Arms to Renewables

This Trades Council notes that:
* the arms trade has a devastating impact on human rights and security, as well as damaging economic development through the diversion of resources;
* the UK government is sending a message of support to many of the world's most repressive regimes when it promotes and sells weaponry to them;
* large scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems;
* real security requires tackling the negative effects of climate change, with its associated food and water shortages, as well as developing a reliable and clean energy supply;
* arms companies receive UK government support and subsidies from the taxpayer;
* despite the disproportionate support it is given, the arms industry, and the number of jobs within it, is declining.

This Trades Council also notes that there:
* is an acknowledged shortage of skilled engineers;
* is an urgent need to tackle climate change, not least through the development of renewable energy and low-carbon technologies;
* are many workers within the arms industry whose skills match those needed to develop such technologies.

This Trades Council believes that:
* a balanced economy demands a strong manufacturing sector;
* everyone is entitled to decent work, training and income;
* there is a need to take a broader view of security, addressing the real threats we face rather than limiting them to the military.

The Trades Council resolves to:
1. campaign for UK government support currently given to the arms industry to be transferred to the renewable energy and low-carbon technology sectors;
2. press the UK government to support individuals and communities affected by such changes during the transition period;
3. tell the Campaign Against Arms Trade, Unit 4, 5-7 Wells Terrace, London N4 3JU enquiries@caat.org.uk that the Branch has passed this motion so that the Branch's stance may be publicised.