



The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper, M.P.  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH  
United Kingdom

13th May 2026

Dear Yvette Cooper,

### **The views of UNA members and supporters in London and the South East**

You will be aware of the work of the United Nations Association which, since 1945, has advocated for UK action on global cooperation, a stronger UN and a better world. UNA-UK seeks to build movements, provide expert input and design campaigns dedicated to promoting human rights, peace and security, and systematic transformation at the UN.

I write to you as Chair of the Policy Conference of the London & South East Region of UNA to share the policy resolutions adopted on the 28th March 2026 (copy attached, in alphabetical order).

### **THE UN AND THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM: FUNDAMENTAL CONCERNS**

Our members and supporters are deeply concerned about the state of the UN and the multilateral system, given recent developments in international peace, security and human rights.

We urge urgent action on UN finances; stronger accountability for war crimes; and consequences at the UN for those who break article 2.4 or default in their UN financial contributions. We welcome the UK's election to the Human Rights Council and urge further engagement with multilateral Human Rights mechanisms, together with completing the ratification of the High Seas Treaty as a model of the value of multilateral mechanisms. We believe the UK should build on that, working with like-minded countries to adopt new shared strategies to advance multilateral solutions. We identified, for example, the potential for action on Ecocide and on the rights of older people, and we call for practical steps to integrate the perspectives and opinions of younger generations in the work of the UN.

#### **Resourcing the UN for current global challenges (Resolution 19, updated)**

Support Secretary General financial reform proposals; suspend refunds of underspending; work with like-minded states on collective aid restoration; setup High Level Panel on stable funding mechanisms, including consideration of middle sized members contributing more.

#### **Comprehensive Accountability for War Crimes (Resolution 7)**

Urge all member states to exercise universal jurisdiction for arrest and surrender of ICC warrant subjects; support ICJ cases and advisory opinions; encourage regional accountability mechanisms; impose sanctions on countries targeting civilians.

### **UN member states obligations (Resolution 22)**

Identify and propose measures imposing meaningful consequences on UN members that violate Article 2.4 (threat/use of force) or fall two or more years into arrears; report to Parliament within twelve months.

### **Human Rights (Resolution 11, updated)**

Congratulating the UK on election to the Human Rights Council 2026-2028; calls for UK to re-engage with other UN human rights mechanisms and nominate candidates for election.

### **Oceans (Resolution 17, updated)**

Welcome High Seas Treaty entry into force as a positive example of multilateralism; call to complete High Seas Treaty ratification; reconsider Environmental Audit Committee recommendations including stronger UK action on bottom trawling; engage with fishing communities on any threats to livelihoods. We also discussed the importance of viewing the oceans as being for the benefit of all and avoiding conflict in that context.

### **Coalition of the Responsible (Resolution 5)**

Seek with like-minded countries to refresh and restate a common approach to multilateral solutions (climate change, SDGs) and strengthened international law through shared strategies, including a possible Article 109 conference to review UN Charter.

### **Accountability For Ecocide (Resolution 1)**

Recognise ecocide as a crime under ICC Rome Statute; establish mechanisms for environmental impact assessment in conflict areas; incorporate ecocide into national legislation; prosecute perpetrators for damages from military activities.

### **Convention on the Rights of Older Persons (Resolution 8)**

Calls on UN General Assembly to develop and ratify a convention protecting older persons with rights to adequate provisions, income generation, safe environments (including in conflict zones), education, and participation in community.

### **Maximising the impact of UN work (Resolution 15, updated)**

NEW: Support appointment of Special Envoy for Future Generations; include youth delegates in UK UN participation; consult UK youth organisations on UK UN positions.

## **RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND CRISES**

The Policy Conference welcomed the UK Government's refusal to allow the US to use bases under UK control and the decision not to participate in the attacks by US and Israel upon Iran, which we agree with many others were breaches of international law. We urge the government to remain firm in not being drawn into this conflict and to stick with diplomatic efforts to de-escalate and address pre-existing and newly created issues such as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. We are very concerned about the wider effects of this conflict, including food insecurity globally and cost of living pressures at home.

We oppose any change in Greenland's status by force or coercion and updated our policies on the Israel/Palestine conflict to stress the importance of Palestinian representation in decisions about Gaza's future, and the need to act upon the ICJ conclusions about the status of Occupation and developments such as the death penalty law and obstruction of UNRWA and UN representatives. We updated our stance on Nuclear Weapons calling for new global control measures as the START limits have expired alongside the failure to complete CTB ratification, both of which weaken the case against the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in the light of proliferation pressures in Europe and globally.

### **Greenland's independence (Resolution 9)**

Use diplomatic means to demand respect for UN Charter Article 2(4); influence member states to reject intimidation and threats against Greenland; condemn threats of forced acquisition. In our discussion, we also emphasised the principle that the future of Greenland should be decided by the Greenlanders.

### **Israel/Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration (Resolution 13, updated)**

Act in support of the ICJ judgement and UN General Assembly call for steps to end occupation, settlement activity and annexation by September 2025; following the welcome recognition of Palestine, to work with France to support the steps needed for full UN membership; calls on Tony Blair to ensure Palestinian representation on Peace Executive Board and urge full implementation of the Peace Plan, restoration of Gaza's borders and the aid needed for reconstruction.

### **Israel/Palestine latest developments (Resolution 14, updated)**

Address destruction of UNWRA headquarters; restrictions on humanitarian/medical supplies; Knesset death penalty vote; and the detention of Marwan Barghouti and other potential leaders.

### **Nuclear Weapons (Resolution 16, updated)**

Address failure of Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty ratification; work towards new nuclear arms reduction framework; prevent further nuclear proliferation in Europe and globally.

## **REFUGEES, MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

The global framework of refugee protection and asylum for those facing persecution was one of many “never again” lessons learnt from the horrors of the second world war. With conflict increasing globally, members and supporters were very concerned at recent UK retreats from these principles; at the use of ministerial powers to remove citizenship without adequate safeguards; and at the threats to refugees in this country from foreign states, and in particularly China. We also propose that refugees be given radios to access accurate information rather than hearing false narratives from people smugglers.

### **Treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK (Resolution 21, updated)**

Re-assess changes to asylum system announced November 2025 (resettlement caps, shorter leave, family reunion restrictions); maintain NHS free care; provide English language support; maintain five-year leave to remain; restore family reunion; grant earlier work permission.

### **Information Services for Refugees and Migrants (Resolution 12)**

Provide radios to refugee camp populations for reliable news and information; work with journalists and social media to provide balanced, trustworthy information on migration issues.

### **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Resolution 10, updated)**

Enhance security for UK Hongkongers in international travel; reduce reliance on Chinese/HK government services; patrol outside Chinese diplomatic posts; extend consular protection to all BN(O) visa holders; address transnational repression through National Security Act 2023.

### **Removing UK citizenship (Resolution 18, updated)**

Introduce proper safeguards, appeals and scrutiny before citizenship removal to protect rights of all British citizens; address disproportionate impact on minorities.

## CONTINUING CONCERNS AND FURTHER PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

We also drew on the wide range of experience of UN members and supporters present to update or adopt new policies on a range of other topics.

### **Companies breaching international law in arms trade (Resolution 6)**

Strengthen export licensing to deny permits where clear risk of violations exists; ensure UK companies conduct due diligence; call on pension funds to divest from weapons suppliers; enact universal jurisdiction laws for corporate accountability.

### **Arms Trade impact on women and children (Resolution 2, updated)**

Call on Local Authority Pension Funds to divest from companies complicit in violence against women and children.

### **BBC Charter review (Resolution 3)**

Strengthen BBC funding and ring-fence FCDO component; ensure editorial independence; maintain global standing; educate on international affairs; ensure balanced reporting from conflict areas including for diaspora communities; address younger users concerns.

### **Climate Crisis (Resolution 4, updated)**

Count agriculture, data centre, military and shipping emissions; address climate injustice through financial commitment for 2026-2031; prioritise renewable over nuclear power; ensure IMO Net Zero Framework adoption by October 2026.

### **Sudan (Resolution 20, updated)**

Support extension of UN arms embargo to entire Sudan territory; advocate for ICC jurisdiction extension; appoint additional UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs to improve access and protect civilians.

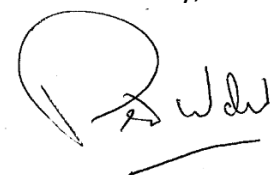
### **Women Peace and Security (Resolution 23, updated)**

Welcome appointment of Baroness Harman as UK Special Envoy and Duchess of Edinburgh support; prioritise WPS in National Security Strategy; support Women, Peace and Security Bill; re-purpose frozen assets for reparations using survivor-centred approaches.

The London & South East Region speaks for itself in these matters and is not claiming to represent the views of UNA UK nationally. We would nonetheless welcome your response to the various issues and calls for government action in the enclosed. We plan to share your response with UNA members and supporters in London & the South East as we have done with FCDO responses in the past (including on our website) to encourage further debate and discussion, including with local MPs.

We greatly look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Peter Webster**

Chair, UNA London & South East Region Policy Conference