Centre for Geopolitics & Economic Intelligence

The London Affirmation

Principles for States, Markets, Enterprises and Humanity

PREAMBLE

Humanity inhabits a world in which states, markets, enterprises, international organisations and societies exercise different forms of power. Their decisions affect the distribution of wealth, the conduct of war and peace, the protection of rights and the opportunities of generations yet to be born. The power to act, whether public or private, must be accompanied by responsibility for those exposed to its effects.

Sovereign states possess equal legal status but unequal political, military and economic capabilities. Markets and enterprises create goods, services and knowledge, yet may also acquire influence over public decisions and the lives of populations. Economic advantage cannot determine what is just, and the possession of power does not exempt its holder from accountability.

The instruments accepted by states and applicable national laws have set obligations that must be respected. There also remain principles of fairness and responsibility which deserve consideration even where no binding rule has been agreed. A declaration capable of informing the conduct of states and firms must recognise this difference rather than attribute binding force to its aspirations.

The Centre for Geopolitics & Economic Intelligence therefore proclaims The London Affirmation as a body of principles concerning humanity, statehood, the exercise of force, global economic relations, corporate conduct, human welfare and shared responsibilities.

The Principles invite governments, enterprises, organisations and individuals to consider the responsibilities that accompany economic and political influence and to subject the exercise of such influence to the demands of human dignity, justice, peaceful coexistence and accountability.

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PART I

Humanity, Sovereignty and Statehood

Principle I. Human Dignity and Equality

Proclamation. Every human being possesses equal and inherent dignity. No difference of nationality, ethnicity, race, sex, religion, belief, disability, political opinion, economic standing or other status confers superior human worth or diminishes the fundamental rights of another person.

Interpretation. Human dignity is the first consideration in assessing the conduct of public and private power. Equality does not require identical personal circumstances or economic outcomes. It requires equal recognition before the law, protection against unjust discrimination and respect for the rights that accompany personhood, including for persons without citizenship or lawful residence.

Responsibilities. States shall respect and protect rights under the obligations applicable to them and provide avenues of redress. Enterprises and other actors should respect those rights in their activities and relationships, preventing and addressing foreseeable harm that they cause or to which they contribute.

Application. Distinctions based upon legitimate purposes are not prohibited merely because individuals are treated differently. The requirements of necessity, proportionality, fairness and human rights law govern the assessment of such distinctions.

Principle II. The Equality of States

Proclamation. Every sovereign state possesses equal legal status. Differences in territory, population, wealth, military capability or diplomatic influence confer no superior entitlement to the existence or political independence of another state.

Interpretation. Sovereign equality concerns legal status rather than parity of influence or resources. Differences in material capabilities may affect negotiations and representation, but they cannot nullify the independence of a state or justify dominion over its territory and population.

Responsibilities. States shall respect the political independence and sovereignty of other states, honour their obligations and conduct relations without invoking superior power as a justification for prohibited conduct. Institutions representing states should administer their constituent rules consistently and without arbitrary discrimination.

Application. This Principle does not displace the powers created by valid treaties. Sovereignty does not exempt any state from duties concerning human rights, peace and security.

Principle III. The Self-Determination of Peoples

Proclamation. The right of self-determination requires respect for the independence of peoples and their participation in decisions concerning them. Colonial domination, foreign subjugation and the denial of political representation are incompatible with self-determination.

Interpretation. Internal self-determination concerns political participation, representative government and the pursuit of economic, social and cultural development within a state. External self-determination concerns the determination of political status under circumstances recognised by international law, particularly decolonisation. The attainment of independence does not necessarily establish that a population enjoys effective political representation.

Responsibilities. Governments should protect political participation, representative institutions and the rights of peoples to pursue their collective aspirations. Other states must respect the principle of non-intervention and refrain from interfering unlawfully in the political choices of affected populations.

Application. This Principle does not proclaim a general entitlement to unilateral secession. Competing claims require consideration of territorial integrity, the rights of affected populations and the applicable circumstances.

Principle IV. Territorial Integrity

Proclamation. No state may acquire another state′s territory through the use of force. Territorial disputes shall be addressed without aggression or unlawful encroachment upon political independence.

Interpretation. Protection of territory helps prevent the acquisition of legal title through military force. Legitimate claims to territory, including disputed boundaries, are determined by applicable rules rather than the capacity to impose control.

Responsibilities. States shall refrain from unlawful annexation and pursue peaceful means of resolving territorial disputes. Parties to a territorial dispute should protect affected populations and abstain from actions that predetermine the outcome through force.

Application. Agreed boundary changes and territorial settlements remain possible. This Principle does not prejudge individual disputes or displace rules concerning occupation, self-determination and state succession.

Principle V. The Rule of Law and Accountability

Proclamation. No public office or institution is entitled to exercise unlimited power. Public decisions must be subject to scrutiny and capable of remedy where they violate rights or legal obligations.

Interpretation. The rule of law requires equality before the law, fair procedures, adjudication and safeguards against arbitrary action. A government cannot make its conduct immune from scrutiny simply by declaring a decision politically necessary or administratively convenient.

Responsibilities. States should ensure access to justice, protect the independence and impartiality of adjudication, uphold due process and establish means of challenging unlawful decisions. Public officials must use entrusted powers for lawful purposes and answer for abuses of office.

Application. Different constitutional systems may have different institutions. Differences among institutions do not excuse arbitrary detention, denial of effective remedies or violations of binding rights.

Principle VI. Responsibilities to Future Generations

Proclamation. Decisions producing long-term effects upon humanity must account for the interests of generations yet to be born. Immediate advantage should not be obtained by knowingly imposing avoidable and irreversible harm upon those who cannot participate in the decisions made in their name.

Interpretation. Public borrowing, environmental destruction, depletion of finite resources and deployment of high-risk technologies can impose long-term costs. Consideration of future generations demands assessment of foreseeable long-term effects, not speculation about every possible future event.

Responsibilities. Governments and enterprises should assess intergenerational effects when undertaking activities capable of producing irreversible harm. Organisations should provide means for scrutiny of such decisions and preserve evidence supporting their judgments.

Application. This is an ethical obligation and is not asserted as a binding rule. Future interests must be considered alongside the rights and needs of present populations and the duties applicable to the decision.

PART II

Peace, Power and Relations among Nations

Principle VII. Good Faith in Diplomacy

Proclamation. Good faith must govern diplomatic relations and the discharge of commitments undertaken between states. No state should invoke sovereign discretion to disregard binding obligations or deliberately misrepresent the nature of its diplomatic undertakings.

Interpretation. The principle of pacta sunt servanda governs the performance of treaties in force. Diplomatic assurances, political commitments and unilateral declarations may carry different consequences according to their terms, circumstances and the intention of the state concerned. The absence of a legally binding commitment does not justify deception in diplomatic relations.

Responsibilities. Governments shall perform binding treaties in good faith and observe applicable requirements concerning their interpretation and implementation. Diplomatic representatives must act within their mandates, distinguish binding commitments from political undertakings and respect the principles of good faith and reciprocity in negotiations.

Application. This Principle does not deny rights of lawful withdrawal, termination, suspension or other circumstances affecting the performance of any treaty.

Principle VIII. The Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

Proclamation. The settlement of disputes among states must respect sovereign equality, the prohibition of force and the rights of the parties. Superior military or economic power confers no entitlement to impose a settlement contrary to applicable law.

Interpretation. Peaceful settlement of disputes may be pursued through negotiation, good offices, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement. The choice of procedure depends upon the nature of the dispute, applicable commitments and the consent required for particular proceedings.

Responsibilities. States should pursue peaceful settlement in good faith, maintain communication and refrain from threats or coercion during negotiations. Parties submitting disputes to arbitration or judicial settlement must respect the jurisdiction conferred upon the tribunal and comply with binding decisions according to applicable law.

Application. No state is required to abandon a lawful claim because another possesses superior political, military or economic power. This Principle does not confer jurisdiction upon a court or tribunal in the absence of consent from the states concerned.

Principle IX. The Use of Force and the Limits of Self-Defence

Proclamation. The prohibition of aggression must apply without distinction between powerful and less powerful states. Military superiority, territorial ambition, economic interest or political influence confers no entitlement to resort to force contrary to applicable law.

Interpretation. Jus ad bellum governs the legality of resorting to force, while jus in bello governs the conduct of hostilities. Individual and collective self-defence are subject to conditions concerning armed attack, necessity and proportionality. Claims of anticipatory self-defence remain subject to controversy and require assessment of the circumstances and applicable law.

Responsibilities. States invoking self-defence must identify the basis of their action and observe the requirements of necessity and proportionality. Collective self-defence requires attention to the position and request of the state subjected to armed attack. Governments must maintain accountability for decisions concerning military intervention and comply with obligations relating to the use of force.

Application. This Principle applies to military operations undertaken independently, jointly with allied states or through forces acting under a state′s direction or control. Participation in a military alliance or coalition does not relieve a state of responsibility for conduct attributable to it under applicable law.

Principle X. The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

Proclamation. Civilians must never become instruments through which parties to a conflict pursue military or political concessions. The protection of life, essential services and humanitarian assistance remains a responsibility of every party, irrespective of the causes of the conflict or the conduct of its adversary.

Interpretation. The principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack govern the conduct of hostilities. Indiscriminate attacks and attacks causing excessive incidental civilian harm are prohibited. Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the destruction of objects indispensable to their survival for the purpose of denying sustenance are prohibited.

Responsibilities. Parties to armed conflict must distinguish military objectives from civilians and civilian objects, take feasible precautions in attack and respect the protections afforded to health personnel, facilities and humanitarian operations. States transferring weapons must assess the risk of violations of international humanitarian law and comply with transfer restrictions. Competent authorities must investigate alleged violations and ensure accountability.

Application. This Principle applies to all parties to armed conflict, irrespective of the legality of their resort to force. Civilian casualties do not necessarily constitute violations of international humanitarian law. Its basic demand is that civilians must not be used as means of compelling submission.

Principle XI. Non-Intervention and Coercive Diplomacy

Proclamation. Economic sanctions and other restrictive measures must not become instruments of unlawful intervention or civilian deprivation. Economic leverage confers no right to override the political independence of another state.

Interpretation. Non-intervention, retorsion and countermeasures are distinct concepts. Asset freezes, trade embargoes, financial restrictions and targeted sanctions require separate assessment of legality, proportionality and humanitarian effects. The lawfulness of unilateral sanctions cannot be decided by national interest and preference.

Responsibilities. States imposing sanctions should justify their measures under applicable law, review designations and protect humanitarian exemptions. Financial institutions must comply with binding restrictions without impairing transactions permitted for humanitarian purposes.

Application. Trade restrictions, countermeasures and collective sanctions remain possible. Restrictions directed at political authorities must not disregard the foreseeable deprivation of civilian populations.

Principle XII. Arms Transfers and Export Controls

Proclamation. States must not authorise arms transfers where there is a risk that the weapons will be used to commit violations of international humanitarian law. Arms exports and defence procurement must be subject to applicable arms embargoes, export controls, end-use verification and measures against weapons diversion.

Interpretation. Arms transfer assessments must consider the recipient′s compliance with international humanitarian law, end-user assurances, intended end use and risk of diversion. Defence alliances and bilateral security agreements do not exempt exporting states from applicable arms embargoes and export control obligations.

Responsibilities. Exporting states should conduct end use and diversion assessments, apply arms embargoes and comply with transfer prohibitions. Importing states should maintain stockpile security and prevent unauthorised re-export. Arms manufacturers must observe licensing and export control requirements.

Application. Defence procurement is not prohibited. The legality of a transfer and responsibility for subsequent unlawful use must be assessed under the rules applicable to each actor.

PART III

The World Economy and Relations among States

Principle XIII. Equity Among Nations

Proclamation. Participation in the world economy should permit every nation to improve economic capacity. Integration that perpetuates dependency without domestic capability cannot be accepted as a measure of development.

Interpretation. Structural transformation concerns the shift of an economy towards activities with greater productivity. Export growth, capital inflows and aggregate output do not necessarily demonstrate industrial development, domestic value added or diversification.

Responsibilities. Governments should promote industrialisation, skill development, and domestic enterprise development. Development finance institutions should assess project viability, debt sustainability and domestic value added.

Application. Economic equity does not require equal national incomes or identical industrial structures. This Principle addresses disparities in economic capacity among states.

Principle XIV. Reciprocity and Non-Discrimination in International Trade

Proclamation. Trade commitments must respect reciprocity, non-discrimination and the development needs of participating economies. Market access must not be manipulated to deny policy flexibility.

Interpretation. Most-favoured-nation treatment and national treatment govern non-discrimination in international trade. Tariff bindings establish agreed ceilings on customs duties, and special and differential treatment provides flexibilities for developing economies. Reciprocity does not require identical concessions. Rules of origin, technical measures and conformity assessment procedures must not be used as disguised restrictions on trade.

Responsibilities. States must comply with binding trade commitments and administer customs procedures, trade remedies and technical regulations in accordance with applicable agreements. Trade negotiators should safeguard national development interests, market access, tariff concessions and special and differential treatment.

Application. Tariffs, safeguard measures, anti-dumping duties and trade exceptions are permissible subject to applicable trade agreements. Their use must comply with the requirements governing each measure.

Principle XV. Economic Sovereignty and Policy

Proclamation. Economic sovereignty implies national authority over industrial policy, fiscal policy and economic regulation. Access to external finance must not be conditioned upon the surrender of sovereign decision-making or the right to regulate in the public interest.

Interpretation. Economic sovereignty allows governments to determine national development priorities and economic policy instruments. Structural adjustment, fiscal consolidation and policy conditionality may restrict domestic policy autonomy. National ownership of economic programmes requires governments to retain responsibility for policy design and implementation.

Responsibilities. Governments should maintain ownership of economic programmes, ensure scrutiny of financing conditions and preserve regulatory autonomy. Creditors and development finance institutions should limit conditionality to agreed programme objectives and respect national development priorities.

Application. Economic sovereignty does not invalidate binding treaties, contractual commitments or investment protections. Fiscal consolidation, structural reforms and conditional financing remain permissible under valid agreements.

Principle XVI. Sovereign Debt

Proclamation. Sovereign debt must be managed with transparency and public accountability. Debt servicing must not compromise the capacity of states to provide essential public services.

Interpretation. Debt sustainability is determined by repayment capacity, debt service obligations, refinancing risks and contingent liabilities. Collateralised debt, sovereign guarantees and liabilities of state-owned enterprises must be accounted for where they expose public finances to repayment obligations.

Responsibilities. Governments must comply with borrowing requirements. Creditors should exercise due diligence and participate in good faith restructuring negotiations where debt becomes unsustainable.

Application. Debt distress does not invalidate lawful creditor claims. Sovereign debt restructuring may involve maturity extensions, interest reductions or principal reductions, subject to applicable contracts, collective action clauses and restructuring procedures.

Principle XVII. Monetary Sovereignty and Financial Stability

Proclamation. States retain the authority to determine their monetary regimes and conduct monetary policy in accordance with their laws and treaty commitments. Reserve currency status confers no authority to dictate the monetary decisions of other sovereign states.

Interpretation. Currency substitution and foreign currency liabilities constrain monetary autonomy. Changes in interest rates in major economies affect exchange rates, capital flows and

external financing costs. Financial stability requires effective prudential supervision and control of systemic risk.

Responsibilities. Central banks should fulfil their statutory mandates and maintain monetary stability. Financial regulators must enforce capital adequacy, liquidity and banking supervision requirements. Central banks issuing reserve currencies should maintain transparency in monetary policy and cooperate in the management of international liquidity crises.

Application. Monetary sovereignty does not confer authority over another state's monetary policy or an unconditional right to foreign currency liquidity facilities. Monetary unions, exchange rate agreements and international financial commitments remain subject to their respective provisions.

Principle XVIII. Natural Resources and National Wealth

Proclamation. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources must secure an equitable public share of resource rents. The exploitation of mineral, petroleum and other natural resources must contribute to national industrialisation, public revenue and the welfare of affected communities.

Interpretation. Fiscal regimes determine the allocation of resource rents through royalties, taxation, production sharing contracts and state equity participation. Contract transparency and beneficial ownership disclosure provide safeguards against corruption, illicit financial flows and the diversion of extractive revenues. Domestic processing, local content and value addition are essential to the development of national capacity.

Responsibilities. Governments should ensure transparency in extractive licensing, contractual terms, beneficial ownership and revenue collection. Public revenues from extractive industries must be subject to legislative oversight and independent audit. Enterprises must fulfil applicable fiscal, contractual, environmental and community obligations.

Application. Nationalisation, expropriation and renegotiation of resource concessions must comply with property rights, investment agreements and compensation requirements. Resource development must respect the legally protected rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Principle XIX. Representation and Accountability in Multilateral Governance

Proclamation. Multilateral institutions must exercise their mandates in accordance with their constituent instruments and remain accountable to member states. Equitable representation, transparency and accountability must govern decision-making.

Interpretation. Sovereign equality does not require identical voting rights in multilateral institutions. Equal voting, weighted voting, qualified majorities and veto powers are recognised under different constituent instruments. Quota-based voting, governing board representation, permanent membership and appointment procedures determine the participation of member states in decisions. Geographical representation must inform governance of multilateral institutions.

Responsibilities. Member states should pursue reforms addressing underrepresentation in multilateral institutions, including voting rights, composition of governing board and executive appointments. International organisations must account for the exercise of delegated authority and decisions.

Application. Reforms concerning governance of multilateral institutions, veto powers, quota-based voting and governing board representation must comply with the amendment procedures of the respective constituent instruments. Privileges and immunities remain governed by applicable law. Decisions taken by multilateral institutions must conform to their mandates and governing rules.

PART IV

Markets and Enterprises

Principle XX. Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights

Proclamation. Business enterprises must respect human rights. Corporate structures, subsidiaries and supply chains must not be used to evade accountability for human rights violations.

Interpretation. Enterprises bear responsibility for remediation where they cause or contribute to human rights abuses. They should use their influence to prevent or mitigate abuses arising through their business relationships.

Responsibilities. Boards should oversee corporate policies and practices affecting human rights. Enterprises must take measures to prevent and address human rights abuses within their operations, exercise leverage over business partners and provide or cooperate in remediation where they cause or contribute to harm. States must ensure access to judicial and non-judicial remedies.

Application. Separate legal personality does not exempt an enterprise from liability for unlawful conduct. Liability arising from the conduct of subsidiaries, contractors or suppliers must be determined under applicable law.

Principle XXI. Competition and Restrictive Business Practices

Proclamation. Competition must be protected against cartels, abuse of dominant positions and unlawful restraints on trade. Enterprises must not use market dominance to exclude competitors, impose unfair trading conditions or restrict market access through practices prohibited by competition law.

Interpretation. Restrictive business practices include price fixing, market allocation, bid rigging and output restrictions. Abuse of dominance may involve predatory pricing, exclusionary conduct and discriminatory trading conditions. Cross-border commercial activities must not place multinational enterprises beyond the reach of competition law.

Responsibilities. States must maintain competition laws and empower regulatory authorities to investigate infringements, prohibit anti-competitive practices and impose sanctions. Enterprises must refrain from abuses of dominant positions. Competition authorities should cooperate in investigating transnational cartels and other cross-border infringements.

Application. Market dominance, economies of scale and vertical integration do not constitute violations of competition law without conduct or transactions prohibited under applicable legislation. State-owned enterprises and private corporations must be subject to competition rules, except where exemptions apply. Enforcement must respect due process and the right to judicial review.

Principle XXII. Corporate Taxation

Proclamation. The right of states to tax corporate profits must be protected against base erosion, profit shifting and tax evasion. Multinational enterprises must not exploit differences between national tax systems to conceal taxable profits or defeat taxing rights.

Interpretation. International corporate taxation is governed by domestic tax legislation and applicable tax treaties. Source and residence taxation, permanent establishment and the arm′s length principle determine the allocation of taxing rights and taxable profits.

Responsibilities. Governments should maintain anti-avoidance legislation, transfer pricing rules and mechanisms for international exchange of tax information. Multinational enterprises must comply with tax reporting obligations, maintain accurate financial records and disclose beneficial ownership and country-by-country tax information where required by law. Tax incentives must be subject to transparency and public accountability.

Application. Tax cooperation must protect the taxing rights of states while preventing double taxation and double non-taxation. Tax exemptions, incentives and reliefs remain lawful where authorised by legislation and consistent with treaty obligations. Tax avoidance, abusive tax practices and tax evasion must be distinguished in accordance with applicable law.

Principle XXIII. Global Value Chains

Proclamation. Participation in global value chains must contribute to domestic value addition, industrial development and the growth of national enterprises. Multinational enterprises must observe fair contractual terms in their dealings with producers and suppliers.

Interpretation. Gross export earnings do not adequately represent the economic value created within producing countries. Domestic value added, industrial upgrading and participation in higher-value production activities are measures of economic development through global value chains. Control over technology, intellectual property, procurement and distribution influences the allocation of economic returns between lead firms and suppliers.

Responsibilities. Governments should promote national manufacturing capacity, industrial upgrading and technological development. Multinational enterprises should support local sourcing, observe contractual obligations and comply with applicable laws. Producers and suppliers must comply with production standards, contractual requirements and labour laws.

Application. Domestic value addition and industrial upgrading may be pursued through industrial policy, investment incentives, local manufacturing and technology licensing. Such measures must comply with applicable trade, investment and intellectual property obligations. Participation in global value chains does not confer an unconditional entitlement to technology transfer or a predetermined share of profits.

Principle XXIV. Foreign Investment

Proclamation. States retain the authority to admit, regulate and tax foreign investment, subject to their binding commitments. Foreign investors are entitled to the protections provided by applicable law and investment agreements. Investment protection must not exempt enterprises from their obligations to host states.

Interpretation. National treatment, most-favoured-nation treatment, fair and equitable treatment and protection against expropriation are governed by the provisions of applicable investment agreements. The right of states to regulate in the public interest must be preserved in the negotiation and interpretation of investment treaties. Foreign investment should contribute to industrial development in host economies.

Responsibilities. Host states must honour binding investment commitments, administer investment laws impartially and provide access to judicial remedies. Foreign investors must comply with national taxation, labour, environmental, competition and anti-corruption laws. Governments should ensure that investment treaties protect national regulatory authority and provide for dispute settlement.

Application. A reduction in the value of an investment does not necessarily constitute expropriation. Investor-state arbitration requires consent under an applicable treaty, contract or national law. Compensation for expropriation must be determined in accordance with the relevant obligations. Investment incentives and performance requirements must comply with trade and investment agreements.

Principle XXV. Corporate Influence

Proclamation. Public authority must be exercised in the public interest and must not be subordinated to corporate and financial interests. Bribery, trading in influence, illicit political financing and conflicts of interest must not determine legislation, regulatory decisions or the allocation of state resources.

Interpretation. Corporate lobbying and participation in public consultations must respect the independence of public decision-making. Regulatory capture, undue influence and conflicts of interest can undermine administration. Corporate political contributions and beneficial ownership are subject to disclosure requirements under applicable law.

Responsibilities. Governments must enforce anti-corruption legislation, political financing regulations and rules governing conflicts of interest. Corporations must prohibit bribery, disclose political contributions where required by law and comply with regulations governing lobbying activities.

Application. Lobbying, political participation and consultation with enterprises remain permissible under applicable law. Corporate participation in public affairs must not confer preferential access to government contracts, regulatory exemptions or public resources. Violations must be subject to applicable administrative, civil or criminal sanctions.

PART V

Human Welfare and Social Justice

Principle XXVI. Poverty, Inequality and Social Protection

Proclamation. The eradication of extreme poverty and reduction of economic inequality must be priorities of national development. States must promote equitable income distribution, social security and equal opportunity for economic participation. Every person is entitled to protection against destitution and economic deprivation.

Interpretation. Poverty is characterised by insufficient income and deprivation in health, education and living standards. Income inequality and wealth concentration affect the distribution of economic resources among individuals and households. Social protection requires social insurance and nationally defined social protection floors providing basic income security throughout the life cycle.

Responsibilities. Governments should pursue poverty reduction and income redistribution through progressive taxation and social transfers. Social security systems must provide protection against unemployment, sickness, disability, maternity and old age. Public authorities should provide social protection coverage to workers in the informal economy and populations excluded from contributory social insurance.

Application. National social protection systems must be governed by legislation defining eligibility, entitlements and financing. Poverty reduction programmes should be informed by national poverty thresholds, household income distribution and multidimensional poverty indicators. Beneficiaries must have access to complaint and appeal procedures.

Principle XXVII. Access to Healthcare

Proclamation. Every person must have access to basic healthcare without discrimination or financial hardship. Governments must pursue universal health coverage and ensure equitable access to healthcare services irrespective of income or social status.

Interpretation. Universal health coverage requires access to preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative healthcare services. Availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality are requirements of healthcare provision. Financial protection requires protection against catastrophic and impoverishing health expenditure.

Responsibilities. Governments must provide adequate financing for essential healthcare and enforce standards governing healthcare institutions, professional practice and patient safety. Healthcare providers must respect patients′ rights and non-discriminatory care. Public health authorities must ensure disease surveillance, control and preparedness for public health emergencies.

Application. Healthcare resources must be allocated according to clinical need, evidence and non-discrimination. Public and private healthcare providers must comply with applicable health legislation and patient rights. National health systems should promote universal coverage through public funding and risk pooling.

Principle XXVIII. Education and Academic Freedom

Proclamation. Education is a fundamental human right. States must guarantee equality of opportunity in education and protect academic freedom and the autonomy of educational institutions.

Interpretation. The right to education requires equal access, non-discrimination and quality of instruction. Academic freedom protects the freedom to teach, conduct research, publish findings and express opinions. Institutional autonomy safeguards the independence of academic decisions and research priorities.

Responsibilities. Governments must guarantee free and compulsory primary education and promote equitable access to secondary and higher education. Educational institutions must uphold academic integrity, impartial assessment and equal opportunity in admission. Public authorities and research funders must respect academic freedom and refrain from political interference in teaching and research.

Application. Academic admissions, professional qualifications and accreditation requirements must be administered in accordance with applicable standards and without discrimination. Academic freedom remains subject to research ethics, academic integrity and applicable law. Universities and other educational institutions must have access to appropriate procedures for challenging interference with their autonomy.

Principle XXIX. Labour Rights and Decent Work

Proclamation. Every worker is entitled to fair remuneration, freedom of association, collective bargaining and safe and healthy working conditions. Forced labour, child labour and discrimination in employment and occupation must be prohibited. Economic competitiveness must not justify the violation of rights at work.

Interpretation. Labour standards recognise freedom of association, recognition of collective bargaining, equal remuneration for work of equal value, protection of minimum wage and occupational safety and health. Employment relationships must be determined by the conditions of employment, irrespective of contractual designation. Workers must be protected against exploitation, wage discrimination and unlawful termination of employment.

Responsibilities. Governments must enforce labour legislation, minimum wage requirements and occupational safety and health regulations. Labour inspectorates must have authority to investigate violations and enforce compliance with employment standards. Employers must fulfil wage

obligations, respect trade union rights and collective agreements, prevent occupational hazards and comply with statutory working conditions.

Application. Employment contracts must comply with labour protections under applicable law. Temporary employment, agency employment, domestic work and platform employment must not be used to circumvent employment rights. Labour disputes, unfair dismissal, wage arrears and occupational injuries must be subject to effective remedies through competent judicial or administrative institutions.

Principle XXX. Food Security, Water, Housing and Sanitation

Proclamation. Every person is entitled to adequate food, safe drinking water, sanitation and adequate housing. States must prevent hunger, prohibit discrimination in access to essential services and protect people against forced eviction.

Interpretation. Food security is determined by availability, access, utilisation and stability. The right to water requires sufficient, safe, physically accessible and affordable water for personal use. Adequate housing requires security of tenure, habitability, affordability and access to essential services.

Responsibilities. Governments must enforce food safety standards, drinking water quality requirements, sanitation regulations and safeguards against forced eviction. Public authorities should provide emergency food assistance and shelter to populations affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and displacement. Service providers must comply with applicable safety, quality and consumer protection obligations.

Application. Provision of essential services must remain subject to applicable law and regulatory oversight. Water tariffs, housing tenure and eviction proceedings must respect non-discrimination, applicable legal protections and access to effective remedies. Emergency measures must prioritise people facing acute food insecurity, homelessness and loss of access to safe drinking water.

Principle XXXI. Migration, Asylum and Protection of Displaced Persons

Proclamation. States must respect the rights of migrants and fulfil their obligations towards refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons. Expulsion, deportation and extradition must not violate the principle of non-refoulement. Irregular migration status must not justify arbitrary detention, discrimination or denial of fundamental rights.

Interpretation. Refugee status is determined by the criteria recognised under applicable international and regional refugee instruments. Asylum seekers are entitled to consideration of their claims for protection. Stateless persons are individuals who are not considered nationals by any state under its law. Internally displaced persons remain within recognised state borders and are entitled to protection under applicable law.

Responsibilities. States must provide fair asylum procedures, respect the prohibition of refoulement and ensure safeguards in immigration detention and removal proceedings. National authorities bear responsibility for protecting and assisting internally displaced persons. Governments must combat trafficking in persons and protect migrants against forced labour.

Application. States retain authority over immigration, residence, nationality and border control, subject to applicable obligations. Irregular entry does not disqualify an individual from refugee protection. Determination of refugee status, exclusion from protection and deportation must comply with applicable requirements and provide access to appropriate review procedures.

PART VI

The Planet and Technology

Principle XXXII. Conservation of Biodiversity, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

Proclamation. States must protect biodiversity, prevent environmental degradation and fulfil their obligations concerning climate change. The exploitation of natural resources must respect environmental protection requirements. Climate action must recognise historical emissions, national capabilities and the needs of populations exposed to energy poverty and climate-related harm.

Interpretation. The conservation of biodiversity requires the protection of species, genetic diversity and natural habitats. Environmental impact assessment, the precautionary approach and the polluter-pays principle are recognised instruments of environmental protection. Climate change mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, loss and damage, and just transition are components of climate policy. Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities inform the implementation of climate commitments.

Responsibilities. Governments must enforce environmental legislation, protect natural ecosystems, regulate pollution and require environmental impact assessments in accordance with applicable law. Enterprises must comply with emissions standards, environmental permits and obligations concerning environmental restoration and remediation. States must fulfil their climate commitments and applicable climate finance obligations. Governments should protect access to reliable and affordable energy when implementing measures concerning emissions reduction and energy transition.

Application. Mining, petroleum extraction, agriculture, industrial production and infrastructure development must comply with environmental protection requirements. Environmental damage must be subject to remediation and compensation in accordance with applicable law. National climate commitments, energy policies and transition programmes must respect applicable obligations, national development priorities and the circumstances of developing economies. States must cooperate in preventing transboundary environmental harm.

Principle XXXIII. Digital Sovereignty and Artificial Intelligence

Proclamation. States retain authority to regulate digital infrastructure, personal data and artificial intelligence in accordance with applicable law. Digital sovereignty must respect privacy, fundamental rights and international data transfers. Responsibility for decisions involving artificial intelligence remains with identifiable persons and institutions. Automated systems must not be used to evade liability or accountability for violations of human rights.

Interpretation. Data protection, cybersecurity, cross-border data transfers and lawful interception are governed by applicable requirements. Artificial intelligence governance requires risk assessment, transparency, human oversight, traceability and safeguards against discriminatory decision-making.

Responsibilities. Governments must enforce data protection and cybersecurity legislation, protect individuals against unlawful surveillance and provide remedies for violations of privacy and data protection rights. Developers and deployers of artificial intelligence must comply with requirements for risk assessment, human oversight and accountability.

Application. Digital sovereignty does not require universal data localisation or prohibit lawful cross-border data transfers. Artificial intelligence systems used in decisions affecting fundamental rights must comply with applicable safeguards, fairness and requirements for human review. Obligations concerning artificial intelligence must reflect the intended use, associated risks and regulatory requirements.

PROVISIONS

I. Character and status

The London Affirmation states principles concerning states, markets, enterprises and humanity. It is a declaration of responsibilities, not a source of law.

II. Interpretation

Each Principle addresses the issue identified in its heading. Its Proclamation states the principle, Interpretation defines its meaning, Responsibilities identifies the actors concerned, and Application explains its scope. The Principles must be read with applicable law. Where ethical propositions go beyond legal duties, the distinction must be maintained.

III. Responsibilities of states, enterprises and institutions

States exercise sovereign and public authority. Enterprises influence economies and trade. Multilateral institutions act under their constituent instruments. Their respective powers and obligations are not interchangeable. Responsibility depends upon the actor and its conduct.

IV. Endorsement

Governments, enterprises, academic bodies, professional associations and other institutions may voluntarily endorse The London Affirmation through an authorised representative. Endorsement confirms support for the Principles and does not constitute certification of compliance.

The Centre for Geopolitics & Economic Intelligence may verify endorsements, maintain a register, prescribe conditions for use of the endorsement mark and withdraw recognition following a review of misrepresentation or misuse.

V. Editions and amendments

Later amendments will be separately dated, approved through the Centre’s procedures and identifiable against the founding text.

VI. Authentication and citation

The authorised title is The London Affirmation, with the subtitle Body of Principles for States, Markets, Enterprises and Humanity. Citations shall identify the edition date and the permanent Roman-numeral designation of the relevant Principle. The issuer is the Centre for Geopolitics & Economic Intelligence.



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