



Peace and Security

Policy Category: E. Human Rights and Democracy

Issued: June 2008

Principles

The Australian Greens believe that:

1. genuine security rests on cooperation, fair economic and social development, environmental sustainability, and respect for human rights, rather than on military capabilities.
2. non-violent conflict management is the most effective means of promoting peace and security in the international arena.
3. UN mandated military action should be a last resort and can only be justified if it is necessary either to avert a major violation of human rights or attempted genocide, or to counter the military invasion of a country.
4. civil society organisations, including ethnic and women's groups, should be fully involved in conflict prevention, peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction.
5. the deployment of Australian Defence Forces (ADF) must be for defence and peace-keeping, and not for offensive action.
6. the deployment of Australian military forces must require the endorsement of federal parliament.
7. no nuclear armed or powered forces should be deployed within Australia's maritime boundaries.
8. premeditated acts of violence, directed at civilians, with the aim of intimidating others to agree to political, social, cultural or religious demands, are terrorism, and are to be condemned, whether they are carried out by individuals, organisations or governments.
9. to reduce the threat of terrorism, the social and economic injustices which contribute to terrorist actions should be addressed.
10. climate change represents the greatest threat to world peace and security.
11. environmental degradation caused by sea-level rise and other climate change impacts will increasingly result in the displacement of people, undermining global peace and security.

Goals

The Australian Greens want:

12. the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
13. all countries to sign, ratify and implement outstanding international human rights and disarmament agreements and strengthened nuclear non-proliferation treaties.
14. the role of the UN to be strengthened as a global organisation of conflict management, peacekeeping, and nuclear disarmament.
15. comprehensive international peacemaking capabilities to be developed in new regional institutions and through a reformed UN.
16. peacekeeping efforts aimed at reconstruction and empowerment of war ravaged communities to provide them with sustained peace and security.
17. action on economic, social and environmental grievances that play a major role in creating conflict.
18. a reduction in Australian and global military expenditure.
19. an ADF adequate to Australia's defence and peacekeeping needs.
20. a non discriminatory ADF that reflects the diversity of Australian society.

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

21. support the convening of a UN-sponsored international peace conference on global nuclear non-proliferation and general nuclear disarmament.
22. advocate an international ban on the manufacture and use of arms that indiscriminately kill and maim, including landmines, cluster bombs and depleted uranium.
23. sign and ratify the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.
24. make diplomatic efforts to curb the global arms trade.
25. ensure that Australia does not sell weaponry or components overseas.
26. end arms trade fairs in Australia and coordinate with neighbouring states on similar measures.
27. support the establishment of a permanent UN peacekeeping budget that enables the UN to fully resource its peacekeeping programs.
28. reinvigorate peace research in Australian universities and peace education in schools.
29. promote gender equality in peace processes, agreements and transitional governance structures.
30. ensure that trade embargos and other economic sanctions, are preferably conducted within a UN mandate, are used as part of a strategy of conflict resolution, and have minimal harm to civilians.
31. ensure that decisions on defence procurement are based on Australia's defence needs.
32. ensure that defence procurements do not restrict the operations of the ADF by increased reliance on any one country.
33. end the ANZUS treaty unless Australia's membership can be revised in a manner which is consistent with Australia's international and human rights obligations.
34. renegotiate a defence relationship with our allies that promotes Australia's independent role in our region.
35. end Australia's participation in the US Missile Defence program and pursue a global ban on the militarisation of space.
36. work towards a nuclear-free Asia-Pacific region.
37. close all existing foreign bases in Australian territory and end foreign troop deployment, training and hosting on Australian territory.
38. support the development of an Australian Coastguard to replace military personnel and equipment in coastal policing.
39. end training and joint exercises by the ADF with the armed forces known to have committed human rights abuses.
40. oppose military conscription.
41. oppose the use of the ADF personnel in strikebreaking activities or in policing public protest.
42. support the right of ADF personnel to conscientiously object to particular military actions, and support the rights of citizens to protest against such military actions.
43. support positive reform of the military justice system and measures to reduce discrimination and harassment amongst ADF members.
44. work for a Constitutional amendment to require federal parliamentary endorsement for the deployment of the ADF overseas.