

RESOLUTION 21R-31

To request the RI Board to consider being more flexible on the definition of 'political'

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Charleswood, District 5550, Canada

1 WHEREAS, the deleterious effects of climate change on human systems, mostly
2 due to global warming and shifts in precipitation, have been detected worldwide
3 and current pledges by countries to cut their emissions of greenhouse gases are
4 proving inadequate to limit future warming, and

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6 WHEREAS, global warming has likely already increased global economic
7 inequality, and this trend will likely increase in the future, and
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9 WHEREAS, millions of people worldwide, particularly those with lower incomes,
10 are at risk of hunger as a consequence of global warming, and

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12 WHEREAS, climate change is already affecting food security in mountainous
13 regions of South America and Asia, as well as in various drylands, particularly in
14 Africa, regions dependent on glacier water, regions that are already dry, and on
15 small islands that are already at increased risk of water stress due to climate
16 change, and

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18 WHEREAS, climate change can be an important driver of migration, both within
19 and between countries, and could lead to homelessness in countries with low-
20 lying areas, as well as statelessness for populations in island nations, and

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22 WHEREAS, climate change has been linked to an increase in violent conflict by
23 amplifying poverty and economic shocks, which are well-documented drivers of
24 these conflicts, and

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26 WHEREAS, young people, a target area for Rotary recruitment, have shown their
27 determination to mitigate the effects of climate change and look for leadership
28 opportunities to do so, and

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30 WHEREAS, climate change can be a factor in most of Rotary's seven areas of
31 focus, and

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33 WHEREAS, governments are the only effective means of achieving positive
34 mitigation and reduction of climate change

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36 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
37 International consider applying a more flexible definition to the word 'political'
38 as currently used in the RI Constitution, the RI Bylaws, and the Rotary Code of

1 Policies, so that climate change can be better addressed by clubs, districts,
2 Rotarian action groups, and other entities of Rotary as a humanitarian, rather
3 than a political, issue.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

4 The usage of the words ‘political’ and ‘politics’ in RI’s current governance
5 documents is no longer adequate, as it prevents RI, clubs, districts, Rotary action
6 groups, and other Rotary entities from encouraging governments to address
7 climate change to accomplish worthwhile humanitarian goals. While it is
8 paramount that RI and other Rotary entities refrain from engaging in partisan
9 politics at both the local and national level, this should not prevent them from
10 asking governments in non-partisan ways to address climate change as a
11 humanitarian existential issue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

12 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI.
13 Asking governments in a non-partisan way to address climate change as a
14 humanitarian existential issue would not have a substantial financial impact on
15 RI. Supporting the environment has been added as a new area of focus.