

## **Draft Composite N Trident and Defence Diversification (Covering motions 91 and 92)**

That this Congress reaffirms its opposition to the Trident nuclear weapons system. Trident is a weapon rooted in the Cold War past, designed to attack an 'enemy' that no longer exists. It is immoral, illegal and increasingly unaffordable. Moreover, it is militarily useless against the limited 'threats' which Britain currently faces, predominantly terrorism and climate change.

Congress notes that research carried out by Scottish CND shows that spending on Trident sustains a very small number of jobs, while jeopardising the jobs of thousands of other workers across the economy.

Spending on Trident now consumes £2-3 billion a year - a figure that is destined to rise rapidly over the next decade if the Government goes ahead with Trident replacement. For several years, expenditure on Trident will account for one third of the defence procurement budget, directly competing with and squeezing out other areas of public spending, including conventional defence.

Congress agrees that at a time of unprecedented austerity, spending on Trident diverts vital resources away from spending on social need and job creation and will jeopardise the jobs of many thousands of workers in the public sector, the armed forces and conventional defence manufacturing, and that scrapping Trident would release procurement costs of up to £30 billion plus £3 billion in maintenance costs. This could help fund a programme to:

- reverse the cuts in health, education and local government, restoring services and public sector jobs;
- kick start a programme to build hundreds of thousands of new homes and jobs in the construction industry;
- invest in the green economy, creating thousands of new jobs in renewable energy, such as wave and tidal power; and
- fund a government-led defence diversification plan with real resources, early planning and trade union and community involvement, to ensure that few, if any, jobs were lost at Faslane, Coulport and other Trident related sites in the event of cancelling the Trident nuclear weapons system.

### **Congress, therefore, resolves to:**

- step up the campaign against Trident in the trade union and labour movement and to lobby MPs, MSPs and councillors to the effect that opposition to Trident is a potential vote winner;
- continue working with organisations, such as Scottish CND, to inform, educate and build popular awareness that spending on Trident actually destroys jobs across the country;
- participate with Scottish CND in a new research project to update and clarify the number of jobs dependent on Trident and develop detailed plans for defence diversification;
- press the Scottish and UK Governments for the formation of a Scottish Defence Diversification Agency whose main focus will be planning and resourcing the diversification of jobs away from defence projects, such as Trident, and promoting the greening of the Scottish economy; and
- work with others in the broad peace movement to consolidate and mobilise popular opposition to Trident and to help make opposition to Trident a key issue in the General Election of 2015.

**Mover: Kilmarnock & Loudoun TUC  
Secunder: Clydebank TUC**