

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

6:30 AM Eastern Time US / 6:30 PM China Standard Time

Meeting called to order by Democrats Abroad China Chair Liz Blackburn

Resolutions Review 2023

Welcome, everyone. Today we are here to discuss the resolutions process and learn a bit more about 2023 proposals.

Resolutions are how we at DPCA, also known as Democrats Abroad, develop our mission and set priorities for the year and beyond.

Resolutions are meant to capture the political philosophy and aspirations of our membership. We build on these resolutions and use them as guide when structuring the organization's platform.

While considering the 2023 draft resolutions, think about how and if each one furthers our mission statement.

Are they reflections of Democrats Abroad's values of inclusion and diversity? Do they articulate what we as Democrats believe and why? Be sure to note and discuss if a proposed resolution is suggesting a new idea, or if it is building upon an existing project. Another thing to consider during this process is if suggested steps are feasible and achievable.

Authors and sponsors are standing by to address their resolutions and answer your questions. Priority will be given to AP members, then we will open the floor to non-AP authors and sponsors.

Agenda

- Vanessa Moore, Lion City
- Michael Ramos, Australia
- Kent Getsinger, Australia
- Carmelan Polce, Australia
- Other AP Authors and Sponsors
- Non-AP Authors and Sponsors

We have a lot to get through and your time is valuable. I'm going to get started by publishing important links in the chat box.

Important Links

- **Mission Statement of Democrats Abroad:**
<https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/OrgLeaders/pages/3600745955/DA+Vision+Statement+Mission+Statement>
- **2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Website**, please RSVP: <https://www.democratsabroad.org/agm23>
- **2023 AGM Wiki Page:**
<https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/WashDC2023/overview?homepageId=7122223105>
- **2023 Resolutions Wiki Home:**
<https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/WashDC2023/pages/7155089520/Resolutions+2023>
- **RSVP to the Resolutions Committee Hearing on Saturday:**
https://www.democratsabroad.org/resolutions_committee_public_hearing_2023
- **2023 Resolutions Page for Public Comment:**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MBYQkO1qx4KUCexZHHZ-JBQUJSUSwL4DqkalVbmD0DE/edit>

Public comment, as well as sponsorship requests, may be submitted by emailing resolutions@democratsabroad.org. Please be sure to include the resolution number(s) in your comments. **The public commenting period ends on May 19, 2023, at 10 AM Eastern (10 PM HKT).**

New Leaders

If you stumble across a page of the website or Wiki that you cannot access, or you would like to do more, I encourage you to firstly fill out the Confidentiality Agreement, and then continue to complete other new leader trainings, such as GDPR.

- **Confidentiality Agreement:**
<https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ZORA/pages/5135925591/Confidentiality+Agreement>
- **NationBuilder Training:**
<https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/home/pages/6381408827/NationBuilder+Training>
- **New Volunteer Wiki Page:**
<https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/home/pages/6381408797/New+DA+Leaders+and+Volunteers>

Need Help?

- Email Nick Gordon: RVC-AP@DemocratsAbroad.org
- Join Mobilize and Slack Teams by emailing secretary@DemocratsAbroad.org

Resolution Discussion

Key:

- Q = Question
- A = Answer
- C = Comment

Resolution 3: To insist that the U.S. State Department Office of Overseas Schools (OOS) does everything possible to ensure equal participation, rights and opportunities for disabled students in schools receiving funding from OOS, consistent with standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act

- Vanessa Moore (Lion City), spoke in favor as an author.
- C: Vanessa Moore (Lion City) American funding is going to specific schools abroad. From personal experience and hearing from others, this is a widespread problem. There needs to be accountability and these funds need to adequately address the needs of the disabled students who attend these OOS funded schools.
- C: Heather Stone (Israel) Sarajeon Rossitto (Japan), Bruce Murray (Austria), and Kent Getsinger (Australia) comment in favor/thank Vanessa for raising the issue in the chat box.
- C: Carmelan Polce (Australia) I support this. Having spent a lot of time in international schools they are essential for cultural development.
- Vanessa will revert back with a channel to sponsor, for now please email the resolutions committee resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org.

Resolution 7: Resolution to discourage geo-blocking of websites essential to US Citizens Abroad

- Michael Ramos (Australia) spoke in favor as an author.
- There is an edit coming to one of the “resolve” clauses.
- John Baumlin (Japan) supports.
- Liz emailed author Nick Lee to request a sponsorship form.

- Recommended sponsors and those with questions email resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org at this time.

Resolution 19: Resolution to Recognize Former House Member Carolyn J. Maloney's Support for Americans Abroad

- Text: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NedC_gqW45w3po7E5AJbvsg1isse1YVRyT4mkuw0fjo/edit
- Michael Ramos (Australia) spoke in favor of, as an author.
- C: Aisling O'Leary (Lion City), Carmelan Polce (Australia) chat messages of support.
- There is an edit coming to the fourth "whereas" clause.
- To sponsor, please visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dyqh2ubWBYH9XCDre4Y-Bfyz8wSHL2iTVY0Z_Wrgl-M/viewform?edit_requested=true
- Please email questions to rebecca_lammers@democratsabroad.org, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

Resolution 14: 21st Century Bill of Rights Resolution

- Text: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Kv8-zUZqpsyFVXEEGuN88WSh515JQu0LKDDFaTeAmgk/edit>
- Sponsor via Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJVUKS3zhuZ3MK9xpoRRGMq4WBhPreWwvzFWf4-uM5Js0INw/viewform>
- Kent Getsinger (Australia) spoke in favor of, as well as yielded time to Bruce Murray (Austria)

Resolution 18: Resolution Urging Congress to Hold Hearings on the Taxation and Financial-Account Access of Americans Abroad

- Text: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rUeEwwGwWxrRTaExiAG3qMTPICxYWhB7/edit>
- Carmelan Polce (Australia) spoke in favor of, as an author.
- To sponsor, please visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hKBgD2A3hoTNa7rouT4wghEAaqHNqfm7yurcJNCMZcc/viewform?edit_requested=true
- Please email questions to: rebecca_lammers@democratsabroad.org, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

Resolution 6: Resolution to Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground!

- Text: https://docs.google.com/document/d/14AR8v5NjSAIqINo8Y5ydVKUtoG_QniHclKMaZmBFkUK/edit?usp=sharing
- Support via Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLZw9zy6i5qUBrEsxZh8iKbSPols_CpSe4GyU1KZu8m0TLGQ/viewform
- Kent Getsinger (Australia) spoke in favor of, as well as yielded time to author Bruce Murray (Austria)

Resolution 23: Resolution to Expand the Mission of Democrats Abroad to Include State Level Advocacy

- Text: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TdISXAH3IPm-ettv-CGvgiHZtfJnZFemXmRo-2q5Qg/edit#heading=h.hy8dq1tacyui>
- Email to sponsor: jab.democratsabroad@gmail.com, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

- John Baumlín (Japan) authored and spoke in favor, discussed NJ efforts and importance of state team advocacy

Resolution 13: Protecting Our Future by Protecting Our Children

- Sponsor via Google Form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd521s_avKJFjhff3pwVeQc8-6QVyyNte3E_cUTeNd55-FMsg/viewform?usp=sf_link
- Angela Fobbs (Germany) authored and spoke in favor

Resolution 8: Establish a Standing Global Fundraising Committee

- Text:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10ewWaR-u5v-SYEZ8mHJZB4qJfMzbKJKOVjJVq5IBr70/edit>
- Sponsor via Google Form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexaqzIAjow5yrx4JzsanFRenFFjd5UFiPiSHE9bCepVWarQ/viewform?usp=send_form
- Josh Van der Ploeg (United Kingdom) authored and spoke in favor
 - Q: Liz Blackburn (China) Will the committee be flexible and inclusive to those who perhaps join mid-year, for a specific project, or cannot participate for a full term? I'd like to ensure any committee created is inclusive to more members, who may have good ideas and varied skill sets.
 - A: Josh Van der Ploeg (United Kingdom) these things will certainly be considered and it is understandable volunteers have limited time to commit through a year. Ideally it would be good to have a degree of continuity to allow longer-term planning through each election cycle, but some volunteers may be interested in assisting with individual fundraisers or for a certain period of time.

Resolution 9: Resolution to Establish a Standing Global Finance Committee

- Text:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10Ao03NRNjtwBXRocQPjK3jHrpQgbcPrdev95qh2AUj0/edit>
- Sponsor via Google Form:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJMswqVkfI3s0B37t3IEYtqIKOrZTRQ-F1LYMVrhHvhVmEUA/viewform>
- Josh Van der Ploeg (United Kingdom) authored and spoke in favor, believing this and resolution 8 are vital to the organization.
 - C: Josh spoke on having professionals in finance sitting on the committee, as well as the importance of oversight and independent audits.
 - Q: How will we find committee members?
 - A: Josh Van der Ploeg (United Kingdom) The committee only requires two appointed members (plus the International Treasurer) and is only required to meet at least twice a year. Even out of the pool of highly active DPCA members, we should be able to find qualified committee members.
 - Q: What qualifications are you looking for?
 - A: The current wording of the resolution asks the International Chair to use "reasonable efforts" to find members with skills and/or experience in finance, but these categories are difficult to define. Qualified candidates may have past experience working as a country committee Treasurer or on a board of a non-profit, even if they do not have formal education in finance.

Resolution 16: Resolution to Recognize Alaskan Indigenous Sovereignty

- Text: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZbSLoloXG9vC-QCzysmzapLxAlwUqkZDfycRmt9oZyM/edit>
- Sponsor via Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeH754b02vgtREWDOOyMRcRXHJ-iAla5nb2ICCFHtnQK3UA5w/viewform>
- Questions: kaitlyn.in.germany@gmail.com, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org
- Kaitlyn Kennedy (Germany) authored and spoke in favor
 - Q: Michael Ramos (Australia) have you been in touch with the indigenous tribes to consult as to how they feel on this and similar proposals
 - A: Kaitlyn Kennedy (Germany), we've been working on the existing platform, doing due diligence, and will strive to reach more local voices.

Resolution 15: Resolution in Support of an Executive Order for a Federal Reparations Commission

- Text: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XDbYPUjY6MWkquSuSW32x7fKWJxj_Vkij9wX1IHALuw/edit
- Sponsor via Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRRQwF1oGBB-IUKXhs3DRkX1Op0QUbbzj8P1eZnZPhr_XVjA/viewform
- Antar Keith (Germany) authored and spoke in favor
- Questions: reparations@DemocratsAbroad.org, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org
 - Q: Michael Ramos (Australia), How is this different from the 2021 proposal and others?
 - A: Antar Keith (Germany) We are asking for action from President Biden in the form of an Executive Order.
 - Q: Liz Blackburn (China) Do you have a plan for the 2023 AGM and door knocking to meet with any elected officials, staff, or other figures who could help move this effort forward?
 - C: Marnie Delaney (France) There is a one-page document being made for door knocking priorities
 - C: Carmelan Polce (Australia) Historically door knocking has prioritized issues directly affecting Americans residing abroad, perhaps this is more domestic?
 - A: Antar Keith (Germany) I left to live abroad because of the deep divide I felt on many levels, I could no longer tolerate life in America. It was not secure, it was not fair, it was not just. These problems carry with people like me wherever we go, they are systemic and unchanging. We must act now.
 - C: Liz Blackburn (China) I encourage you to sign up for AGM events, speak to Jazz and Jarryd, and look into the kick off event with the Global Black Caucus because members of the Congressional Black Caucus will be in attendance. It would be good to have follow up meetings in the books, online or in person. I will also put you in touch with Brandi Collins-Dexter.
 - C: Kaitlyn Kennedy (Germany) Exciting news we will publish shortly: Cori Bush has issued a statement on Reparations and Restorative Justice.

● Due to time constraints, there were several authors and primary sponsors of draft resolutions that did not get to speak at tonight's meeting. We thank you for your feedback on other resolutions and have enclosed information on your proposals for Asia Pacific members to review.

Resolution 1: To Form a Democrats Abroad Global Task Force to Address Critical Issues Related to the Care Economy

- Authored by Marnie Delaney (France)
- Text: https://docs.google.com/document/d/17_mXSFy4IblUi8JQ9Gojt_ZMk00FV22A-zdCZR6dCec/edit

- Sponsor via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/BQU76ZnceJkpT2Gs5>
- Questions via email: marniedelaney@gmail.com, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

Resolution 5: Resolution in Support of Establishment of a Democrats Abroad Global Gender-Based Violence Task Force

- Authored by Marnie Delaney (France) and sponsored by Heather Stone (Israel)
- Text: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_WypTKFYzMIQ4TUWQrILrEAe1hbszYt4Ya3LvqzDYXs/edit
- Sponsor via Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/TieKyazmDF13P6Wx6>
- Questions via email: marniedelaney@gmail.com, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

Resolution 17: Resolution to Adopt Policies & Practices Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act

- Authored by Marnie Delaney (France) and Heather Stone (Israel)
- There is a group working to combine Resolutions 17 and 4.
- **Original** Text for 4 & 17: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MBYQkO1qx4KUCexZHHZ-JBQUJSUSwL4DqkalVbmD0DE/edit>
- **New** Working Draft Text: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XxV07VP2ZvMjAylDAAMsB8g18uwoZ9z/edit>
- Sponsor or send questions via email to: marniedelaney@gmail.com, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

Resolution 20: Resolution to Ban Fossil Fuel Extraction on Public Lands and Waters

- Authored by Dana Freling (Finland)
- Text: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uVLE_M-MQkO-wMxkiSozYEWZL8S50UxHekV6D5iAUfE/edit
- Sponsor via Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuBvl_m5v4T71r-JhNI13gmr6sMFLnKx15kK2_qYM8zUyCOg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0
- Questions: danafreling@hotmail.com, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

Resolution 21: Resolution to End Fossil Fuel Subsidies

- Authored by Dana Freling (Finland)
- Text: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pEsDkO8tPAV0_LIGWTUj5qv6_FeLPPiVhoktHjf0CCM/edit
- Sponsor via Google Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuBvl_m5v4T71r-JhNI13gmr6sMFLnKx15kK2_qYM8zUyCOg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0
- Questions: danafreling@hotmail.com, or resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org

Remarks and Reminders

Public comment, as well as sponsorship requests, may be submitted by emailing resolutions@democratsabroad.org. Please be sure to include the resolution number(s) in your comments.

● The public commenting period ends on **Friday, May 19, 2023, at 10AM Eastern (Friday, May 19, 10PM HKT)**.

Thank you all for such an informative and pleasant discourse. Please look out for future AP resolutions discussions. Nick will send out notifications prior to each meeting via email and in the AP Mobilize group chat.

- If you are able to attend, the Resolutions Committee is hosting a hearing this **Saturday, May 20**.

RSVP: https://www.democratsabroad.org/resolutions_committee_public_hearing_2023

- 10AM - 2PM Eastern US/Canada
- 4PM - 8PM Central European Time
- **7:30PM - 11:30PM India Standard Time**
- **10PM - 2AM (+1 day) Hong Kong Time**
- **(+1 day) 3AM - 7AM New Zealand Time**

RSVP to the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- <https://www.democratsabroad.org/agm23>

Need a Proxy?

- **Proxy Instructions:**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15DIqlalk6h6M1Q6b-z9z8gED9nOFB5eUiB33Qgh8NDg/edit>
- **Proxy Form:**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15DIqlalk6h6M1Q6b-z9z8gED9nOFB5eUiB33Qgh8NDg/edit>
- **Proxy Form - Video Walk-Through:**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15DIqlalk6h6M1Q6b-z9z8gED9nOFB5eUiB33Qgh8NDg/edit>
- **Send inquiries regarding proxies to:** proxy@democratsabroad.org

Contact DACN

- **Email:** DACN-Chair@DemocratsAbroad.org, info-china@democratsabroad.org
- **Facebook:** @DAinChina
- **Instagram:** @DemocratsAbroadChina
- **Twitter:** @DemsAbroadChina
- **WeChat:** @Lizconsin

8:15 AM Eastern Time US / 8:15 PM China Standard Time
Meeting adjourned by Democrats Abroad China Chair Liz Blackburn

● Post-Meeting Notes

Brent Jasma, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, addressed our region via Mobilize. In case you missed it, it reads in part:

"I want to assure you all that I am committed to ensuring that every member who wants to be heard on a resolution gets the chance to make their thoughts known, either at the hearing or through public comment via email submission. The Committee is happy to accept video testimony as well that can be played at the hearing, given the testimony fits within the pre-established time parameters. Additionally, the Committee would be happy to accept any minutes, summaries, or other work product relating to the resolutions that may arise out of DA events regarding discussing resolutions to ensure that our report is as reflective of our membership's will as possible. As well, I would be happy to find a time agreeable to the AP region to sit down and take testimony from members regarding the draft resolutions."
Please email resolutions@DemocratsAbroad.org with written or recorded testimony for Saturday's meeting.

Meeting minute revisions and link updates can be sent to Liz Blackburn: DACN-Chair@DemocratsAbroad.org.