

## Global Affairs Policy

### Vision

The world faces complex and intersecting challenges that impact our global relations, including the existential threat of climate change. These are likely to intensify as the ecological, equity, and energy crises worsen and undermine our social foundations. Meaningful, rapid cooperation among all states will be required to peacefully and successfully resolve the problems these challenges present and their roots in global systems.

Aotearoa New Zealand's position in this uncertain environment as a peaceful, progressive state presents it with an opportunity to pursue fresh, independent forms of foreign policy. The Green Party envisions Aotearoa New Zealand pursuing courses of action that aim to address global challenges, grounded in values and in support of international organisations that will enable the world to resolve difficulties peacefully. Though Aotearoa New Zealand is a small nation, we have a history of positively influencing global developments such as playing a key role in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). We have strong relationships with countries across the globe and, especially, engage in partnerships in the Pacific region. Aotearoa New Zealand must honour and leverage these aspects of its national identity and take independent, principled stances on the global stage to uphold the rights and interests of all on our planet, now and in the future.

### Key Principles

1. Aotearoa New Zealand's work with other countries and overseas organisations should be consistent with the following values:
  - Environmental protection and restoration
  - Equity, justice and human rights
  - Shared responsibility and respect
  - Non-violence

2. Criticism of any foreign state or overseas organisation by Aotearoa New Zealand for violation of these principles should never be muted in the name of narrow economic or political interests, or historic affiliations.
3. Aotearoa New Zealand's foreign policy should support international recognition of the widespread and interconnected impact of global challenges and support urgent cooperation among all state and non-state actors to address them and their systemic causes. These challenges include:
  - Ecological crises breaking planetary boundaries (including climate change and critical biodiversity loss)
  - Inequality and poverty levels and human rights abuses
  - Surging levels of mass displacement
  - Violation of international law and justice
  - Threats to democracy and fair decision making, including corruption
  - Violence and armed conflict
  - Declining global energy availability
4. Aotearoa New Zealand should support international rule of law, and fair, impartial national and international institutions based in law, as key mechanisms to address these challenges.
5. Aotearoa New Zealand should work proactively with overseas and international organisations, including Indigenous peoples, civil society organisations and the private sector, to build a positive, collective response to these challenges.
6. The effects of humanity's population growth on the global environment, resources, the economy and infrastructure need to be actively managed and planned for, while recognising that:
  - Rapid growth in consumption by prosperous nations is a much larger contributor to accelerating ecological decline than global population growth and should be urgently addressed.
  - Stabilising population size is associated with positive social changes: poverty, gender equity and access to family planning services.
7. In line with all Green Party policy, Aotearoa New Zealand's global affairs policy should honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and reflect the articles of Te Tiriti in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other international agreements that have a focus on Indigenous Peoples.

## Specific Policy Points

### 1. Environmental Protection and Restoration

All foreign policy decisions made by the Greens will be underpinned by commitment to our Charter principle of ecological wisdom.

#### *Policy Positions*

- 1.1. Advocate for strengthened agreements managing the ecological health of the global commons, including high seas, air and globally significant ecological assets, including biodiversity
- 1.2. Advocate for all states to formally recognise the global ecological crises and refine their domestic policies accordingly, with a renewed focus on addressing the high per capita ecological footprint and consumption of developed countries and the global production practices that support it.
- 1.3. Provide leadership under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to implement and strengthen the Paris Agreement and rapidly reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions (see our [Climate Change](#) policy)
- 1.4. Support and financially contribute to international programmes that aim to stabilise our climate and protect and restore the health of land, freshwater and marine ecosystems, including tree planting programmes
- 1.5. Support universal membership and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- 1.6. Recognise the ecological foundations of mass displacement (e.g. climate change-related displacement), including that exacerbated by conflict, and facilitate cooperative approaches to address this (see our [Defence and Peacekeeping](#) and [Immigration](#) policies)
- 1.7. Ensure that trade arrangements respect and promote:
  - a) Environmental standards and ecologically-sustainable practices (e.g. preventing the import of unsustainably harvested tropical timber)
  - b) The need to reduce our global ecological footprint and restore our ecological health, including the need for developed countries to reduce consumption (e.g. placing a carbon tax on energy intensive imports from OECD countries which have not accepted binding targets) (see our [Trade and Foreign Investment](#) policy).

- 1.8. Oppose all whaling and harvesting of endangered marine species by foreign states and advocate for the International Whaling Commission to become an international organization with universal membership and a broadened mandate to cover protection of other species (such as dolphins)
- 1.9. Support rapid international phasing-out of practices and substances that threaten the ongoing viability of humanity and other species, for example by unbalancing the nitrogen, carbon and water cycles, depleting the ozone layer, degrading natural ecosystems with high endemic biodiversity and/or endangered species, and destroying biological soil systems on large scales.
- 1.10. Raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable population levels and the positive social policies that have been shown to both help stabilise population levels and improve wellbeing.
- 1.11. Encourage and support a two-way sharing of ideas and successes for sustainable living between Aotearoa New Zealand and other countries and between our cities and towns and their 'twin cities' and 'twin villages' in other countries
- 1.12. In relation to global environmental issues, support international efforts to promote access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice.

## 2. Equity, Justice and Human Rights

All foreign policy decisions made by the Greens will be underpinned by commitment to our Charter principle of social responsibility.

We live in a world where there are huge differences in wealth and power between countries, and within countries. The political, economic and military policies of many of the rich countries reinforce these inequalities. This process has been exacerbated by certain international organizations under the undue control of the rich countries (such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund). Genuine development in poorer countries has been hindered primarily by debt marketing and such consequent policy impositions as privatization, deregulation, cutbacks in social services and an open door to foreign investment, as well as support for compliant regimes that are often less than democratic.

The Green Party supports the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the body of international human rights law and seeks to promote accession and adherence to those laws by all states and non-state actors. The Green Party pays particular interest to the human rights of our Pacific and Asian neighbours, while supporting universal application of these standards.

## *Policy Positions*

- 2.1. Encourage global commitment to international equity and human rights.
- 2.2. Support the implementation of all equity- and rights-based UN agreements ratified or endorsed by Aotearoa New Zealand such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 2.3. Lead global action to remedy the injustices and human rights violations caused by climate change globally and provide comprehensive support to Pacific peoples on the frontlines of climate change, including engaging with Pacific peoples to address the risk of, and provide solutions for, climate-induced displacement (see also our [Immigration Policy](#))
- 2.4. Advocate for the development of an international agreement to protect the rights of unprotected groups, such as LGBTQI+
- 2.5. Promote the doctrine of 'responsibility to protect'<sup>1</sup> in cases of state-sanctioned genocide or gross and systematic violations of human rights, having regard to the need to ensure that any UN-authorized intervention is designed exclusively to meet the needs of the victim population and that the decision to intervene does not reflect the primacy of any major power interests.
- 2.6. Oppose any counter-terrorism practice conducted in violation of human rights law, including the practices of extraordinary rendition, indefinite and arbitrary detention and collective punishment techniques (such as house demolition and land defilement) and insist that any terrorist suspects be subject to normal judicial process.
- 2.7. Recognise the need to address the legitimate economic and social grievances felt by many groups which foster non-state terrorism, confronting the 'root causes' of terrorism through positive economic, social and political policies.
- 2.8. Recognize that terrorism by state and non-state actors visits death and destruction equally upon innocent people, and each is to be equally condemned; and that policies of military intervention and occupation increase rather than diminish terrorism.
- 2.9. Ensure that trade agreements respect and promote the Key Principles of this policy, including:

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<sup>1</sup> **Responsibility to Protect:** The primary responsibility for the protection of citizens resides with national governments. But if they prove unable or unwilling to meet that responsibility and gross and systematic violations of human rights occur, responsibility for their protection falls to the international community, including the right to intervene with force.

- a) Human rights and labour standards, including the right of all communities to have secure access to food and water and to grow and produce their own food
- b) Local values and cultures
- c) Democratic principles embraced by all parties
- d) Appropriate means of exchange, such that transaction costs no longer skew the value of goods and services to the detriment of the developing countries
- e) Autonomy of communities and nations in decisions relating to production, trade and labelling of foods, including products consumed for medicinal therapeutic or cultural reasons

See our [Trade and Foreign Investment](#) Policy

- 2.10. Advocate for cancellation of unjust debt and fair debt relief measures to alleviate global inequality
- 2.11. Investigate and support innovative ways of increasing new multilateral funding for international development through, for example, charges on international flights and currency transactions.
- 2.12. Support appropriate and ethical foreign investment, and specifically oppose unethical investments by Crown agencies
- 2.13. Support the right of all peoples to participate in political decision-making, encourage efforts to increase the political participation of women, disabled people, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQI+ and other marginalised communities, particularly in the Pacific, and advocate for the transparency and due process measures necessary to ensure that political decisions are made collectively

#### **A. Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

- 2.14. Advocate for a rapidly increased budget for Aotearoa New Zealand's Official Development Assistance (ODA), in line with UN recommendations to reach 0.7% of Gross National Income
- 2.15. Maximise the effectiveness of ODA by delivering a higher proportion of it through non-Governmental organisations
- 2.16. Ensure that recognised best practice of inequality- and poverty-reducing approaches to ODA are standard
- 2.17. Ensure that ODA approaches avoid increasing the risk of indebtedness
- 2.18. Prioritise ODA programmes that have been proven to be successful, and test all quantifiable ODAs against international standards

- 2.19. Prioritise ODA programmes that promote gender equality and those which support the education of girls and support sexual and reproductive health and rights, including heightened male responsibility.
- 2.20. Prioritise ODA programmes in the Pacific that encourage connections to Pasifika diaspora communities in Aotearoa New Zealand
- 2.21. Prioritise ODA programmes that promote disability rights, such as those which support economic development, human rights and education
- 2.22. Oppose conditional ODA, including that which is conditional upon trade initiatives that promote Aotearoa New Zealand's private sector

### **3. Shared Responsibility and Respect**

All foreign policy decisions made by the Greens will be underpinned by commitment to our Charter principle of appropriate decision-making.

#### *Policy Positions*

- 3.1. Recognise the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities<sup>2</sup> by working cooperatively, generously and respectfully with other countries to address global challenges, taking an enabling approach to support countries that have less capability to respond to their contribution to global problems.
- 3.2. Encourage other countries, particularly wealthy countries, to adopt the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and reflect this in their ODA programme.
- 3.3. Support the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through the Sustainable Development Goals and their focus on universal peace, eradicating poverty, and human rights

#### **A. International rule of law**

The Green Party supports Aotearoa New Zealand's rejection of divisive approaches to international relations, and supports commitment to a functional, fair, and safe international system.

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<sup>2</sup> The common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities principle acknowledges the contribution of historical and current inequality between countries to global problems. It acknowledges all states have a shared obligation to address environmental destruction but denies equal responsibility of all states with regard to environmental protection.

### *Policy Positions*

- 3.4. Support universal compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and universal membership of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- 3.5. Support measures to ensure impartial enforcement of decisions made by the ICJ and ICC
- 3.6. Oppose any attempt by states to de-legitimise international rule of law, and oppose any attempts to politicise the ICC
- 3.7. Oppose malicious attempts by international actors to destabilise international peace and order through wanton disregard of international institutions and norms, which disproportionately affect small and vulnerable states, as well as ethnic, cultural and marginalised groups within states
- 3.8. Advocate reform of the United Nations Security Council to support fair decision-making and transparent process
- 3.9. Support global ratification of the 'crime of aggression' under the Rome Statute of the ICC

### **B. Self-determination**

Aotearoa New Zealand should promote the principle of self-determination of peoples as an essential step in the attainment of universal peace, whether this involves devolution of political power, autonomy or independence.

### *Policy Positions*

- 3.10. Urge that early action be taken for an act of self-determination in the remaining non-self-governing territories under Chapter XI of the UN Charter. With respect to Tokelau, commit to respecting the wishes of the inhabitants as expressed in two referenda to remain an integral part of the NZ realm.
- 3.11. Call for a review within the Pacific Island Forum of the status of non-self-governing territories in the Pacific that are not currently subject to UN monitoring, and give general support to movements for self-determination there.
- 3.12. Explore whether any non-self-governing territories elsewhere should be added to the list under the auspices of the UN Committee on Decolonization.
- 3.13. When territories express a desire greater autonomy or full independence, the Green Party will:

- a) Support the principle of self-determination of peoples in all such cases, directly or through the UN, having regard also to the rights and responsibilities of the sovereign States involved.
- b) Introduce into the UN General Assembly a proposal for an expert study to be undertaken, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, concerning possible ways of dealing with issues of secession in a manner that ensures the maintenance of international peace and security and due respect for fundamental human rights, including the right of self-determination.

#### 4. Non-violence

All foreign policy decisions made by the Greens will be underpinned by commitment to our Charter principle of non-violence.

A world without 'war' is obtainable. 'War' is not intrinsic to human society and under international law can no longer be 'declared' by any government. Military confrontations are usually generated by major powers extending their areas of influence. The centre-piece of the Green Party's global security policy is to join with peoples around the world to oppose 'war', especially where the United Nations has been sidelined.

##### *Policy Positions*

- 4.1. Continue to pursue peaceful conflict prevention and resolution of international conflict
- 4.2. Make best efforts to facilitate peace mediation between states and/or non-state actors
- 4.3. Establish a conflict prevention unit, peace mediation centre, or similar institution committed to fostering positive peace through diverse mechanisms, from grassroots movements to diplomacy
- 4.4. Support Aotearoa New Zealand defence forces specialising in regional peacekeeping (see our [Defence and Peacekeeping Policy](#)).
- 4.5. Protect the right for asylum seekers to claim asylum in Aotearoa New Zealand and resource their settlement (see our [Immigration Policy](#))
- 4.6. Hold New Zealanders accountable for any international crimes committed at home or overseas, while:
  - a) Upholding the fundamental protections provided by international and Aotearoa New Zealand's criminal and human rights laws; and
  - b) Ensuring prosecutions are not undertaken for partisan purposes

- 4.7. Advocate for strict regulation of and transparency from the global arms industry
- 4.8. Support the completion of treaties banning the manufacture, sale and use of inhumane weapons
- 4.9. Advocate for global denuclearisation, specifically supporting ratification by all states of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

See also the [Defence and Peacekeeping](#) policy.