# Resolutions Passed at CND Conference 2014

**1. Trident, the general election and after**

Conference notes that a decision on whether or not to replace Trident is expected in the life-time of the next parliament. Although the process for parliamentary debate and decision-making is not yet known, the attitudes of parliamentarians towards Trident replacement will be of great significance.

Conference further notes that although the three main Westminster parties favour nuclear weapons at leadership and policy level, there is scope within parliamentary party ranks for diverse and changing views.

Conference also notes that pressure from the electorate is the primary factor affecting MPs’ attitudes and we cannot win on Trident replacement without mobilising opinion throughout society on a far greater level than already achieved. The scale of public opinion against Trident has to be converted into a more vocal and intolerant demand for disarmament. To help achieve this, it is essential that CND and its civil society partners organise and mobilise, extensively and creatively, through a variety of campaigning methods, to bring pressure to bear on our elected representatives both pre and post-general election.

Conference therefore resolves:

1. To lobby all parliamentary candidates at constituency level about their position on Trident replacement to make it clear that backing it is a vote loser.
2. To step up local campaigning in the pre-election period, to raise awareness of Trident and ensure that it is a factor in voting.
3. To promote the People’s Ballot initiative for use with local media and candidates.
4. To organise public meetings and hustings with civil society partners to raise the profile of Trident replacement.
5. To lobby all incoming MPs, post-election, to demand inclusion of Trident in a full Strategic Defence Review prior to any decision on Trident replacement.
6. To build the broadest possible opposition to Trident replacement across society, pre and post- election, via the Rethink Trident initiative.
7. To raise the profile of nuclear issues through work with partners across the nuclear disarmament movement, campaigning dynamically against Trident.

# 2. Political Parties and Global Disarmament

Conference notes:

1. recent conferences in Norway and Mexico on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, involving scores of nation states, but boycotted by the UK Government;
2. a further conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, to be hosted by the Austrian Government in December 2014;
3. a growing sense of urgency internationally for progress on nuclear disarmament.

Conference further notes:

1. a failure of both the Coalition Government and the Labour Party to support these humanitarian conferences;
2. a total omission from the Labour Party’s draft policy documents of any aspiration for global disarmament;
3. the intervention of over 20 constituency Labour Parties and Labour CND to seek to amend Labour’s policy to welcome the international conferences on the Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

Conference believes:

1. the international conferences on the humanitarian consequences are to be welcomed, and the British Government should attend the Vienna conference in December;
2. the forthcoming General Election provides the opportunity for campaigners to press parliamentary candidates and political parties on their commitment to global disarmament;
3. replacing Trident is incompatible with Britain's international obligations to pursue disarmament, and runs counter to global efforts to make progress.

Conference resolves to:

1. call on the UK government to attend December’s conference in Vienna;
2. call on the next UK government elected in 2015 to assert that the global abolition of nuclear weapons is an urgent objective of government policy;
3. remind all political parties and candidates that Trident is incompatible with any meaningful progress towards global disarmament and Britain’s nuclear weapons must be scrapped; There needs to be an immediate, urgent time-scale for scrapping Trident;
4. remind all political parties and candidates that the public is impatient with vague political aspirations for scrapping Trident. It must be achieved in the next parliament.

# The International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement

This Conference applauds the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for their “Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons: four-year action plan” Resolution. The reason for the four-year action plan is the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, the threat to food production and the environment.

This conference resolves to seek an endorsement from the British Red Cross and for it to work with CND for an International Treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

# Building Trade Union Support (1)

This Conference notes:

* 1. The October 18th Britain Needs A Pay Rise demonstration organised by the TUC.
  2. The 50,000 strong June 21st No More Austerity demonstration organised by the People’s Assembly
  3. The overall growing strength and importance of the anti-austerity and Trade Union movements.

This Conference further notes:

1. That many CND members are Union members, retired members or community members.
2. CND’s continuing involvement in the anti-austerity movement.
3. The growing animosity towards Trident within the Trade Union movement – fuelled by cuts to public services.

This Conference believes:

1. CND should build on this animosity and the resulting interest in CND’s anti-Trident work.
2. That Trade Union work is important and requires local activity.

This Conference resolves:

1. That CND local groups will:
   1. engage with Trade Unions, Trade Union Councils, branches and workplace shops on a local level and offer CND speakers to address meetings and events.
   2. invite local Trade Union speakers to address CND meetings and to build relationships with local Trade Union activists.
   3. make every effort to secure Trade Union affiliations on a local level.
2. That CND local groups will build on links with the anti-austerity movement by engaging in local and national anti-austerity campaigns.

# Building Trade Union Support (2)

Conference notes that:

* 1. There are seven million workers in the trade union movement across Britain, the majority of whom oppose Trident replacement in favour of public sector jobs for welfare and social infrastructure;
  2. There is a major national campaign against austerity headed by trade unions, as seen in July 10’s brilliant national protest, where opposition to Trident was visible and popular;
  3. The Unite trade union organises the majority of workers who are trade union members in the nuclear and military sectors, and has steadfastly refused to allow CND stall at their conference as a consequence, despite many of these workers individually opposing Trident ;
  4. There are very few trade union branches affiliated to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament even though they have the constitutional right to do so;
  5. There are many local CND activists and branches that do not routinely contact and maintain dialogue with trade union branches and local trades union councils.

Conference Resolves:

1. To make contact and campaigning within the trade union movement on matters of nuclear weapons a core priority over the next two years with the aim of gaining maximum branch affiliations and formal recognition by Unite of the importance of CND within the labour movement;
2. To call upon all CND members and Branches to seek to build and sustain dialogue and relationships with local trade union branches, and with their local Trades Union Council, as a matter of routine core business of the CND branch.
3. To expand the CND Trades Union working group membership to ensure a sufficiency of activists and constitutional meetings to develop a full strategy for the acceptance and support for CND throughout the trade union movement.

# Nato and Missile Defence

Conference notes that:

* + 1. Britain’s Trident nuclear weapons are assigned to NATO; NATO’s ‘flexible response’ policy includes the possibility of a nuclear first strike;
    2. missile defence systems that would deny any retaliation are an integral part of a nuclear first strike and increase the possibility of a nuclear war;
    3. the US continues to establish missile defence components and bases around the world and in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific Region in particular;
    4. US and NATO missile defence installations in Europe are seen as aggressive moves that are severely obstructing any further progress on nuclear arms reduction - this is particularly important with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the strained relationship with Russia; US satellites and ground based command and control stations are crucial components of missile defence, global surveillance and armed drone operations;
    5. in Britain military installations such as Fylingdales, Menwith Hill and Croughton support these activities;
    6. there is a need to raise awareness of these bases in Britain and their role in making a nuclear war possible.

Conference resolves to:

1. continue to support the “Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space” and “Keep Space for Peace Week” in with an event at Fylingdales in October (Yorkshire CND to take the organising role) and a similar event at Croughton (Oxford CND to take an organising role within Oxfordshire Peace Campaign);
2. highlight the role of Menwith Hill by
   1. giving national publicity to an annual “Bikes not Bombs” cycle ride and
   2. continue to support the July 4th “Independence from America Day” protest of the “Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases”.

# The Asia Pacific and the NPT

Conference notes:

* + - 1. The rise in tensions over disputed islands in the South and East China Seas, and the increasing militarisation of the Asia Pacific in the context of the US ‘Asian pivot’;
      2. The undemocratic decision of the Japanese Cabinet to reinterpret Article 9 of its constitution to allow the exercise of collective self-defence, reversing its decades-long renunciation of war and increasing the potential for conflict escalation in the region;
      3. The decision was taken with the encouragement of NATO through the signing of a new NATO-Japan partnership agreement.

Conference believes that:

1. The situation in the Asia Pacific region may start to slide towards a dangerous new rivalry between the two nuclear armed states, the US and China, from which it would be difficult to draw back;
2. The volatility of the situation demands that all nuclear weapons states involved, including Britain, commit urgently to a policy of ‘no first use’ of nuclear weapons and to the ratification of the SE Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, incorporating the South China Sea, recognising that China already does both;

Conference resolves to:

1. Highlight these issues in its campaigning in the current year;
2. Work with such organisations as Gensuikyo and the American Friends Service Committee, to raise awareness of the dangers in the wider international peace movement, building resistance to militarisation, warmongering and nuclear threat;
3. Seek from all the political parties a declaration to carry forward unconditional commitments to ‘no first use’; ratification and realisation of all proposed NWFZs; as well as the reversal of nuclear weapons modernisation plans and a total ban on all nuclear weapons.

# Global Nato

Conference notes that:

* + - 1. Since the end of the Warsaw Pact, CND has campaigned vigorously against the expansion of NATO eastwards.
      2. NATO dominated by the US 'hawks' and the military manufacturers has however pursued expansion right up to Russia's borders.
      3. We can now see the conflict which has arisen in major part from these policies.

Conference further notes

1. There are still further moves to make a 'global NATO'.
2. Following the lead of the Obama administration to an Asia 'pivot' in foreign policy, NATO has already established Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programs with Australia, South Korea and New Zealand. It signed a Joint Political Declaration with Japan in 2013 and is developing ties with other states around the Pacific.

Conference believes

1. Just as NATO expansion in Eastern Europe has heightened conflict there, so its further expansion is likely to increase tension and the potential for military conflict in the Pacific and South Asia region. This is especially dangerous when it is remembered that NATO is nuclear armed with a policy of 'first use' of nuclear weapons.
2. At any time the Trident submarines, integrated into NATO, could be under the South China Sea.

Conference further believes:

1. NATO is an impediment to a peaceful world and global nuclear disarmament.

Conference therefore resolves:

1. to prepare a new Briefing and campaigning materials on 'global NATO', emphasising both the dangers consequent on NATO's expansion to the Pacific and South Asia regions and the obscenity of increasing expenditure on the military in a world where people die from hunger and lack of clean water.
2. to campaign to seek the dissolution of NATO, or, failing that, withdrawal from it.

# Iraq

Conference notes that Western-led aggression against Iraq has resulted in the destruction of its infrastructure and a civil war.

We have an obligation to contribute to Iraq’s reconstruction, especially in the light of recent requests for humanitarian support by the Iraqi people and government.

Conference expresses concern that any further western led military action could entrench sectarian divisions and make the establishment of peace more difficult to achieve.

Conference calls for a UN authorised humanitarian response.

Conference further calls for the UN to promote urgent negotiations for peaceful resolution of this conflict.

# Nuclear Power

Conference notes that nuclear power

* + - 1. remains closely linked with nuclear weapons
      2. is an exorbitantly expensive and dangerous way to boil water;
      3. is the least effective and least economic method of reducing UK carbon emissions.
      4. “has generated and continues to generate radioactive waste for which no safe disposal has yet been devised.”
      5. that the UK scores poorly among nuclear-capable states for the security of its nuclear infrastructure, the quantities of nuclear materials it holds and transport between sites
      6. that key safety requirements for the operation of existing plants are to be lowered by the Office for Nuclear Regulation
      7. that changes to Planning Law prevent proper public scrutiny and participation in decisions about nuclear new-build and waste disposal

Conference further notes that renewable energy

1. provides much faster, cheaper and safer ways to reduce UK carbon emissions, and creates many more jobs than nuclear;
2. has created over 450,000 new jobs in Germany since 2006.

Conference resolves to:

1. reaffirm its strong opposition to the Government’s ill-thought plans for yet more nuclear power;
2. work closely with anti-nuclear groups to foster opposition to nuclear power developments;
3. seek means of reversing the current policies of support for nuclear in trade unions and the Labour Party
4. join with the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in publicising the impact of all stages of the nuclear cycle on local communities around the UK

# Ukraine

Conference notes with concern that, in September 2014, in the context of conflict in eastern Ukraine, both Russia and Ukraine, have raised the possibility of nuclear re-armament.

Russian president Vladimir Putin announced at a meeting in Moscow, on 10 September 2014, that Russia will focus on developing new strategic nuclear weapons, while Ukrainian Defence Minister Valery Geletey voiced the possibility that Ukraine might acquire nuclear arms again, at a press conference on 14 September 2014, despite having given up its nuclear weapons 20 years ago.

Conference resolves that CND should:

* + - 1. Reiterate its opposition to all nuclear proliferation and breaches of the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty
      2. Urge the Ukrainian President, Petro Poroshenko, to declare that Ukraine will remain nuclear- weapon-free state, and
      3. Support and cooperate with anti-nuclear organisations and campaigns in both Russia and Ukraine.