

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A021
Title: Support for the United Nations
Proposer: Standing Commission on World Mission
Topic: International Relations

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A039 Promote Awareness of UN Consultative Status
2015-A020 Urge Episcopalians Be Informed of the Church's UN Consultative Status
2003-D006 Endorse UN Millennium Development Goals
2000-D022 Support the UN's "Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence"

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2015-D071 Ratify UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
2012-A016 Affirm the Moral Responsibility to Protect Populations from Atrocities

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The "direct" resolutions are attached and "indirect" resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

A021 - Support for the United Nations

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on World Mission

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 07 - Social Justice & International Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention applaud the United Nations on its 75th anniversary and recall the prophetic role Episcopalians and The Episcopal Church played in its inception, including modeling a universal fellowship of peace-loving communities, shaping its founding principles, supporting its formation in 1945 through the actions of General Convention, and inspiring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the faithful public service of Eleanor Roosevelt and other Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention express gratitude to the United Nations for its leadership over three quarters of a century in promoting multilateralism and fostering dialogue among nations of the world, maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention affirm the critical importance of the United Nations in addressing contemporary global challenges, including the spread of disease, dislocation of migrants and refugees, rise of climate change, persistence of poverty, discrimination in all its forms and intersectionalities, abuse of human rights, and threats of violence, conflict, and war; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention recommit The Episcopal Church to active engagement with the United Nations in its special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and the observer organization status in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and through the ministries of the Office of Global Partnerships and

Mission Personnel and the Episcopal Church Representative to the UN, and the efforts of individual Episcopalians; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge all nations, especially the United States, to support the United Nations and its offices, programs and funds, as well as related specialized agencies through their active participation and full payment of their assessed financial contributions; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call on all nations, especially the United States, to participate in the formulation, signature, ratification and implementation of United Nations Declarations, Treaties, Agreements and Conventions to resolve global concerns, especially those which protect the most vulnerable; and be it further

Resolved, That all Episcopalians seek ways to fulfill our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being” by endeavoring in our local parishes and dioceses to inform, educate, raise awareness, and develop programs to contribute to the work of the United Nations; and be it further

Resolved, That all Episcopalians observe United Nations Day annually on October 24, and pray for the UN’s continued success in building a more peaceful, just, and prosperous world in accord with Jesus’ call to us to love our neighbor as ourselves, care for our world, heal the sick, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, serve the poor and proclaim the Good News; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention give thanks for the continued support and partnership of the Anglican Communion in common ministry at the United Nations and encourage collaboration and mutual support for all Anglicans while uplifting Episcopal voices and concerns through Episcopal representation at the United Nations.

Explanation

On United Nations Day (October 24) 2020, the United Nations commemorated the 75th anniversary of its official founding. Presiding Bishop Curry invited Episcopalians to join him on Sunday, October 25th, in praying the “Prayer for Peace Among the Nations” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 816) as a prayer of solidarity while the world continues to work towards peace, justice, human rights and the full development and dignity of all peoples living in harmony with each other, our planet and its creatures. Established in the aftermath of the destruction of two World Wars, the United Nations was then - and still is today - envisioned as a global forum for dialogue between nations of the world, to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights, deliver humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development and uphold international law.

Episcopalians have been engaging with the United Nations (UN) since before its inception in 1945. Today, Episcopalians participate in many ways: as UN staff; as representatives of member states, civil society organizations or The Episcopal Church following UN dialogue on global issues that concern them; or as participants in UN events virtually or in person. Specifically, the Episcopal Church was granted in 2014 UN Economic and Social Council

special consultative status and was granted in 2017 observer organization status with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This resolution commends UN initiatives and actions and recommitments The Episcopal Church, in collaboration with the Anglican Communion, and other faith-based partners, to active engagement with the United Nations. It urges the United States and member nations to pay fully their assessed financial contributions; craft international agreements, declarations, treaties, and conventions to resolve global concerns; and recognize these actions as multilateral legal instruments that complement, rather than compete with, national laws.



Resolution Number: 2018-A039
Title: Promote Awareness of UN Consultative Status
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church rejoice together in being granted Economic and Social Council consultative status at the United Nations, which status provides the opportunity for representatives and delegates of The Episcopal Church to provide input to decision and policy makers of the United Nations, such input provided being in accordance with resolutions passed by the General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention encourage Executive Council and its committees be in closer dialogue with the official representatives of The Episcopal Church to the United Nations; and be it further

Resolved, That this Church encourage all Episcopalians to educate themselves about the work of the United Nations, through resources provided by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church and the United Nations, and to explore the many ways in which our collective call as Christians to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” links with the work undertaken at the United Nations, and to partner with the United Nations and its related funds and programs to achieve these goals; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention encourage the Global Partnerships team and the Church’s official representatives to the United Nations to provide access to educational materials, resources, and information in English, French, and Spanish regarding opportunities presented by this status on The Episcopal Church website, Episcopal News Service, and at diocesan conventions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention encourage all Episcopalians to avail themselves of the resources and opportunities provided by the Global Partnerships team and the Church’s official representatives to the United Nations and encourage those who participate as delegates representing The Episcopal Church to share their experiences as broadly as possible in their parishes, dioceses, and beyond with the support of the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society; and be it further

Resolved, That our representatives continue to work in partnership with the representatives of the Anglican Communion, and actively seek to collaborate as far as possible with representatives of other faith-based organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church rejoice together in the relationships built between the delegates of The Episcopal Church and the representatives of the Anglican Communion, deepening understanding and sharing stories.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 856.



Resolution Number: 2015-A020
Title: Urge Episcopalians Be Informed of the Church's UN Consultative Status
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA rejoice together in being granted Economic and Social Council consultative status at the United Nations; and be it further
Resolved, That the Church encourages all Episcopalians to educate themselves about the work of the United Nations and the many ways in which our collective call as Christians to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” aligns with the work of the United Nations, and to support and partner with the United Nations and its programs and agencies in pursuit of peace, reconciliation and justice for all people; and be it further
Resolved, That the 78th General Convention encourages all Episcopalians to inform themselves about the resources and opportunities presented by this status, especially through association and communication with the Global Partnerships staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and the Church’s official representatives at the United Nations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 675.



Resolution Number: 2003-D006
Title: Endorse UN Millennium Development Goals
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention endorse and embrace the achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that pledge to:

1. **eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;**
2. **achieve universal primary education;**
3. **promote gender equality and empower women;**
4. **reduce child mortality;**
5. **improve maternal health;**
6. **combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;**
7. **ensure environmental stability [sic]; and**
8. **develop a global partnership for development; and be it further**

Resolved, That the Convention, recognizing that funding for nutritional, education, health care, and development programs is essential to achieve not only the MDGs, but also for recognizing the dignity of all human beings, reaffirm the 73rd General Convention's Resolutions A001 and D033 challenging all dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international development programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the appropriate offices and staff of the Episcopal Church Center, in cooperation with Episcopal Relief and Development, promote among dioceses and congregations education about and participation in the 0.7% contribution for international development; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council be directed to fulfill the 73rd General Convention's Resolution D033 requiring the Council to develop a process for an annual accounting of each diocese's progress toward living into the 0.7% contribution goal; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council in cooperation with the Communications Office at the Episcopal Church Center publish annually the annual accounting of all dioceses' level of participation in the 0.7% contribution goal; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice present a full report to the 75th General Convention of the level of participation of all dioceses in the call to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international development programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States government, as one of the 191 national signatories to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, be encouraged to provide appropriate leadership and resources toward international efforts to implement these and other internationally agreed development goals and that the Episcopal Office of Government Relations actively advocate that the United States government fulfill its commitment to funding international development aid at 0.7% of the U.S. Gross National Product (GNP); and be it further

Resolved, That all Episcopalians contact their elected representatives, urging them to support the United States government's fulfillment of its commitment to funding international development aid at 0.7% of the U.S. GNP.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 265f.



Resolution Number: 2000-D022
Title: Support the UN's "Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence"
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church promote a culture of nonviolence which values love, compassion, and justice, and rejects violence as a means of solving problems, and joins with other faith communities in observing the United Nations' Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the World (2001-2010) by prayer, action, and study of "the things that make for peace;" (Luke 19:42); and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church at national, provincial, diocesan, and congregational levels, with the assistance of Church staff and peace, justice, and education networks, provide worship, study, and action resources and opportunities throughout the Decade which promote the development of a culture of peace and nonviolence at all levels of society, with special attention to the unique gifts for peace and justice of the faith community in its history, theology, and practice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of General Convention send this resolution with letters of encouragement in their work for peace and justice to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, the President of the United States, and Episcopal Members of Congress.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 653.