

## Template resolution for union branch on defence diversification

### Supporting the TUC call for a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency and a comprehensive industrial strategy

#### 1. This branch of the X Union notes:

1.1.1. the successful adoption by the TUC 2017 Congress of the resolution, 'The Lucas Plan, Arms Conversion and Socially Useful Production', calling on the Labour Party to set up a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency which would work with relevant Shadow Departments on a national industrial strategy that includes the possibility of converting defence capacity into alternative, socially-useful products.

1.1.2. that, if set up, the first task of the shadow agency would be to engage with plant representatives, trade unions representing workers in the defence industry and local authorities, to discuss their needs, capacities and listen to their ideas.

1.2.1. that key foreign policy goals in Labour's 2017 Manifesto, such as controlling the sale of arms to regimes with poor humanitarian records and multilateral nuclear disarmament, could have implications for workers in the defence sector.

1.2.2. the recent announcement by BAE Systems of plans to axe 2000 jobs in Lancashire is part of a wider trend of insecurity in the industry. In 2018 the sector directly employed approximately 140,000 people, down from 405,000 in 1980/81.

#### 2. This branch believes that:

2.1. if left to market forces, technological changes (such as automation) will exacerbate inequalities, as happened in the 1980s.

2.1.2 the converging dangers of militarism, climate change and insecure work create an urgency to plan and shape change towards the progressive goals of a green and less militaristic economy with high levels of investment and employment.

2.2. a Defence Diversification Agency would help a future Labour government fulfil its goals of an ethical foreign policy on the one hand and secure, sustainable jobs on the other.

2.3. an industrial strategy can only succeed by building roots of support within local communities, matching a top-down with a bottom-up approach.

#### 3. This branch resolves to:

3.1. declare its support for the aforementioned TUC 2017 Congress resolution, calling on the Labour Party to set up a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency.

3.2.1. call on the local Trades Council and the Regional Offices of the X Union to issue their own declarations of support for the resolution.

3.2.2. call on the Regional Office to deliver a programme of education, information and discussion on the issue of defence diversification.

3.3. gain a commitment from our union at the national level to support similar actions in other regions.