



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***

***2007 BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION***

**February 28-March 4, 2007  
Roosevelt Hotel, New York City**

## **S.1 Strengthening US Engagement with the UN**

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

Realizing that the forces of globalization, increasing economic interdependence, and technological advancements in communications and transportation are binding the peoples and nations of the world ever closer together;

Observing that in today's interconnected world, the promotion and protection of United States national security and economic interests cannot be accomplished solely through unilateral action and that global solutions and multilateral cooperation are needed if American interests are to be effectively safeguarded and advanced;

Acknowledging that the United Nations provides the US with a unique and valuable forum for organizing and leveraging collective international action to prevent and resolve shared global challenges that no single nation can effectively address on its own;

Further acknowledging that working through the UN enables the US to share the risks and costs of furthering critical US national interests;

Aware that US financial practices toward the UN – including the continued and ongoing accumulation of arrears owed to the UN, the routine payment of UN regular budget assessments eight to eleven months following the due date set forth by UN regulations, and a statutory provision prohibiting full payment of UN peacekeeping dues – undermine the organization's effectiveness and jeopardize US interests;

Recognizing that the US is bound by international treaty obligations to provide its assessed membership dues to the UN system on time and in full; and

Mindful that it is crucial to the effective functioning of the UN that the US, as the world's largest economy and the UN's largest financial contributor, demonstrate enlightened and responsible leadership at the UN and active, sustained and constructive engagement with the organization, including by paying its dues to the UN on time and in full;

Therefore,

Calls upon the US government to meet its financial obligations to the UN system in full and to make the required payments when they are due and without conditions;

Strongly urges the US government to renew financial support of the UN Population Fund;

Encourages the US Congress to permanently repeal the statutory limitation on financing of UN peacekeeping operations;

Further encourages Congress to provide increased levels of voluntary contributions to UN programs;

Calls upon the President and the Senate to take all necessary actions for US accession to the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction* (Mine Ban Treaty), and participate in and support the ongoing negotiations leading to a global small arms treaty;

Further calls upon the President and the Senate to take all necessary actions for US ratification of international treaties such as the *Kyoto Protocol*, the *Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty* (CTBT), the *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea*, the *Rome Statute* of the International Criminal Court, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and to abide by, and to advocate universal good faith for international obligations;

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;

Further calls upon the association to communicate this resolution to announced nationally prominent Presidential candidates, requesting these candidates to declare their positions on these issues; 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.2 Supporting UN Reform

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

Noting that under the stewardship of Secretary-General Kofi Annan the United Nations has successfully accomplished a number of key reforms of the organization's administrative and management practices sought by the United States, as well as the creation of new entities such as an ethics office, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council, a Central Emergency Response Fund, and a Democracy Fund;

Emphasizing the importance of continuing to engage and strengthen non-governmental organizations in support of UN reform; and

Further noting that additional reform is needed at the UN, including in the areas of management and administration, as well as to the structure and methods of the General Assembly and Security Council, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization;

Therefore,

Calls upon the US government to engage in serious discussions with other member states to identify areas of agreement and to build support for the approval of key UN reform proposals, including enlarging the Security Council and enhancing administrative and management reform;

Recommends that the association urge the World Federation of United Nations Associations to actively work with United Nations Associations and chapters in the US to promote and facilitate global United Nations Association dialogues on UN reform during the next three years;

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.3 The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

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

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights are fundamental principles of the United Nations and have been constant hallmarks of the organization's work;

Further recognizing that the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* are vital components of the United Nation's ongoing promotion of human rights; and

Realizing that respect for human rights is intricately linked with efforts to promote security and development – all of which are contingent upon one another such that there can be no substantial and lasting improvements in security or development alongside violations of fundamental human rights;

Therefore,

Calls upon the United States government to seek election to the Human Rights Council in 2007 in order to be able to work within the Council to improve the focus of its deliberations and the effectiveness of its activities in support of universal human rights;

Urges the President to seek immediate ratification and implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, and calls on the Senate to provide its advice and consent to ratification of these treaties;

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 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.4 International Prohibition against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

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

Recognizing that Article 5 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and Article 7 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* provide that “[n]o one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”;

Further recognizing that Article 2 of the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* requires each state party to take effective measures “to prevent acts of torture within any territory under its jurisdiction” and states that “[n]o exceptional circumstances whatsoever ... may be invoked as a justification of torture”;

Recalling that Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions prohibits torture of protected persons;

Noting that the United States is party to these international conventions;

Further noting recent reports by the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations documenting ill treatment of detainees in United States custody which may amount to torture;

Observing that the US Army last September (2006) issued a newly revised *Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations* requiring that “[a]ll captured or detained personnel, regardless of status, shall be treated humanely ... and no person in the custody or under the control of the DOD, regardless of nationality or physical location, shall be subject to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in accordance with and as defined in US law”;

Further observing, in the same month, the passage of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 which states that “[n]o foreign or international source of law shall supply a basis for a rule of decision in the courts of the United States in interpreting” violations of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, and authorizes the President to “interpret the meaning and application of the Geneva Conventions and to promulgate higher standards and administrative regulations for violations of treaty obligations which are not grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions,” potentially allowing him to approve more harsh procedures that may be used by non-military interrogators;

Noting that this Act specifically limits war crimes violations to grave breaches of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions which are defined in the Act, and as a result not all violations that would be war crimes under the Geneva Conventions are punishable as war crimes under US law; and

Welcoming recent congressional proposals to repeal elements of the Military Commissions Act, which would reinstate US adherence to the Geneva Conventions;

Therefore,

Urges the US Congress to repeal these special provisions of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 so that all prisoners and/or detainees held by the US are provided the full protections against torture or cruel treatment as provided by the Geneva Conventions;

Calls upon the US President to faithfully execute the laws, through policy and practice, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* and other applicable international treaty obligations, which constitute the law of the land, and not to allow inhumane treatment of any kind on any person held in US custody; and

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.

## **S.5 United Nations Reform to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

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

Recalling that the 2005 World Summit directed the Secretary-General to “launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities so that they can make an even more effective contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”;

Welcoming the Secretary-General's charge to the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment to take into account the “cross-cutting areas of gender equality, sustainable development and human rights”;

Noting the Panel's findings that “[g]ender equality is central to sustainable development that responds to the needs, rights, aspirations and talents of half the world's people” and that the international community, within the UN framework, has made strong commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment for over six decades;

Further noting the Panel's finding that “while the United Nations remains a key actor in supporting achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment, there is a strong sense that the UN system's contribution has been incoherent, under-resourced and fragmented”;

Mindful of the Panel's finding that the “UN needs a much stronger voice on women's issues to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are taken seriously throughout the UN system and to ensure that the UN works more effectively with governments and civil society in this mission”;

Believing that realization of the promise of the UN Charter will be served by strengthening the gender equality architecture of the UN as recommended by the Coherence Panel;

Recognizing that more than 154 international women's advocacy and United States women's and human rights organizations, including members of the association's Council of Organizations, have endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Coherence Panel to strengthen the gender equality architecture of the UN; and

Anticipating that the UN General Assembly will be considering the findings and recommendations of the Coherence Panel's final report *Delivering as One*, issued on November 9, 2006 in informal discussions and formal processes in the first half of 2007;

Therefore,

Expresses support for the Panel's recommendation to strengthen the coherence and impact of the UN's institutional gender architecture by streamlining and consolidating three of the UN's existing gender institutions, namely the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, and the UN

Development Fund for Women into one dynamic UN entity focused on gender equality and women's empowerment, having both normative and operational responsibilities, and being fully funded;

Calls for an open, transparent and global search in consultation with representatives of civil society in an open search process for a candidate for Under Secretary-General to lead the new entity who has substantive expertise in gender equality;

Undertakes to advocate for adoption of the Panel's full gender architecture recommendations;

Urges the US government to support the adoption of the Panel's recommendations and to promote establishment of a process to ensure their full and timely implementation; and

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.

## S.6 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*;

Praising 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*;

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

Applauding the US government's establishment and support of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Department of State and efforts of various state legislatures to enact laws against human trafficking and related activities;

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; and

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;

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, in a coordinated effort 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 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 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 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.

## S.7 Supporting the Responsibility of States to Protect

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

Applauding the adoption by the heads of state and government at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2005 of the doctrine of *Responsibility to Protect* populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, which is an emergent and vitally important development in international law;

Considering that this doctrine imposes on the international community, through the UN, the *Responsibility to Protect* where states fail to discharge their primary responsibility to their populations in their borders; and

Noting the failure of the international community to uphold its commitment to the *Responsibility to Protect* concerning the ongoing crisis in Darfur, Sudan;

Therefore,

Requests the United States government to support measures to facilitate implementation and institutionalization of the *Responsibility to Protect*, including the strengthening of mechanisms such as sanctions, peacekeeping, protection forces and Security Council referrals to the International Criminal Court;

Calls upon the member states of the UN to fulfill their responsibility as agreed to in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document “to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”;

Further calls upon the permanent members of the Security Council – the People’s Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the US – to agree to take the extraordinary step of refraining from vetoing resolutions that would invoke the *Responsibility to Protect*; and

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.

## S.8 Genocide in Darfur

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

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

Noting that, despite diplomatic efforts and the deployment to Darfur of an African Union military force intended to protect them which has proven to be inadequate, many innocent people in Darfur continue to be slaughtered or violently abused;

Further noting that several hundred thousand innocent persons have reportedly been killed to date in Darfur, and that the violence against the undefended now has extended to and threatens to destabilize the neighboring country of Chad; and

Recognizing the failure of the international community to act to stop the genocide in Rwanda, 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 growing genocide 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 of 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, including by applying diplomatic pressure on the Sudanese government to allow for the deployment of a joint UN-AU peacekeeping force as was agreed in principle by the parties at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2006 and to provide any necessary and appropriate support to such force; and

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.

## S.9 International Criminal Court

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

Recalling the establishment of the International Criminal Court by the adoption of its Statute at the United Nations Rome Diplomatic Conference in July 1998;

Recognizing the central role of the International Criminal Court in an emerging system of international criminal justice;

Recalling the resolution adopted by the 1999 National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America in support of the International Criminal Court;

Praising the association's critical role in the creation and support of its program, the American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal Court (AMICC);

Noting the entry into force of the *Rome Statute* of the International Criminal Court on July 1, 2002;

Further noting the Court's mandate to act only where national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute the most serious crimes of concern to the international community;

Observing the contribution of truth and reconciliation processes to communities affected by the atrocities the Court was established to address;

Recognizing the Court's contribution to ending impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including investigations of situations referred by states parties and the UN Security Council, subsequent arrest warrants and expected trials;

Noting with appreciation that the United States abstained rather than voted against UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005) which referred the situation in Darfur, Sudan to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and its expressed willingness to cooperate with the Court on this matter;

Noting a new era of positive international and domestic developments for the Court, including executive and legislative actions in the US which have recognized the counterproductive effects of Congressionally-mandated cutoffs of military and economic assistance designed to punish nations for refusing to enter into US-negotiated agreements to shield US citizens from the jurisdiction of the Court;

Applauding recent hearings in the US Senate on matters related to the work of the Court; and

Noting with appreciation the historic contributions of US to the *Rome Statute*, human rights and the rule of law;

Therefore,

Encourages expanded interaction between the US government and the Court, and US cooperation with the Court's investigations and proceedings;

Encourages further public hearings in Congress on matters related to the Court, including the conduct of US foreign policy generally and the situations in countries that are the subject of the Court's investigations and prosecutions;

Encourages constructive US participation as an observer at future sessions of the Assembly of States Parties;

Calls for the removal of all executive and legislative obstacles to US cooperation and participation in the Court;

Calls on the US to inform the Secretary-General of its intent to reinstate its signature of the *Rome Statute*;

Calls for earliest possible US ratification of the *Rome Statute*, thereby joining the International Criminal Court;

Reaffirms and encourages the association's support of AMICC's work as one of its programs;

Recommends that the association's chapters support the Court and collaborate with AMICC in its nationwide program of education and advocacy through national and local initiatives; and

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.

## **S.10 Supporting UN Peacekeeping Forces**

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

Recalling the recommendations of the United Nations Panel on Peace Operations Report (the Brahimi Report), which concluded that the UN should be capable of fielding a fully operational peacekeeping operation within thirty days of a Security Council resolution; and

Recognizing that the faithful implementation of the *Responsibility to Protect* requires that the UN have timely access to sufficient numbers of well trained and equipped peacekeeping forces and requires that the Security Council act promptly to authorize appropriate actions implementing the doctrine;

Therefore,

Strongly encourages the United States government to ensure that the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations have access to adequate financial and staff resources;

Urges the member states of the UN, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, to establish at the behest of the Security Council an intervention capacity consisting of well trained and equipped peacekeeping forces capable of being deployed rapidly and enjoying, as part of this capacity, the logistical means to accomplish such deployments; and

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.

## S.11 Iraq

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

Observing that the ongoing Iraq conflict has caused enormous civil strife in Iraq, including significant infrastructure damage, extreme sectarian violence and slaughter;

Noting that all Iraqis are entitled to fundamental human rights as enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*;

Recognizing the 1.8 million internally displaced persons and refugee outflow of two million persons which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees states is a humanitarian disaster, the largest such number since the Palestinian displacement in 1948;

Observing that 80 percent of Iraqis and 60 percent of Americans believe that United States occupation of Iraq should cease, and that further, the Iraq Study Group observes that 61 percent of Iraqis favor armed attacks on US forces;

Discerning that Iraqis have a strong personal sense of entitlement to their oil wealth, a resource which should remain a public sector asset;

Observing that the ongoing construction of permanent US military bases is perceived by the Iraqis as the intent of establishing permanent domination of Iraq;

Finding that the frontline states bordering Iraq have no long term interest in promoting turmoil on their borders, that phased early US troop departure, coupled with a UN-sponsored regional conference on achieving stability and acceptable governance in Iraq, is more likely to achieve peace and stability than is continued US troop presence in the country;

Noting that a comprehensive solution to the Iraq conflict is not possible without constructive US engagement with Iraq's neighbors, including Syria and Iran;

Applauding the recent efforts to convene international meetings on Iraq of interested parties, including the US, Syria and Iran;

Recognizing the overall US financial cost of the Iraq war may exceed \$2 trillion; and

Realizing that the rapid exit of occupation military forces is a prerequisite to peacemaking;

Therefore,

Calls upon the US government to:

1. Request the UN to organize an international conference to include all major Iraqi factions, Middle Eastern countries, particularly Syria and Iran, and other major international players, the

aim of which is to devise a national reconciliation process, build stability in Iraq and distribute political power equitably in order to ease sectarian violence;

2. Recognize that an objective of the conference would be to establish a process to achieve a unified, sovereign country, ruled by a government derived by its authority from the governed, with protections for minorities, the process of which is to be guided by the UN with assistance as needed from a UN international peace-keeping force;
3. Complete the withdrawal of US military forces from Iraq by December 31, 2007;
4. Declare that it will not permanently base US troops in Iraq and discontinue the construction of all US military bases in Iraq;
5. Through the UN, fund and facilitate the reconstruction, primarily by Iraqis, of the Iraqi infrastructure and buildings damaged or destroyed as a result of the Iraq War with support of the UN Development Fund for Iraq, including a comprehensive clean-up of cluster bombs, depleted uranium, and other munitions;
6. Exert maximum effort to create employment for Iraqis;
7. Ensure that negotiations by Iraqis on oil issues, particularly distribution of revenues, are conducted on an open, not secretive basis;
8. Facilitate a level playing field for all commercial ventures;
9. Assure sufficient funding to the UNHCR to assist Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons, and accept Iraqi refugees into the US as needed in concert with the UNHCR; and

Calls upon the UN Security Council to:

1. Provide, under UN direction and supervision, for such international security presence as may be agreed to by the international conference recommended above and by the contending Iraqi forces;
2. In accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1325, ensure that women from all sectors of Iraqi society be included in any and all negotiations which will affect their lives and futures; and

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 the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

## **S.12 Middle East Peace and Security**

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

Recognizing that issues of Middle East peace and security represent some of the most complex and consequential of challenges facing both the United States and the United Nations;

Noting that the Iraq Study Group Report of December 2006 forthrightly stated, “The United States cannot achieve its goals in the Middle East unless it deals directly with the Arab-Israeli conflict and regional instability”;

Observing that the US is viewed by much of the world through the lens of its policies toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the war in Iraq;

Recalling UN Security Council resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973, the Camp David peace accords of 1978, the Arab League Initiative of 2002, the Roadmap proposed in 2003 by the diplomatic Quartet (consisting of the UN, US, European Union, and Russia), the Draft Permanent Status Agreement of 2003 (the Geneva Accord), as well as other meetings held and proposals considered over many years;

Appreciating the efforts made by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to resolve the conflict and in particular his 2006 visits to consult the leaders of all countries in the region as well as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s pledge to make the Israel-Palestine conflict a priority; and

Acknowledging that the Roadmap developed in 2003 by the diplomatic Quartet provides a blueprint leading to a two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and was endorsed by the Security Council in Resolution 1515 (2003);

Therefore,

Affirms that the ultimate goal of a comprehensive and peaceful settlement must be a mutually acceptable agreement providing for both the security of the State of Israel within internationally recognized borders, and agreement on a viable, secure, and independent sovereign state for the Palestinian people;

Emphasizes the necessity of all parties to live up to commitments made but not yet carried out;

Calls upon the US government to intensify its diplomatic efforts, encourage discussions between the Israeli and Palestinian leadership, members of the Quartet, the Arab League and key countries in the region, to help forge a comprehensive final peace settlement between the Israelis and Palestinians based on a two-state solution;

Calls upon the US government to ensure that such discussions to help forge a comprehensive settlement include women participants as required under Security Council resolution 1325;

Further calls upon the US government, in close collaboration with the Quartet and under the auspices of the UN, to encourage the convening of an international conference of all interested parties as soon as feasible and to provide its fullest support for a sustained process of negotiation and reconciliation to attain durable peace and security for all affected populations;

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 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.13 Strengthening Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament**

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

Recognizing that the spread of nuclear weapons represents one of the greatest threats to international peace and security and that efforts to further develop nuclear arsenals continues in a number of countries, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States;

Further recognizing that nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament are linked, with progress on one facilitating headway on the other;

Noting that the 2005 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference failed to produce any substantial agreements, including on a final outcome document for the Conference;

Aware that the 2005 United Nations World Summit produced an outcome document that failed to include any mention of either nonproliferation or disarmament;

Observing that then Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned in late 2006, "The one area where there is a total lack of any common [global] strategy is the one that may well present the greatest danger of all: the area of nuclear weapons";

Realizing that the General Assembly in December 2006 adopted a resolution authorizing preparatory work for the drafting of a new international treaty regulating the global trade in small arms by a vote of 153 to 1, with the US casting the lone opposition vote; and

Further mindful that the US has not ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which will not enter into force until the remaining signatories, including the US, ratify the treaty;

Therefore,

Calls upon the US government to urgently seek to build an international consensus in support of updating and strengthening the NPT and to undertake new measures to fulfill its own obligations under the treaty;

Urges the President to announce his support for the ratification of the CTBT;

Calls upon the Senate to initiate hearings on the CTBT with the goal of giving its advice and consent to ratification by 2010;

Urges the Congress, out of respect for US obligations under Article VI of the NPT, to deny all funding for research and funding of new nuclear warhead designs;

Calls upon the association to communicate this resolution to announced nationally prominent Presidential candidates, requesting these candidates to declare their positions on these issues;

Strongly encourages the US government to support the drafting of a small arms treaty to establish legally-binding standards for international conventional weapons transfers, and to actively participate in negotiations at the United Nations concerning such a treaty;

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 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.14 Defending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime**

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

Observing that possession of nuclear weapons by additional states would pose severe risks to the nuclear nonproliferation regime, greatly increase the pressures for competitive nuclear armaments by even more states, and potentially rupture the practice of non-use that has prevailed since 1945;

Concerned about the increasing risk that nuclear devices will intensify global insecurity and increase the risk that nuclear devices will fall into the hands of terrorists;

Recognizing that nuclear proliferation is one of the most important foreign policy challenges facing the United States and the international community;

Recognizing that achieving the conditions for a nuclear weapons-free Korean peninsula and Middle East are essential if there is to be lasting peace in those areas;

Noting the October 9, 2006 nuclear test of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), following its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003;

Recalling United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 which on October 14, 2006 condemned the DPRK for "the challenge such a test created for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to international efforts aimed at strengthening the global regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" and calling for the DPRK to "abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner";

Welcoming the agreement reached in Beijing on February 13, 2007 under which the DPRK undertook to disable its nuclear reactors and reprocessing facilities and to take other measures that might prove to be a first step toward the DPRK's reliable abandonment of ambitions for nuclear weapons and toward establishment of normal relations between the DPRK and the rest of the world;

Recognizing that the Beijing agreement resulted from concerted diplomatic negotiations of a coalition of interested parties, including the US;

Noting Iran's continued efforts to enrich uranium in violation of Security Council Resolution 1737 requiring Iran to halt "all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the IAEA";

Noting the US government's refusal to undertake any direct diplomatic negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program; and

Acknowledging the need for the international community to assure the security, recognize the international standing, and respect the right of parties to the NPT to possess nuclear materials for strictly peaceful purposes;

Therefore,

Insists that it is essential to prevent further nuclear weapons proliferation;

Calls upon the US government to support strengthening the UN's lead role consistent with the UN Charter and subsequent resolutions related to nuclear nonproliferation;

Calls upon the US government to give increasing priority to nuclear nonproliferation efforts in a framework of UN mandates including especially through the Security Council, IAEA, and other bilateral and multilateral fora;

Urges the US to reaffirm its commitment to Article 2, paragraph 4 of the UN Charter, and its intention to carry out the obligation of Article VI of the NPT to move toward the elimination of nuclear weapons;

Further urges the US to provide assurance of peaceful intent in its negotiations with relevant parties and renounce unilateral, preemptive, or unprovoked use of force against other nations, including Iran;

Recommends maintaining intense diplomatic efforts to prevent the acquisition of nuclear weapons by the DPRK and Iran centered on balanced short and long term inducements, penalties, and consequences including non-military sanctions authorized in Article 41 of the UN Charter; and

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, the UN Secretary-General, the Director-General of the IAEA and other relevant UN officials and the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

## S.15 The Millennium Development Goals

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

Aware that the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – a set of eight clearly-defined, time-bound and achievable goals – provide the international community with a shared blueprint for concerted action to alleviate poverty, hunger, infectious disease, child and maternal mortality, gender inequality and environmental degradation;

Recognizing that efforts to promote sustainable development help reduce the prevalence of extreme poverty and severe environmental degradation that can foster instability and create conditions that give rise to terrorism, organized crime and failed state institutional capacity;

Realizing that all UN member states, including the United States, endorsed the MDGs during the 2000 Millennium Summit, resolving to “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty”;

Further realizing that President George W. Bush has subsequently reaffirmed US support for the MDGs, most recently at the September 2005 UN World Summit;

Noting that the March 2006 *US National Security Strategy* states that “[d]evelopment reinforces diplomacy and defense, reducing long-term threats to our national security by helping to build stable, prosperous, and peaceful societies”; and

Praising the increases in official development assistance allocated by the US government between 2000 and 2005 while acknowledging the cumulative increase falls far short of the 0.7% commitment of gross domestic product called for in the MDGs, a goal originally set out in General Assembly resolution 2626 *International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade* (1970);

Therefore,

Calls upon Congress, the Executive Branch, and state and local authorities to provide public, high-level and official support of the MDGs, including inclusion of MDG-related curricula in all levels of public education nationwide to create a groundswell of grassroots support for the MDGs;

Further calls upon the US government to immediately pursue the adoption of benchmarks and a timetable for achieving a 0.7% commitment of GDP to official development assistance, not to be allocated at the expense of other development programs;

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

Further 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.16 The Environment and the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

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

Noting the recent report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which finds that global warming is 90 percent likely to be caused by human activities;

Further noting that the IPCC report predicts greater global warming in the 21st century than in the 20th century if greenhouse gas emissions continue at current levels or greater, leading to rising sea levels, melting polar ice caps, increasing incidence of drought, and more severe natural phenomena such as hurricanes and flooding;

Recalling that the UN Millennium Development Goals include in the seventh objective ensuring environmental sustainability, based on the principles of sustainable development and reversing loss of environmental resources;

Further recalling that then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan identified climate change as one of the greatest environmental and development challenges of the 21st century in his 2005 report, “In Larger Freedom”;

Taking note that the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has warned that “[t]he world has reached a critical stage in its efforts to exercise responsible environmental stewardship”;

Observing President George W. Bush’s recent State of the Union address in which he maintained that “technologies will help us become better stewards of the environment – and they will help us to confront the serious challenge of global climate change”;

Recalling that the *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, a UN initiative designed to mobilize global action to address the problem of climate change in part by setting binding emission reduction targets for states parties that are developed nations, has an initial commitment period that ends in 2012 and that a “Meeting of the Parties” will begin discussions on successor agreements in 2007;

Observing that any successor agreement to the *Kyoto Protocol* should set binding emission reduction targets for all states parties;

Recognizing that the *Kyoto Protocol* calls for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming, thereby diminishing the likelihood of mass extinction of species and protecting global biodiversity, and a continued commitment to protect the ozone layer, consistent with the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*;

Encouraged that many communities, states and businesses in the United States have recognized the importance of meeting the Kyoto targets and are taking action to meet these targets;

Noting that the US has highly advanced scientific and technological resources for addressing issues of climate change; and

Concerned that the US is a signatory but not party to the *Kyoto Protocol* and consequently its ability to take a leadership role in the discussions on successor agreements is weakened;

Therefore,

Recognizes that the achievement of environmental sustainability will be possible only if the issue of climate change is successfully addressed;

Decides to make the promotion of a strong US role in successor agreements to the Kyoto Protocol, which requires the adoption of a comprehensive national environmental policy, an ongoing priority in its advocacy program, specifically by helping to define issues and supporting forward-looking suggestions in Washington and at the UN;

Urges the President to seek immediate ratification and implementation of the *Kyoto Protocol* and calls on the Senate to provide its advice and consent to ratification thereof;

Further urges the US government to join the “Meeting of the Parties” scheduled for December 2007 in an effort to achieve international consensus and US participation in a successor agreement by 2012 and to contribute to that international effort this country’s vast intellectual resources in this field;

Appeals to the US government to join and contribute constructively in talks convened by the international community on the issue of climate change, including any emergency summits or negotiations on a successor treaty to the *Kyoto Protocol*;

Calls upon the association, including its chapters, divisions and associated organizations, to encourage civil society, the private sector and governments at federal, state and local levels to support initiatives raising awareness about global warming, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the protection of the environment within the international framework of the *Montreal Protocol*, the *Kyoto Protocol*, successor agreements and other applicable treaties;

Recommends the association’s Board of Directors to consider seeking funding for a staff position devoted to research and advocacy work on climate change and environmental sustainability; 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 and the UN Secretary-General and other relevant UN officials.