since the end of the war in Sri Lanka,
- b. Welcoming the adoption by the UN Human Rights Council of resolution 46/1 in March 2021 which mandates the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to collect, analyse and preserve evidence of human rights violations in Sri Lanka, for use in future prosecutions,

Calls upon the UK government:

1. To help ensure that the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations have adequate support and that their independence is safeguarded;

Calls upon the UN:

2. To support a comprehensive accountability process for all violations and abuses of human rights committed in Sri Lanka by all parties;
3. To investigate the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

First agreed 25th November 2017, amended May 16th 2020,
27th February 2021 & 15th March 2025

13. Sudan

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Commending the UK government for its £113 million aid package and the proposed security council resolution S/2024/826 on the protection of civilians in Sudan which we support and regret was vetoed by the Russian Federation,
- b. Believing that the provision of weapons not only impedes access to aid, but prolongs the human suffering, in particular of women and children, caught in this often forgotten conflict,
- c. Believing further that humanitarian efforts must be given the highest profile by all actors,

Calls on the UK Government:

1. To continue diplomatic efforts at the Security Council on measures to protect civilians and bring the fighting to an end;

Calls on the UN:

2. To condemn international actors who provide weapons to the factions involved in this conflict;
3. To give the fullest support to UN Secretary General's personal envoy to Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, in his mission;
4. To conduct a joint strategic assessment with the African Union at pace to help re-establish a protection force to prevent further atrocities using mechanisms for co-operation between the UN and the African Union under SCR 2719.

Agreed 15th March 2025

14. Sustainability in mountain areas

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting that mountains provide freshwater for nearly half the global population,
- b. Further noting that the majority of people living in these spaces are subject to food insecurity,
- c. Recalling that the UN's Five Years of Action for Mountain Development, championed by Kyrgyzstan, calls for a focus on nature-based solutions, access to services, sustainable infrastructure and early warning systems for disasters; and for the empowerment of mountain communities and disadvantaged groups,

Calls upon the UK government:

1. To sponsor research focussing on solutions to the sustaining of livelihoods and into the effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity in the mountain and highland regions of the UK;
2. To join the UN's Mountain Partnership and support its work in furthering global understanding of sustainable livelihoods in mountain areas as part of achieving the SDGs, and also support the links between Mountains, Climate Change and Biodiversity as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity;
3. To encourage the use of nature-based solutions and local knowledge as the most effective means to tackle the deterioration of these important environments.

Agreed 15th March 2025

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

UNA London and 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 UNA London and South East Region (LASER) has joined the Europe-wide Campaign to Stop the Inhumanity on Europe's Borders, launched in London on 30 January 2024, and which has gathered wide support throughout Europe,
- d. Welcoming the government's abandonment of the Rwanda scheme and commitment to rapid consideration of claims for refugee status,

Urges the UK government:

1. To 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 EU Frontex force;
2. To return to providing NHS care to asylum seekers and refugees on the basis of need, rather than challenging their immigration status;
3. To establish more safe routes for asylum seekers from major areas of conflict or persecution.

Agreed 9th March 2024 to replace the previous resolution on the same topic
and amended 15th March 2025

16. Ukraine

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting that it is 3 years since Russia invaded Ukraine, in flagrant breach of international law, with attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure as well as perpetrating other international crimes and threats to European and global security and food supplies,
- b. Welcoming the UK government's determination to maintain support for Ukraine, including by creating a 'coalition of the willing' to provide peacekeeping forces to underpin any peace deal,
- c. Supporting consideration of a phased ceasefire, and the return of prisoners and children deported to Russia as confidence-building measures, creating the ground for peace negotiations,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To continue pressing the United States for security guarantees for Ukraine and for them to develop and use leverage with Russia to cease their aggression rather than simply cutting off support for Ukraine;
2. To continue economic pressure on Russia to cease their aggression, including further steps on frozen Russian assets;
3. To use our diplomatic capabilities in favour of proposals for a cessation of hostilities, building global cooperation around previous initiatives such as emphasizing the African focus on respecting sovereignty and security guarantees and the Chinese and Brazilian opposition to the use of nuclear weapons or attacks on nuclear facilities and civilian infrastructure or harm to global food security;
4. To encourage the use of the UN's negotiating capabilities and good offices at the earliest point (before or after a cession of hostilities) building on its work on the safety of nuclear power plants, the grain deal and prisoner exchanges;
5. To contribute to planning for the reconstruction of Ukraine after the war as well as the maintenance of civilian infrastructure while hostilities continue;
6. To ensure that taking territory by force has consequences, including maintaining effective sanctions against the exploitation of assets and resources gained, and enhancing legal means for victims to seek redress for confiscated property;
7. To prepare and promote a carefully calibrated package offering security guarantees for Russia; human rights guarantees for Russian minorities elsewhere; economic sticks and carrots; and phased Russian re-entry to global mechanisms dependent upon practical steps and evidence of Russian non-interference, recognition and respect for the sovereignty and security of neighbouring countries;
8. To recognize that Russian military capabilities will remain a threat to Europe and the UK for the foreseeable future requiring continued vigilance on the supply or assistance of military or dual use equipment or technology and strategies to minimize their opportunities to strengthen or finance such capabilities through deals around the world, including by Russian military or aerospace companies;
9. To maintain long-term support for international legal initiatives on accountability for war crimes, the crime of aggression and challenging Russian claims of genocide as a pretext for the invasion, as well as action against individuals on either side who bear personal responsibility for war-crimes.

Agreed 9th March 2024 and amended 15th March 2025

17. UK Aid Budget

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting that the UK had chosen to cut ODA from 0.7% GNI in 2020 to 0.5%, and now to 0.3% by 2027, with devastating consequences for the world's poorest,
- b. Further noting that the cut in ODA spending in 2027 is specifically designed to fund another increase in military spending,
- c. Noting that the most vulnerable will be hit the hardest and that conflict and security risks will arise as a result of lack of resources,
- d. Noting that in its Voluntary National Review (VNR) of progress towards the SDGs in 2019 the government restated its commitment to allocate between 0.15% and 0.2% of GNI to support the least developed countries,
- e. Noting SDGs and Climate targets for 2030 will not be met, yet the government still spends billions of pounds in fossil fuel subsidies,

Calls on the UK government:

1. To formally recognise the relationship between international aid and UK security and prosperity in the context of understanding the root causes of global issues including the climate crisis, energy dependency, international migration and terrorism;
2. To honour its legal commitment and restore to 0.7% of UK GNI for aid spending and to meet new needs from new funds;
3. To direct aid to where it is most needed rather than to pursue national interest and honour its commitment to spend between 0.15% and 0.2% of GNI to support the least developed countries;
4. To help developing countries improve their own finances and development by improving their trading conditions; investing in programmes to increase diaspora contributions and Tax for Development initiatives including taxing transnational companies and wealthier citizens more effectively;
5. To meet current and future commitments on Climate Finance including £6.8 billion in 2025 and 2026, and Biodiversity commitments from COP16 in Rome, from budgets other than the aid budget and from fiscal measures such as withdrawing fossil fuel subsidies and taxing fossil fuel companies or those damaging biodiversity;
6. To accelerate the processing of asylum seekers so that temporary hotel costs are no longer a significant part of the Aid budget by 2027 and to permit asylum seekers to have the right to have employment while their claim is being processed – both to contribute to their costs and for their mental health;
7. To fully fund soft power, like the British Council and the BBC World Service, from other parts of the FCDO budget;
8. To ringfence financial commitments to the UN, its agencies and programmes, prioritising contributions to UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNRWA, UNOCHA and the World Food Programme and for the SDGs, humanitarian work, peacekeeping, education and sexual health for women and girls.

Agreed 27th February 2021 and amended 23rd April 2022 & 15th March 2025

18. USAID shutdown/UN funding crisis

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting with regret that over 80% of USAID contracts and programmes have been halted with no transition, causing devastating effects for the world's poorest people,
- b. Recalling that US funding is pivotal for WHO, UNRWA, UNESCO, WFP, ECOSOC, UNHCR, UNICEF and many other UN bodies,
- c. Stressing that USAID platforms have underpinned health, development, peace and security programmes globally, and the sudden withdrawal jeopardises cooperation towards the SDGs, which the USA also no longer supports,
- d. Noting that, in 2023, the US spending on ODA – while the largest in the world – was only 0.24% of GNI, and was much lower than the 0.7% recommended by the UN,

Calls on the UK Government:

1. To reaffirm the value of the global rules-based system and multilateral cooperation;
2. In view of the threats facing all aspects of this system due to the withdrawal of funds to reverse the UK decision to reduce its ODA and, to restore it to the 0.7% level recommended by the UN;
3. To further use its special relationship with the USA to obtain a restoration of the US withdrawn funds;

Calls on the UN and its member states:

4. To condemn these harmful decisions to withdraw future support and the breaching of existing contracts by the USA;
5. To seek to protect the work of the UN and its agencies by:
 - i) The fulfilment of other Member States of their financial obligations to the UN in full and on time and not seeking any rebates for past underspending;
 - ii) The collective endorsement and funding of the most important programme shortfalls agency by agency;
6. To seek to protect the most important of the existing US-supported projects by encouraging increased aid contributions of Member States, having regard to the General Assembly's recommendation of 0.7% GNI;
7. To deploy all other reasonable efforts to make up the shortfalls.

Agreed 30th March 2025

19. Yemen

UNA London and South East Region:

- a. Noting that after nearly six years of war, Yemen's famine is the world's worst in 100 years: 100,000 children have died; 10 million adults and 500,000 children face starvation,
- b. Noting that four million people are internally displaced; only 22% of rural and 46% of urban population have public water supplies (intermittently); and that there are one million suspected cholera cases,
- c. Further noting that 24.3 million people, including 12m children require humanitarian assistance, that women and girls are disproportionately affected with 1m malnourished pregnant women and 120,000 women and girls at risk of violence, while UN Donors have cut pledged funds by 50% and the number of people the UN can feed has dropped from 13m to 8m,
- d. Noting that the UN Security Council's Panel of Experts has described Saudi airstrikes against civilians as violations of international humanitarian law, that the UK is, behind the US, the second supplier of arms, including aircraft and bombs to Saudi Arabia, and that the Houthis have also been accused of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, laying 100,000 land mines, killing children by sniper fire in Taiz and shelling refugee camps and civilians notably in Marib as they advanced on the city which is home to a million internally displaced people thus increasing the risk of a further humanitarian crisis,
- e. Noting that UK humanitarian aid fell from £260m in 2019 to just £102 in 2023,
- f. Welcoming the UK government's plan to increase this to £144 million in 2024/2025,
- g. Deeply regretting the attacks from groups in Yemen on Red Sea shipping and on Israel,

Calls on the UK Government:

1. To begin informal Security Council discussions on a new resolution following UNSCR 2216, which will recognise the pluralistic nature of post-Conflict Yemen and reinforce the need for a negotiated nationwide ceasefire;
2. To restore UK humanitarian funding for Yemen to its 2019 value in real terms, ie to £330m pa;
3. To urge the Saudis, Kuwait and the UAE to increase humanitarian funding to the UN, noting that these countries have substantially cut back their funding for Yemen, with the UAE not providing any aid in 2020;
4. To suspend all arms sales to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and all combatants in Yemen;
5. To support the independent international investigation mandated by the UN Human Rights Council into violations of international humanitarian law by all combatants in Yemen.

First agreed 24th November 2018, amended May 16th 2020,
27th February 2021 & 15th March 2025