



# **POLICY POSITION: FOREIGN POLICY IN A CHANGING WORLD**

## **Problem Statement**

The attainment of the ideal of world peace seems more distant in this moment than at least since the end of the Cold War.

As war wages in Ukraine and Palestine, as well as many other conflicts around the world, the time has come to accept that the current system of international institutions and global cooperation is not capable of resolving and mediating conflict on the scale that we need.

At the same time, we are witnessing a fundamental shift in the nature of international relations. The post-Cold War era of US-dominance of the international system is making way for a more multi-polar world. This forces South Africa to spread its wings and maintain good relations with as many countries as possible, rather than throwing all of its eggs into one basket.

The inefficiency of global institutions – such as the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions – is unsurprising given the inherent unfairness that still exists in these bodies, the international system in general, as well as persistent economic and climate inequality. The dual morality of the West has created a crisis of catastrophic proportions in Palestine.

Foreign policy must begin with the values and principles that underpin GOOD and inform its domestic policy. GOOD's foreign policy is an extension of its domestic policy. Therefore, in Government, GOOD will pursue economic justice, social justice, spatial justice and environmental justice on the world stage. We will demand a fairer, more inclusive world order that reduces global inequalities, corrects past injustices and pursues peace above all.

While war wages in Europe and the Middle-East, many overlook the conflicts that are still ongoing on our own continent. South Africa must restore its influence and leadership in Africa, and strengthen the role of the African Union to bring attention and mediation to the conflicts on our doorstep.

# Solutions

## General

- GOOD pursues and promotes peace in every conflict and stands against war as a solution to any problem, no matter how complex;
- While we feel that the institutions which create international law should be more representative, GOOD unconditionally respects and adheres to public international law.

## International Conventions and Resolutions

- Too many conventions and resolutions are adopted by South Africa, as a member state of multilateral organisations, but are never implemented. When South Africa is a signatory to an international convention or resolution, this must be implemented by the adoption of enabling domestic legislation;
- For example, the OECD Convention of Bribery, an international anti-corruption instrument, to which South Africa is a signatory, should be implemented through appropriate legislation.

## A New World Order that is Fair and Just

- Colonialism, slavery and various other historical factors have created an unfair world order that cements power in the hands of wealthy, Western countries who are unwilling to correct inequities and injustices amongst the global population, and were unable to safeguard justice in global crises such as climate change, Covid-19 and conflicts across the world;
- GOOD calls for reform of the United Nations Security Council and the Bretton Woods Institutions – the IMF and World Bank – to enable more representation and influence to the voices of the Global South, and a fairer, more inclusive and less monopolised global financial system;
- Specifically, GOOD advocates for an African country or the African Union obtaining a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

## Israel-Palestine Conflict

- Above all, GOOD calls for an immediate ceasefire, the peaceful mediation of the dispute and that both sides respect international law, particularly the rights and safeties guaranteed to civilians. We call for de-escalation of the conflict and the non-proliferation of violence by states not party to the dispute;
- GOOD recognises the states of Palestine and Israel, and remains committed to a two-state solution in line with the 1967 border agreement and associated UN resolutions;
- GOOD is of the view that the root cause of the conflict is the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory by Israel and the denial by Israel of the rights of Palestinian people to self-determination, statehood and sovereignty;
- Israel must guarantee the safe passage of humanitarian aid into Palestinian territories, including the continuation of the pipeline for human essentials that runs from Israel into the Gaza strip by Israel's own creation;
- GOOD understands that Hamas does not resemble or represent the Palestinian people. GOOD condemns acts of violence against civilians and breaches of international law from both Hamas and the state of Israel which have been committed over several decades. While GOOD condemns the acts of violence against civilians committed by Hamas in the 7 October 2023 attack, we are of the view that terrorists are made rather than born, and the conditions created in Palestinian territories by the state of Israel provide the obvious breeding ground for violent extremism to emerge and flourish;
- We call on the International Criminal Court to investigate and prosecute breaches of international law in this conflict under the Rome Statute.

### **In Africa...**

- GOOD is committed to the economic development of Africa, the eradication of poverty, and reversing the legacy of colonialism;
- GOOD champions economic integration and enhanced freedom of movement on the continent, and calls for the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA);
- GOOD calls for South Africa and the African Union to play a meaningful role in mediating the conflicts that still engulf our continent, primarily caused by the lingering legacy of artificial borders in Africa caused by the actions of colonial powers;
- GOOD insists that African leadership must be more prominent and influential in international institutions;
- GOOD is concerned about the persisting prejudice against the LGBTQIA+ community in some countries in Africa (and elsewhere in the world), and is committed to diplomacy efforts to eliminate such cases;
- GOOD supports the right to self-determination and statehood for the people of Western Sahara.

### **Ukraine-Russia conflict**

- Above all, GOOD calls for an immediate ceasefire and the peaceful mediation of the dispute;
- GOOD condemns Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine in breach of international law and supports the right of the Ukrainian people to make decisions as regards its own sovereignty;
- GOOD is, however, concerned about the dual-morality and inconsistency of values shown by Western democracies and media houses in the case of Ukraine as compared to Palestine.