

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Summary of League of Women Voters of the United States and Major Action by Illinois League under the LWVUS Positions

Promote peace in an interdependent world by cooperating with other nations, strengthening international organizations, fostering long-term development, negotiating arms control measures and encouraging the successful resolution of conflicts through nonmilitary means.

ARMS CONTROL (1983): Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

MILITARY POLICY AND DEFENSE SPENDING (1984, revised 1986): Work to limit reliance on military force; examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

TRADE (1973, updated 2002): Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

UNITED NATIONS (1977, updated 2002): Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

U.S. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (1986): Promote U.S. policies that meet long term social and economic needs of the developing countries.

LWVIL action Illinois local Leagues participated in both the Trade and U.N. position updates (2000 – 2002). Local Leagues educated their members and the public on international relations issues by holding seminars and lectures and participating in Great Decision discussions. In 2003, state and local Leagues across America urged the U.S. President to work with the United Nations to resolve the situation with Iraq. LWVIL also urged U.S. Senators to ratify the U.N. Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In 2004, the League supported and the Illinois General Assembly as well as the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed resolutions urging U.S. Senate action on ratification of the U.N. CEDAW).