



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America
AND THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



Final Substantive Resolutions

As Adopted By

The United Nations Association of the USA 2009 Biennial National Convention

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S. Res. 1 Rediscovering the United Nations

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Acknowledging that ambivalence, and sometimes even animosity, toward international law and international institutions have waxed and waned in the decades since American leadership and vision locked into place the multi-faceted United Nations system, cresting during the past decade;

Observing that over this decade that U.S. actions contradicting obligations in international law concerning use of force, torture, human rights, financial assessments for international operations, and collective maintenance of peace and security have estranged America from its allies, shattered America's credibility and support from world publics, and vastly increased friction and resistance to U.S. initiatives;

Seeing President George W. Bush's quiet rapprochement with the United Nations during his second term, on issues from Lebanon to Iran to Sudan and the International Criminal Court, as a tacit admission of the bankruptcy of unilateralism;

Applauding President Barack Obama's promised commitment to "strengthening international institutions" as an affirmative expression of the renewed realization that America cannot successfully lead the international community if it is at odds with the United Nations and the international rule of law;

Recognizing, moreover, the benefits to the peoples of the world that United States leadership in the United Nations could offer;

Realizing that the goals of the United States for international peace and prosperity—affirmed by American presidents of both political parties, endorsed by large majorities of the American public, and jointly agreed with leaders of other countries in world summit declarations—can best and perhaps only be achieved through concerted action of national governments and international agencies;

Affirming that the financial meltdown that has sent the world economy reeling since early 2008 can only be reversed through energetic and coordinated action of all countries, not only wealthy ones—and that, far from being a luxury that can be deferred till the global economy recovers, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals jointly expressed at United Nations summits is a cornerstone of sustainable world economic recovery;

Aware that sustainable peace is a priority goal of the American people—made especially urgent for this generation by the experience of the long, inconclusive wars of this decade—and that the building of peace must be a common endeavor of the world's peoples, through the institutions legally empowered globally to maintain international peace and security; and

Convinced that Americans' rediscovery of the United Nations presents opportunities for the United States to regain global respect and leadership, and that as other nations gain influence economically and politically it is urgently in America's interest to shore up the international rule of law without exception;

Therefore,

Calls on President Obama and the Congress to bring the actions of the United States government into alignment with the obligations embedded in the U.N. Charter and other international treaty law ratified by the United States;

Urges the Senate to consider, advise, and consent to multilateral treaty instruments that have long been pending, and in doing so to eschew disabling reservations that would vitiate a treaty's legal effect;

Calls on the President and Congress to take all steps necessary to ensure accountability for serious breaches of international law, whether by Americans or by foreigners, and to give full support to international tribunals undertaking criminal prosecutions and full adherence to the rulings of the International Court of Justice and other international mechanisms empowered to render binding decisions;

Urges the Administration and the Congress to act in accordance with resolutions of the U.N. Security Council to maintain peace and security, and to insist on others' compliance with those obligations;

Calls for recognition by the President and the Senate, in the appointment and confirmation of federal judges and justices, of the importance of reciprocal legal obligations in international treaties ratified by the United States, which the U.S. Constitution ordains as the "supreme Law of the Land";

Urges the World Federation of United Nations Associations to join with UNA-USA in rigorously pressing all 192 member governments to align their actions with their stated U.N. commitments, to comply with their international treaty obligations, and to respond seriously to the findings and urgings of competent U.N. bodies and agencies; and

Directs the UNA-USA national office to disseminate this resolution to the President, other relevant officials of the Executive Branch, and to appropriate members of Congress, and calls on UNA chapters and divisions and members to bring this resolution to the attention of their elected representatives and local news media.

S. Res. 2 Care for Civilian Loss and Harms Caused in Conflict

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Recognizing that UN agencies such as those under the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs umbrella are increasingly called upon to provide or coordinate security and comfort to civilians impacted by war, including special populations that may be deemed require extra protections, including women and children;

Recognizing the protection of civilians in conflict is a long recognized provision of international law specifically contained in the Geneva Conventions;

Recognizing the changing nature of conflict puts ever more civilians at great risk;

Believing that there is an urgent need to address harm caused to civilians in any armed conflict;

Noting the US government has taken action in its current military engagements to seek to provide appropriate amends to civilians killed in military action, which provides a starting point for developing a more comprehensive policy;

Commending the expansion of this policy by NATO and the Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, a mission authorized by the UN Security Council; and

Believing that making such appropriate amends should be extended everywhere when the protections otherwise afforded civilians in warfare (inclusive of their families and communities) fail to protect them from harm;

Therefore,

Calls upon the US State Department to advocate the further expansion of this principle of making amends to civilian victims as example to other states and warring parties;

Calls upon the US government to encourage all member states of the UN to adopt the principle of making amends to victims and survivors of armed conflict as a logical extension of their obligation to protect civilians, and to apply it whenever possible through all appropriate organizations and agencies of the United Nations or other appropriate international organization;

Calls upon the UN to facilitate the further promote this principle through its institutions and agencies;

Calls upon the UN to consider further steps to normalizing these principles through appropriate resolutions or conventions;

Calls upon the association to communicate this resolution to the President, the Secretary of State and other relevant officials in the Executive Branch, select members of the US Congress and the UN Secretary-General and other relevant UN officials; and

Requests all of the association's constituencies, including chapters and divisions, the Council of Organizations, and the National Council, to distribute this resolution to appropriate elected officials and

interested groups and to draw attention to its conclusions in local, regional and national press.

S. Res. 3 Support Senate Ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Aware that nuclear weapons are a threat to world peace and security, to humanity, and to the environment, and that the United States should be a leader in the field of international nuclear weapons non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament;

Noting the growing bi-partisan support for a US recommitment to elimination of nuclear weapons, as evidenced by the support of former Secretaries of State George Schultz and Henry Kissinger, Defense Secretary William Perry, and Senator Sam Nunn; by Senator John McCain's support for that vision; and by President Obama's reaffirmation of that goal in Prague;

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) - negotiated in 1996 to start a process of international action toward a nuclear weapon-free world - has since been ratified by more than 180 governments of nations around the world but in 1999 was rejected by the United States Senate;

Recognizing further that the CTBT, in line with the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, is needed to deter the spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear weapon countries and to limit the ability of present nuclear weapons nations, including the United States, to develop and test ever more sophisticated nuclear weapons;

Noting that, in addition, the Test Ban Treaty is a key step toward the success of the Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in 2010 and toward eventual elimination of the world's nuclear arsenal and that the CTBT is a disarmament commitment made by the nuclear weapons states at the 1995 and 2000 NPT review conferences;

Convinced that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) now has the capacity to monitor, verify and enforce compliance with the CTBT, with the International Monitoring System deploying more than 250 monitoring sites around the world that, in less than 30 seconds, send information to the IAEA in Vienna;

Applauding the UN Security Council's progressive tightening of sanctions against North Korea for its nuclear weapons tests, a sign of the international community's determination to isolate and penalize test ban violators and nuclear proliferators;

Realizing that the growing world need for energy makes it certain that nuclear energy facilities will more and more need enriched uranium fuel, making the role of the IAEA all the more important for distinguishing between prohibited and permitted nuclear activities in compliance with the CTBT;

Applauding recent developments regarding progress in US-Russia negotiations on nuclear arsenal reductions and agreement in the UN Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a cutoff of fissile nuclear materials—which attest to a new window of opportunity; and

Concerned that United States leadership in the field of nuclear arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament is seriously undermined by its failure to ratify the CTBT – placing it among non-ratifying states: China, Iran, North Korea, Indonesia, Israel, India and Pakistan – and that the United States cannot credibly urge other nations to ratify the Test Ban Treaty when it fails to do so itself;

Therefore,

Calls on the President of the United States, in line with his past commitments, to urge the U.S. Senate to ratify promptly the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

Urges the US Senate to vote its consent promptly to US ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

Urges the United States Congress to eliminate or deny Defense Department requests for funding to develop a nuclear Reliable Replacement Warhead;

Urges the United States Government to strengthen and promote the United Nations lead role in nuclear non-proliferation and the reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons;

Requests that the United Nations Association of the United States of America convey this resolution to the President of the United States, to all members of Congress, to the Departments of State and Defense, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other relevant UN officials; and

Further requests that the United Nations Association of the United States of America convey this resolution to leaders and to members in its chapters and divisions.

S. Res. 4 Darfur

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Recognizing that the brutal campaign of atrocities, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and accompanying violence in Darfur challenges the United States, the United Nations and the world community to find an effective solution;

Acknowledging that the *Report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur to the United Nations Secretary-General* (Jan 2005) concluded that the Sudanese Government, through its forces and the Janjaweed, had “conducted indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence, pillaging and forced displacement,” and that even if not clearly a policy of genocide, “international offences such as the crimes against humanity and war crimes that have been committed in Darfur may be no less serious and heinous than genocide.”;

Further acknowledging that the International Criminal Court Prosecutor, the President of the United States, the U.S House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S Ambassador to the United Nations have all declared the killing in Darfur to constitute genocide, the congressional action being taken by the adoption of unanimous resolutions based on the criteria for genocide enumerated in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

Noting that government and rebel force attacks have continued into 2009 and that innocent people in Darfur continue to be slaughtered or violently abused, despite diplomatic and military intervention, which has proven inadequate;

Further noting that several hundred thousand innocent persons have reportedly been killed to date in Darfur, nearly 3 million have been displaced, and nearly 5 million people in Sudan have been impacted by hostilities in the Darfur region and rely on humanitarian aid;

Recognizing that the violence against the undefended was largely perpetrated by government-sponsored militias which have continued to inflict violence against victims in displacement camps throughout Darfur and across the border in Chad, threatening to destabilize the neighboring country and the region at large;

Understanding that while deaths have slowed since the 2003-04 period of heaviest fighting, a complex crisis persists comprised of continued and rampant violence, ineffective peacekeeping to date, splintered factions, newly emerged alliances, dim prospects for political settlement, and increasingly difficult access for humanitarian agencies;

Acknowledging that the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Sudanese leaders accused of war crimes; and

Recognizing the failure of the international community to act to stop recent genocide in Rwanda and Srebrenica, and the subsequent acknowledgement by world leaders that such failure has brought shame on the world, the UN and other responsible world bodies, and noting with dismay the similar failure to date of the international community to stop the atrocities in Darfur;

Therefore,

Calls upon the US government to exert - through vigorous diplomacy, backed by US logistical and financial support - its moral leadership on this urgent issue by seeking to achieve international support for a broad-based humanitarian intervention in Darfur, especially among the permanent members of the Security Council;

Further calls upon the US government to take a more proactive, high-level leadership role in working with the UN and the African Union to stop the violence and atrocities that continue to plague the Darfur region by:

- Applying, in concert with other nations, including those having significant influence over the Sudanese government because of economic ties, geographic proximity or otherwise, diplomatic pressure, as well as economic pressure on that government (including through divestment actions against companies dealing with Sudanese officials accused of crimes), to recommit itself to proper and full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and to allowing international aid organizations to operate unhindered in the region;
- Providing transport and other important logistical support for peacekeepers on the ground in Darfur, and, in particular, assisting the African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in resolving persistent troop, equipment, and supply shortages;
- Maintaining a consistent and unequivocal position of “zero tolerance” for actions in Darfur that violate international humanitarian law or the arms embargo, or that impede the establishment of peace and security in that region; and
- Providing full support to the International Criminal Court to continue its efforts to pursue justice for the victims of crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur, while increasing pressure on Sudan to turn over to the Court the individuals for whom arrest warrants have been issued;
- Advocating that a broadened constituency of participants be involved in peace talks including those factions previously excluded or under-represented, women, and Arab tribes; and

Calls upon the association to communicate this resolution to the President, Vice President, the Secretary of State, the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, other relevant officials in the Executive Branch, members of the US Congress, the UN Secretary-General, and other relevant UN officials.

S. Res. 5 Iran

Whereas, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), USA, and European countries have suspected that Iran has been reprocessing uranium with the objective of weaponization;

Whereas, in November 2007 the US National Intelligence Estimate expressed “high confidence” that Iran suspended its nuclear weapons research program in 2003;

Whereas, the IAEA referred the obstruction of inspection of Iranian reprocessing facilities to the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas, the Security Council’s repeated demands for Iranian compliance have led to graduated imposition of sanctions when Tehran defied the Security Council;

Whereas, Iran has the right under the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, including the mining and enrichment of non-weapons grade uranium for use in nuclear power plants;

Whereas, UNA-USA Co-Chair Thomas R. Pickering and colleagues in UNA-USA’s Iran dialogue wrote in 2008: “The main obstacle has been US insistence that it will not agree to ...face to face talks on the nuclear issue until Iran suspends its nuclear enrichment ... (which) may well be working against US interests;”

Whereas, the U.S. in recent years has acted, both openly and covertly, to destabilize the current Iranian government, including reported support for violent factions; and

Whereas, on March 20, 2009, President Obama forwarded a message to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the people of Iran offering improved relations, and the Iranian government has agreed to discuss cooperation with the U.S. on Afghanistan;

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Therefore,

Applauds President Obama’s initiative to open a dialogue with the Islamic republic, and commends his apparent willingness to enter direct talks with Iran without precondition;

Urges that a top priority of U.S. engagement with Iran be a verifiable regime for ensuring that Iran’s nuclear program is exclusively for civilian energy generation, consistent with the NPT;

Recommends prompt negotiations between Iran and the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and between Iran and the IAEA, to put in place revised and enhanced nuclear safeguard and inspection agreements, which would boost international confidence that Iranian enrichment of uranium is for exclusively peaceful purposes, and permit relaxation of the Council’s sanctions;

Calls on the U.S. to pursue with determination the goal of a nuclear weapons-free Middle East, with the agreement and participation of all countries in the region, consistent with the U.S. recommitment to a nuclear weapons-free world;

Recommends, consistent with the principle that only Iranians can ensure development of democracy in their country, that the U.S. terminate any support for governmental destabilizing operations against the Islamic republic; and

Urges the two countries in their bilateral talks to chart a course to reestablishing diplomatic relations, removing economic sanctions, assuring protection of each other's nationals from persecution by security agencies, and exploring a more active partnership for the promotion of peace and security in the Middle East.

S. Res. 6 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America:

Recognizing that the conflict between Israel and Palestine represents one of the most complex and consequential of challenges facing the world;

Noting that the Security Council's inability to bring this conflict to resolution is, in part, due to divisions among its permanent members regarding the application and implementation of Council decisions and international obligations -- divisions that are manifested by the use of their veto power to block adoption of measures that the majority of other members believes helpful to achieve peace and security in the region to the benefit of the entire international community;

Recalling in particular the General Assembly Resolution 181, the original international mandate for the partition of Palestine into "Arab and Jewish States"; UN Security Council Resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973, which defined the parameters of a durable peace; and the Camp David peace accord of 1979, which began implementation of these Security Council resolutions;

Welcoming the growing convergence among parties to the conflict on what a durable peace would entail, evidenced by the Madrid conference of 1991, the mutual recognition of Oslo of 1993, the Taba framework agreed in 2001, the Arab League initiative of 2002, the Roadmap endorsed in 2003 by the diplomatic Quartet (consisting of the UN, US, European Union, and Russia), and the non-official draft Permanent Status Agreement of 2003 (known as the Geneva accord), as well as other meetings held and proposals considered over many years;

Acknowledging the purpose of General Assembly Resolution 63/22 calling on member nations to maintain community and a harmonious environment through inter-religious and intercultural dialogue;

Commending the UN Security Council Resolution 1860, which condemns all violence and hostilities directed against civilians in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Further commending the UN Security Council for its unanimous passage of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, mandating the inclusion of women in negotiations and decision-making before, during and after conflict; and

Appreciating the efforts made over the years by United Nations secretaries-general, by U.S. presidents, and by other nations' leaders to resolve the conflict;

Therefore,

Affirms that achievement of a comprehensive and peaceful settlement must be an urgent priority of the international community and of the Obama administration in particular, and welcomes the initial steps that President Obama has taken, including American insistence, joining the rest of the international community, on a complete end of settlement activity east of the Green Line;

Calls upon Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the "Quartet," the Arab League, and the entire international community to press for a mutually acceptable agreement providing for both the security of the State of Israel within internationally recognized borders, and a viable, secure, and independent sovereign state

for the Palestinian people;

Urges the government of the United States to work collaboratively within the Security Council in order to achieve implementation of Council resolutions calling for a durable peace for all the states in the region, to intensify its diplomatic efforts to help forge a comprehensive final peace settlement between the Israelis and Palestinians based on a two-state solution, and to support the United Nations and its offices on the ground in their work of peacekeeping, monitoring, fact-finding, and provision of civilian relief;

Calls on the UN and all negotiating parties to honor their commitments under Security Council Resolution 1325 by including women in effective roles in all negotiations;

Calls on UN agencies to take extra pains to underscore their impartiality in this conflict; on Member States, political advocacy groups, and broader civil society to cool rhetorical passions; and on the leadership of communities in the region to encourage dialogue and foster understanding among youth and adults—in the expectation that a healing and mutually secure peace can soon emerge for the region; and

Urges consideration that, as part of a peace settlement, an independent body be created under the auspices of the United Nations to monitor the holy and historical sites of Jerusalem—truly among the world's most precious Heritage sites--in order to ensure the flash point for conflict is removed and to protect the freedom of all persons who may wish to visit and worship according to their sacred traditions.

S. Res. 7 Kashmir

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Noting with appreciation that the United States was the co-sponsor of United Nations Security Council Resolution 91 adopted on April 21, 1948 that gave the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir;

Recalling that the Governments of India and Pakistan were parties to the resolutions of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIO) that were adopted in 1948 and 1949 which recognized the Kashmiri people's right to self determination;

Recognizing that, freedom and self-determination are basic principals of both the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Observing that two wars have been fought between India and Pakistan over the issue of Kashmir with no resolution;

Expressing concern that these two powers now have deployable nuclear weapons;

Remembering that every United States President from Harry Truman to Barrack Obama have restated the need for this stalemate to be resolved as essential for peace in the South Asian subcontinent and the world; and

Applauding these Presidents and other world leaders who have stated that the resolution of the Kashmir dispute must take into account the wishes and aspirations of the people of Kashmir;

Therefore,

Resolves to encourage the U.S. Government to call upon India and Pakistan to engage in negotiations with the Kashmiri people on the peaceful future of Kashmir;

Calls upon the parties to utilize all United Nations mechanisms available to them for the peaceful resolution of this conflict; and

Hopes the conflict in Kashmir will end soon with the peaceful self-determination of Kashmiri people.

S. Res. 8 Human Rights in Kurdish-Populated Territories

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Whereas the Kurdish people joined to reaffirm respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples as outlined by the first article of the Charter of the United Nations;

Recalling that despite President Woodrow Wilson's call for "an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development" for "nationalities which are now under Turkish rule," the one major nationality group that was marginalized in the post-war division of Ottoman lands was the Kurds, who found themselves as minorities in the present states of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria but without the autonomy Wilson had urged;

Recognizing that after decades of denial of Kurds' political and cultural rights in these countries, Kurds gained effective autonomy in Iraq after the 1991 Kuwait war and are now free to determine their political future peacefully and democratically in the Kurdistan region of federal Iraq;

Noting that in Turkey, where the majority's adamant denial of minority language and identity had triggered a violent independence movement in past decades, leaders have signaled courageous and welcome change in that country's position, pointing the way to unhindered Kurdish political participation, peacefully and democratically;

Hopeful that the governments of Iran and Syria will likewise initiate a similar democratization process inclusive of their Kurdish populations, and stop violation of human rights such as the abuses against Kurds by the Iranian government that were documented by an Amnesty International report as recently as 2008;

Concerned about the status of other ethnic minorities in these countries, including the reports of adverse treatment of Turkmens, Assyrian and Chaldean Christians, and Nestorians in the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria; and

Applauding the efforts of the United Nations mission in Iraq to bring peaceful resolution to clashing political claims to disputed, ethnically mixed areas of Diyala, Kirkuk, Saladin and Nineveh in Iraq, through dialogue, negotiation, resettlement of internally-displaced people, census-taking, elections, and referendums;

Therefore,

Calls on the United States to urgently press the United Nations Human Rights Council to monitor governments' respect for human rights in the Kurdish-populated areas of Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey; and

Calls on the United Nations Association of the United States of America to direct copies of this resolution to the U.S. Department of State, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the president of the U.N. Human Rights Council.

S. Res. 9 Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Recalling that Americans helped write into the U.N. Charter a mandate for the “maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources,” and mindful of the mammoth expenditures on weaponry in concurrent arms races since 1950;

Mindful that for decades the United States has joined with other technologically capable nations in insisting on the peaceful uses of outer space;

Recognizing that the UN General Assembly annually reaffirms its desire to preserve space for peaceful purposes by a near-unanimous vote for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) resolution;

Applauds creation by the UN Conference on Disarmament, with US support, of a working group on weapons in space; and

Noting, however, that in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 2001 the executive branch of the government of the United States assigned to the U.S. Strategic Command (StratCom) the task of sustaining the U.S.’s technological advantage and freedom of action in outer space;

Therefore,

Asks the U.S. administration and Congress to re-evaluate U.S. military policy regarding the transformed role of U.S. Strategic Command;

Urges the US Administration to support the annual UN General Assembly resolution for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS); and

Calls on the US Administration to promptly undertake negotiations—under the auspices of the United Nations—to negotiate a new treaty respecting the peaceful uses of outer space.

S. Res. 10 Support for Human Rights Treaties and Bodies

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Whereas the United States was a leader in the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the creation of the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the effort to create a more effective intergovernmental United Nations human rights body;

Whereas until 2009 the US had not sought membership on the Human Rights Council;

Whereas the US has not ratified the UN Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers;

Recognizing that discrimination against women continues to exist in the United States, fostering gender based violence, hampering growth and prosperity, and limiting the full potential of women;

Recognizing further that the lack of United States ratification of CEDAW and other UN human rights conventions has hindered our country's leadership in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law internationally and that the failure of the US to ratify CEDAW and other instruments has allowed countries with weak human rights records to neglect and undermine human rights for women and other groups; and

Whereas the new US Administration has indicated its resolve to engage more fully with the important work of the United Nations on Human Rights;

Therefore,

Applauds the United States Government for its decision to seek election to the United Nations Human Rights Council and encourages it to work proactively from within the Council and beyond to strengthen this new mechanism by appointing a distinguished human rights expert as US Representative and engaging in active diplomacy in support of the Council;

Urges the United States to take the necessary steps to bring about the speedy ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the conventions on migrants and disabilities; and

Calls upon UNA-USA, nationally and through its chapters and division, to make such ratifications a priority in its advocacy.

S. Res. 11 Support Implementation of the Convention against Corruption

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Considering that it is in the interest of the US to root out corruption in both the public and private sectors;

Noting that the United Nations in 2003 adopted a global framework for combating the abuse of public office for private gain in adopting the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC);

Considering that the UN and the US and other member states must improve public awareness and understanding of the importance of this convention and the need for monitoring and review tools, particularly to aid in the recovery of assets lost to corrupt government action;

Recognizing that the UNCAC requires member states to agree on credible review and monitoring mechanisms if it is to be effective; and

Whereas the UNCAC Conference of State Parties will convene at Doha in November 2009 to consider proposals for such mechanisms;

Therefore,

Resolves that UNA-USA should seek to educate its members about the importance of the UNCAC and the need for sound and effective monitoring and review mechanisms;

Calls on the President to work with like minded governments to develop meaningful pragmatic proposals with a range of flexible review processes and methodologies, including measures such as self-assessment surveys, expert and peer reviews and country visits, that could evolve into effective enforcement over time and be funded as part of the regular UN budget; and

Urges that the US should exercise its leadership to encourage participants in the November 2009 Doha Conference of UNCAC States Parties to consider and agree to adopt effective monitoring and review processes to strengthen adherence to the convention, so that peoples deprived of national resources by corrupt government leaders could more easily recover such illicitly held gains from foreign bank accounts.

S. Res. 12 Human Trafficking

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Noting that the pervasive global trafficking in women, men and children for purposes of sexual exploitation, involuntary servitude and other illegal and immoral ends - and the related violence against these victims - have been recognized by the international community to be in gross violation of accepted civilized norms and agreements, including the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the International Covenants on Human Rights; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

Recalling United States leadership and ratification in 2005 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

Recognizing the United States leadership in the 4 June 4 2008 Report from the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, "Stopping Human Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation, and Abuse by International Peacekeepers";

Noting the US enactment in 2000 (and reauthorizations in 2003, 2005 and 2008) of the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act aimed at preventing trafficking overseas, protecting and assisting victims in the US, prosecuting traffickers in US courts, and the release of the State Department's sixth annual Trafficking in Persons Report in June 2006;

Recalling the recent signing into U.S. law (on 23 December 2008) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which bolsters federal efforts to combat both international and domestic traffic in human beings, increases penalties against traffickers, expands protections for trafficking victims and their families, and authorizes increased assistance for all victims of trafficking;

Applauding the US government's establishment and support of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Department of State;

Recognizing the 29 U.S. States that have passed state-specific human trafficking legislation - including New York's 1 November 2007 legislation - to address gaps in federal law with new services for victims and new tools for local law enforcement agencies to prosecute traffickers;

Recognizing that the effective suppression and elimination of such trafficking and violence require the vigorous and unrelenting efforts on the part of the nations of the world, including the continuing cooperation and coordination of their investigatory and enforcement resources and the exertion of diplomatic and economic pressure against nations harboring perpetrators of, or otherwise tolerating the existence of, such trafficking and violence;

Further recognizing that an appropriate response to this problem should also be pursued within a human rights framework that emphasizes global cooperation to provide victims with assistance and protection against their traffickers, and education to vulnerable populations; and

Seriously concerned about current trends in trafficking including the increasing number of women and girls from developing countries trafficked to developed countries; the trafficking and sexual exploitation of men and boys; the racism, xenophobia and intolerance to which trafficking victims are particularly vulnerable; and the increasing role of the Internet in exploitation, prostitution, trafficking, sexual tourism, and child pornography;

Therefore,

Urges federal, state and local governments in the US to exert, through diplomacy and example, their moral leadership on this critical issue and in particular, to bring to bear their financial, investigatory and enforcement resources to achieve stronger, more consistent and effective international implementation of both the words and the spirit of the UN-sponsored international agreements against the evil of trafficking in, and violence against, women and children;

Calls upon the US federal government to support the UN General Assembly Resolution #63/194 (23 Jan 2009 - “Improving the Coordination of Efforts Against Trafficking in Persons”) by leading the drive to an effective international coordination of efforts and global plan of action against trafficking in persons;

Urges the US federal government to support the UN General Assembly Resolution 61/144 (1 February 2007 – “Trafficking in Women and Girls”) by examining emerging issues and implementing policies to counter the increased use of the Internet for exploitation, prostitution, trafficking, sexual tourism, and child pornography;

Calls upon the US to provide increased funding to assist victims of trafficking, and to provide the maximum support possible to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime;

Urges federal, state and local governments to continue to adopt legislation to prevent human trafficking, assist victims and prosecute trafficking offenders; and

Calls upon the association to communicate this resolution to the President; the Vice President; the Secretary of State; the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations; the US House Committee on Foreign Relations, Sub-Committee on Human Rights, and Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus; the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; other relevant officials in the Executive and Congressional Branches; the UN Secretary-General and other relevant UN officials.

S. Res. 13 International Criminal Court

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Recalling its longstanding commitment to the International Criminal Court (ICC), its previous National Convention resolutions R.3 of 1999, S.5 of 2001, S.5 of 2003 and S.9 of 2007, and the Association's leadership of its program, the American NGO Coalition for the ICC (AMICC);

Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the ICC on July 17, 1998 at the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court;

Applauding the establishment in 2002 of the ICC as the world's first permanent, independent criminal court to investigate and prosecute only when national courts are unwilling or unable to act;

Noting the start of the ICC's first trial on January 26, 2009 as a step toward holding individuals accountable for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and bringing justice to victims through meaningful participation, as well as its other investigations and cases;

Recalling US participation in the negotiations of the Rome Statute and its contributions to it as well as the U.S. signature of the Rome Statute on December 31, 2000;

Recognizing that the U.S. is entitled to participate as an observer in the meetings of the ICC's governing body, the Assembly of States Parties, as a signatory of the Final Act of the Rome Conference;

Recalling the May 6, 2002 U.S. policy statement on the ICC and the subsequent U.S. disengagement from all aspects of the work of the Court, including a note to the UN Secretary-General informing him that the U.S. did not intend to ratify the Rome Statute, thus relieving the US of its obligations as a signatory;

Noting with appreciation that the U.S. abstained rather than voted against UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005) which referred the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the International Criminal Court;

Further noting U.S. statements offering assistance to the ICC on Darfur, the establishment of an official channel of communication between the U.S. and the ICC, and the consideration of an ICC information request by the U.S. Department of State;

Praising the repeal and non-renewal of all anti-ICC sanctions in the American Servicemembers' Protection Act (ASPA) and the Nethercutt Amendment against nations unwilling to enter into Article 98 Bilateral Immunity Agreements (BIAs) shielding U.S. nationals from the jurisdiction of the Court;

Recalling statements by Senator Obama in his presidential campaign on his willingness to cooperate with the ICC on cases in the U.S. national interest and to consult with military and legal advisers on the question of the US relationship with the Court; and

Noting the consistent support by Americans in national polls for the ICC and U.S. membership in it;

Therefore,

Calls upon the U.S. to participate constructively in the regular meetings of the Court's Assembly of States Parties, the 2010 Review Conference to be convened by the U.N. Secretary-General in Kampala, Uganda, and the preparations for it;

Calls upon the U.S. to send a note to the U.N. Secretary-General reinstating the U.S. signature of the Rome Statute, thereby reversing the previous note and committing the U.S. not to defeat the object and purpose of the Rome Statute;

Calls upon the U.S. to ratify the Rome Statute, thereby joining the ICC, at the earliest appropriate opportunity;

Urges the U.S. to expand its cooperation with the ICC on Darfur and other cases;

Calls upon the U.S. to repeal or cancel remaining anti-ICC laws and agreements;

Reaffirms the Association's support for its AMICC nationwide program of education and advocacy and calls on the Association to prioritize the ICC in its advocacy agenda; and

Recommends that the Association's Chapters and Divisions, in partnership with AMICC, advocate U.S. support for the ICC in their activities.

S. Res. 14 US Support for International Action on Climate Change

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Recognizing that there is now a worldwide scientific consensus that global warming is occurring and that if it continues at the projected rate it will cause extensive melting of polar ice caps and glaciers with consequent massive flooding of low-lying coastal areas and islands, as well as drought and desertification of large areas now depending on seasonal melting snow and ice for stream flow;

Noting that further consequences of global warming will include catastrophic loss of agricultural land, natural habitat, wildlife, oceanic fisheries and a probable increase in the number and intensity of hurricanes and incidents of inland flooding;

Observing that there is now also a worldwide scientific consensus that human activity is a major cause of global warming, primarily through the emission of greenhouse gasses by power plants, factories, vehicles, agricultural fertilizer and machinery, livestock, home furnaces, and fires for cooking and clearing of land;

Further observing that an increasing human population places unsustainable pressures on forests and other vegetation by reducing their capability to absorb and transform greenhouse gasses into solid material in natural carbon sinks;

Appreciating that this global scientific consensus was achieved in large measure due to two decades of coordinated studies and extensive negotiations under the lead of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change whose reports assessing climate change and whose recommendations on mitigation and adjustments measures won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008;

Recalling that all developed nations including the United States have either signed the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or announced their intention to sign it, and that negotiations are now under way to strengthen and expand that Protocol;

Noting the growing international consensus that any planned successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol must include binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions, perhaps with less stringent limits for less developed countries, along with protection of carbon sinks such as forests, and incentives for their expansion;

Recognizing that the seventh UN Millennium Development Goal aims to ensure environmental sustainability, based on the principles of sustainable development and improving the collective management of natural resources; and

Recalling its UNA-USA Resolution adopted in 2007 about “The Environment and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” that urged strengthened US government actions to address climate change consistent with the conclusions of the UN’s IPCC and the Kyoto Protocol, and appealed to the US government to engage constructively in the successor negotiations under the auspices of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Therefore,

Urges the President and Congress to ensure the active participation of the United States in the preparatory negotiations for the December 2009 UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen for a successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol and for the United States to then endeavor to agree with other member countries during the UN Conference on enhanced, new measures that will more directly address the growing threats to sustainable development and remediate the trends to global warming;

Recommends that the President announce as soon as possible that the United States will support mandatory equitable limits on greenhouse gas emissions, and encourage preservation of forests and other carbon sinks;

Further urges the President to propose and Congress to enact mandatory domestic limits on greenhouse gas emissions and other priority remediation measures, phased in as appropriate and compatible with both US interests as well as international agreements reached through the UN Climate Change Conference, and other successor agreements; and

Calls upon the Association to communicate this resolution to the President, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant officials in the Executive Branch, select members of the US Congress, the UN Secretary-General and other relevant UN officials.

S. Res. 15 International Education in US Public Schools

Whereas the United Nations Association of the USA is “dedicated to educating, inspiring and mobilizing Americans to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations”;

Whereas education, beginning with our children, is paramount;

Whereas the current state of US education related to international education and the United Nations at all levels of K-12 schooling is dramatically deficient in meeting the needs of an increasingly interdependent globalized world; and

Whereas the deficiency of US education is dramatically reducing the ability of our students to successfully participate in understanding their world as well as to successfully negotiate both global conflicts and economic competitiveness;

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Therefore,

Consistent with its mission, *calls upon* the Congress to pass legislation that would provide for increased education in US public schools about international issues and provides the necessary monies to do so;

Encourages, supports and advocates for the passage of such legislation at federal and local levels and assist in developing models and curricular support for better international education to increase the skill sets and knowledge base needed to find solutions and resolve conflict in an increasingly, intricately interdependent world;

Work towards the increase of the international educational competence and literacy of elementary and secondary school teachers; and support programs that supplements student educational achievement in world history, international and global studies, foreign languages, along with the knowledge of the history, origins, purpose, and work of the United Nations; and

Supports the following:

- Research-based training in international education and related disciplines for prospective elementary school and secondary school teachers as a means of broadening student knowledge of the world and of the United Nations;
- Dissemination of information on effective practices and research findings concerning the teaching of international education;
- Development of assessment instruments and strategies to document student understanding of international education; and
- Implementation of best practices and model programs to promote international education including programs such as Model United Nations.

S. Res. 16 Promotion of UN Millennium Development Goals

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United State of America,

Encouraged that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) endorsed by the 192 UN member governments, the entire world family of nations, symbolize the beginning of a new unity of humanitarian efforts to reduce worldwide suffering, inequalities and injustice;

Convinced that attainment of the MDGs can alleviate current levels of poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and degradation that persist in many parts of the world, and can assist and enable families struggling to survive;

Hopeful that the pleas of hundreds of millions of people throughout the world for a cessation of armed conflicts will be heard by national leaders as a call for a transition from investment in war and weapons to a much greater investment in meeting people's needs and to the fulfillment of the UN's MDGs;

Concerned that governments of more prosperous nations may not respond with large-scale projects and the funding to complement local commitments and resources unless the voices of citizens are sounded to alert and challenge leaders about their commitments to support the MDGs;

Recalling the Association's Resolution adopted in 2007 urging that the US government provide support for the United Nations MDGs, and calling for the US government to immediately adopt a timetable to provide annually 0.7% of GNP to official development assistance; and

Further recognizing the measures proposed in the Advocacy Agenda adopted by its Board of Directors in December 2008, including the appeal for the US government to recommit the United States to the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs, and to align its foreign assistance policy and programs with the fulfillment of the MDGs;

Therefore,

Reaffirms its appeal for the US government to adopt policies that support fulfillment of the MDGs and to provide annually 0.7% of GNP for official development assistance to help alleviate global poverty and achievement of the MDGs by 2015;

Decides to make the promotion and fulfillment of the MDGs an ongoing priority of the association's educational and advocacy programs until 2015, specifically to raise awareness of this global social and economic compact being implemented within each country and the United Nations, and to encourage the US government to provide the requisite leadership in this global effort to attain sustainable human development;

Seeks to expand the involvement of all chapters, divisions, and relevant Headquarters units of UNA-USA in a national campaign to support the MDGs, facilitated through enhanced internal efforts and coordination, public awareness and advocacy, collaboration with other organizations, and additional people-to-people initiatives including commendation of non-governmental organizations, individuals and corporate leaders who effect exceptional practices that support MDG progress in developing countries; and

Requests that this resolution be communicated to the President, Secretary of State, Ambassador to the United Nations, other relevant officials in the Executive Branch, select members of the US Congress, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the United Nations Secretary-General and other relevant UN officials.

S. Res. 17 US Support for UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and Other Population Programs

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Knowing that the world's population is 6.7 billion and projected by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to continue rapid growth to approximately 10 billion by 2050;

Believing estimates that 3 billion people are now living on less than \$2 per day and almost half of these live on less than \$1 per day;

Finding that the present standard of living in the United States would require the resources of three earths to provide the same standard worldwide;

Aware that this rapid population growth, the overwhelming majority of which is in less developed countries, could jeopardize the fulfillment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and specifically aggravate problems of poverty, unemployment, malnutrition and disease, scarcity of natural resources including water, shortfall of public services and supportive infrastructure, criminal and military violence, terrorism, ethnic fighting, destruction of natural habitat and wildlife, illegal immigration, and trafficking in women and children;

Noting that among the fifty least developed countries, eighty percent of the governments believe that their population growth rates are too high and that surveys of women in those countries generally show that their desired number of children is fewer than the number they actually bear;

Aware that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has an effective voluntary program of family planning, provision of contraceptives, maternal health and education, while other UN programs such as the Fund for Women and UNICEF expand the horizons and opportunities for women beyond childbearing;

Recognizing that the work of the UN Population Fund contributes to fulfillment of the UN MDGs, including specifically the reduction of maternal and infant mortality, and that without sufficient resources, many women and girls throughout the world endure unwanted pregnancies and abortions that could be prevented; and

Commending President Obama for ending in January 2009 the policy of the previous Administration to withhold eight years of US voluntary contributions to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), even when the US Congress approved such contributions;

Therefore,

Urges the US Congress to appropriate and authorize in 2009 the full funding that has been proposed by the Obama Administration, consistent with the United States' fair share of funding and in accord with the President's renewed support for the important programs of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA);

Recommends that the needs for UNFPA's program services and its capabilities be reassessed by UN member countries as soon as possible;

Recommends further that a supplemental appropriation be supported by the President and approved by Congress toward the expansion of future UNFPA programs, particularly those dedicated to fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals of poverty alleviation, maternal and infant mortality, and education of girls;

Calls for the President and Congress to appropriate this supplementary allocation in an amount equivalent to the US contributions that had been approved by Congress but withheld during the past eight years;

Requests the President and Congress to give priority attention to increasing US contributions to bilateral and multilateral international population programs, most particularly through the UN Population Fund, as well as funding of effective non-governmental international population programs;

Urges UNA-USA chapters and divisions to consider ways in which they can raise awareness of these issues and support UNFPA directly or through efforts such as “34 Million Friends of UNFPA” and other organizations; and

Finally requests that this resolution be communicated to the President, Vice President, Secretary of State, Ambassador to the United Nations, select members of Congress, and other relevant officials in the Executive Branch.

S. Res. 18 Support United Nations Strengthening and Renewal

The National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America,

Recognizing that the United Nations has undertaken a series of important actions for strengthening and renewal in recent years, including the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission, the establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the establishment of the Human Rights Council, and financial management reforms;

Noting that the initial results of implementation of these reforms has been mixed;

Bearing in mind that efforts to strengthen the delivery of UN services at the country level are under way through a series of country pilot efforts following a major study by a distinguished panel;

Aware that opportunities for UN strengthening and renewal have been missed as a result of patterns of regional block voting at the United Nations;

Recognizing that the United States has not given sufficient leadership to the design, negotiation and introduction of these reforms;

Considering that the US Congress has created impediments to UN strengthening and renewal by establishing a legislative ceiling on US participation in financing UN peacekeeping, thereby leading to significant arrears in US payments due to the United Nations;

Recognizing that the United Nations has four separate, under-funded entities focused on women's issues and lacks a systematic and effective mechanism to deliver on promises that emerged from United Nations world conferences;

Believing that new opportunities for US leadership and significant UN accomplishments in the area of UN strengthening and renewal have been created by political and other changes in the United States in the past several years; and

Affirming that a central mission of the United Nations Association in the United States is to build a stronger United Nations through effective US leadership;

Therefore,

Determines that strengthening and renewing the United Nations should be a central theme of UNA-USA activities at the national and local level, including public education, advocacy with the Executive and Legislative branches of the US Government, and in both public and private dialogue at the United Nations and beyond;

Urges the US Congress to repeal its ceiling on US participation in financing of UN peacekeeping and relax its insistence on zero growth in UN budgets, particularly in connection with any discussions on possibilities for a 'grand bargain' on UN strengthening and renewal between industrial and poor countries;

Urges the US Government to engage positively in dialogue on the effectiveness and strengthening of the United Nations human rights programs and institutions;

Urges the US Government to participate with an open mind in public and private dialogue on updating and expanding the United Nations Security Council, to facilitate understandings among conflicting perspectives, and to be prepared to join actively in discussions on understandings among the permanent members of the Security Council about possibilities for limiting the use of the veto;

Urges the US Government to contribute actively to strengthening the unified delivery of UN services at the country level and to stimulate stronger coordination of the work programs and activities of UN agencies and programs through the United Nations Economic and Social Council;

Urges the US Government to work towards the achievement of Gender Equity Architecture Reform (GEAR) through the creation of a stronger, consolidated and adequately funded United Nations entity for women; and

Calls on the UNA-USA national office to disseminate this resolution to the President, other relevant officials of the Executive Branch, and to appropriate members of Congress, and calls on UNA-USA chapters and divisions and members to bring this resolution to the attention of their elected representatives and local news media.

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