

## ACTION ALERT AA 19-1: ALP CONFERENCE DECISIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY

*As Quakers we seek a world without war. We seek a sustainable and just community. We have a vision of an Australia that upholds human rights and builds peace internationally, with particular focus on our region. In our approach to government we will promote the importance of dialogue, of listening and of seeking that of God in every person. We aim to work for justice and to take away the occasion for war.*

Jan 2019

*This Alert summarises the foreign-policy related decisions of the ALP National Conference held in Adelaide in December 2018. Friends are encouraged to monitor how the Party implements these decisions, and to respond accordingly in their advocacy.*

According to various media reports, the Conference adopted a number of significant decisions about matters of concern to Friends and others in the peace and justice movements.

1. **Nuclear Weapons Ban.** The Conference committed a Labor government to sign and ratify the nuclear weapons ban treaty, so long as there is effective verification and enforcement architecture, and consistency with the existing non-proliferation treaty. The decision also said the ALP should work to gain universal support for the treaty. See full text appended.
2. **Palestine.** The conference passed a resolution supporting “the recognition and right of Israel and Palestine to exist as two states within secure and recognized borders”. This resolution also called on the next Labor Government to recognize Palestine as a state.
3. **Foreign Aid.** The conference resolved that Labor will, over time, achieve a funding target for international development assistance of at least 0.5% of gross national income. This will involve increasing aid as a percentage of national income every year that Labor is in office.
4. **Refugees and Asylum Seekers.** The conference agreed that a Labor government should (a) give an additional \$500m over five years to UNHCR to assist in the orderly processing of refugees, (b) accept New Zealand’s offer to resettle refugees from Manus and Nauru, (c) expand the community sponsored refugee program from 1000 to 5000 a year, and (c) work with UNHCR and other nations in our region to tackle people smuggling at its sources, thereby reducing the risk of deaths at sea. Whilst maintaining off-shore detention, Labor will work to end indefinite detention and to make sure those assessed by treating clinicians as in need of medical care in Australia get it.

5. **Human Rights.** The conference narrowly defeated a proposal to implement immediately a national charter of human rights. Instead it supported a review of the human rights framework including an assessment of whether it would be enhanced by a charter.
6. **Trade.** The conference agreed that future trade agreements should be banned if they waive labour market testing.

The full details of the Conference decisions will be made clearer when the ALP Policy Platform is updated shortly. You can access this at [www.alp.org.au/about/policy/platform/](http://www.alp.org.au/about/policy/platform/)

Canberra  
January 2019

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## Appendix: Resolution 397R: Nuclear disarmament

Labor:

1. Congratulates the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons on its work in returning to global prominence the cause of nuclear disarmament;
2. Acknowledges the value of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the Ban Treaty) and its aspiration to rid the world of nuclear weapons for all time, and;
3. Acknowledges the centrality of the US Alliance to Australia's national security and strategic policy.

Labor in government will sign and ratify the Ban Treaty, after taking account of the need to:

- Ensure an effective verification and enforcement architecture;
- Ensure the interaction of the Ban Treaty with the longstanding Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- Work to achieve universal support for the Ban Treaty.

Labor will take urgent action to reduce the risk of nuclear war by continuing its proud record of seeking nuclear disarmament by:

- Working to create the conditions necessary to achieve a pathway to universal support for the Ban Treaty;
- Advocating to the United States and Russia for the renewal of the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) Treaty for the period beyond 2021;
- Advocating to the United States that it actively negotiates with Russia, China and other nuclear armed states a follow-on treaty to the New START treaty with a view to realising the objective of Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): a world free of nuclear weapons; and

Seeking to work with partners and allies to build upon the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and develop an initiative which proposes a way of working with states possessing nuclear weapons to realise the aspiration of Article VI of the NPT seeking to encourage transparency among all states with nuclear weapons over their doctrine and the composition of their arsenals, and continuing to strengthen non-proliferation goals in the Indo-Pacific region.