

R08 * Anti?Imperialism and Global Justice - To Infinity and Beyond

Proposer: Young Greens of England and Wales
Agenda item: 8. Resolutions

Motion text

1 The Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) and its members organisations
2 recognise imperialism did not end with the formal dismantling of colonial
3 empires. It has instead adapted into new political, economic, technological, and
4 ecological forms that continue to undermine self-determination, democracy, and
5 planetary integrity. Today, imperial domination is exercised through military
6 occupation, economic coercion, debt dependency, control over knowledge and
7 technology, and the monopolisation of global commons (1), including outer space.

8 As Young Greens, committed to climate justice, feminism, decoloniality,
9 democracy, anti-racism, peace, and international solidarity, we recognise that
10 these systems of domination are inseparable from the intersecting crises young
11 people face worldwide: climate breakdown, growing inequality, democratic
12 erosion, and the commodification of life itself. Historic and ongoing
13 responsibility for these crises demands not only acknowledgment, but structural
14 change.

15 At a time when international law is repeatedly undermined by powerful states
16 acting with impunity, and when multilateral institutions are weakened by
17 geopolitical oligarchies, the need for a renewed, principled, and enforceable
18 anti-imperialist stance is urgent. The pattern is clear: modern empires want to
19 delegitimize international law and multilateral institutions with the goal of
20 presenting themselves as the only legitimate authorities capable of providing
21 security.

22 This urgency extends beyond Earth. The increasing commercialisation,
23 militarisation, and privatisation of space risks reproducing extractive and
24 colonial logics beyond planetary boundaries, threatening both ecological
25 integrity and global equity. In the end, international law is as effective as we
26 allow it to be. In fact, although we might think international law is just an
27 illusion, as Europeans, we are the living proof that sovereign states can
28 coexist in harmony within a shared framework of norms and values. Let's
29 acknowledge our privilege and let's fight for a world where this is no longer a
30 privilege, but rather the legal foundation of peaceful coexistence.

31 With this resolution, we articulate a shared Young Green analysis of
32 contemporary imperialism and outline concrete demands for dismantling systems of
33 unilateral domination on Earth and beyond it.

34 Imperialism today operates not only through territorial annexation and military
35 occupation, but through economic structures that extract wealth, impose
36 exploitative lending practices, and lock nations into cycles of perpetual debt.
37 These mechanisms systematically undermine sovereign agency by constraining
38 democratic decision-making and subordinating public welfare to external
39 interests.

40 Clear contemporary examples illustrate the persistence of these dynamics.
41 Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 represents a blatant act of territorial
42 annexation that violates international law and fundamental principles of
43 sovereignty (2, 3). Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza, which the UN
44 Commission (4) and International Association of Genocide Scholars deemed a
45 genocide (5) exemplifies imperial violence enacted through military
46 occupation, collective punishment, and the denial of Palestinian
47 self-determination. At the same time, continued attacks on civilians are
48 unacceptable under any circumstances, and all violations of international
49 humanitarian law must be condemned without exception.

50 Imperialism is also exercised through economic warfare and political
51 destabilisation. The United States' long-standing sanctions regime against Cuba,
52 intensified through renewed "maximum pressure 2.0" (6) approaches, demonstrates
53 how economic coercion is used to punish political sovereignty and constrain
54 democratic choice (7). Similarly, the kidnapping and extraterritorial detention
55 of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in 2026 by the United States highlight
56 the ongoing risk posed by unilateral interventions that bypass international
57 legal processes and undermine national self-determination (8).

58 Control over knowledge, data, infrastructure, and critical technologies has
59 emerged as a central axis of imperial power (9). Monopolisation of digital
60 platforms, satellite systems, and surveillance infrastructure enables a small
61 number of states and corporations to exert outsized influence over populations,
62 markets, and political processes. This concentration of power deepens global
63 inequalities and erodes democratic accountability (10), particularly for young
64 people whose futures are shaped by systems they did not choose.

65 International institutions, originally established to foster peace and
66 cooperation, are too often dominated by a small group of powerful states.
67 Permanent veto powers and unequal decision-making structures within bodies such
68 as the United Nations Security Council allow violations of international law and
69 human rights to continue without meaningful consequence. This institutional
70 failure undermines trust in multilateralism and enables imperial behaviour to

71 persist unchecked.

72 These dynamics are increasingly mirrored in outer space. Space exploration and
73 infrastructure development are being driven by geopolitical competition and
74 private accumulation rather than collective benefit.

75 A small number of states and private corporations controlled by individuals such
76 as Elon Musk, whose companies dominate satellite telecommunications and launch
77 infrastructure (11), and Jeff Bezos, with thousands of planned satellite
78 deployments, illustrate the growing concentration of power over orbital space
79 (12). Such monopolisation raises serious concerns around surveillance,
80 democratic oversight, and the privatisation of a shared global commons.

81 Unregulated activity in space is already compounding the ecological disruption
82 that defines the Anthropocene age. The exponential growth in satellite
83 constellations has been shown to significantly increase light pollution,
84 disrupting astronomical research, Indigenous sky knowledge, nocturnal
85 ecosystems, and humanity's shared relationship with the night sky (13, 14, 15).
86 The predicted commercialisation of space further threatens to increase
87 greenhouse gas emissions from rocket launches, atmospheric pollution from
88 discarded machinery, and the dumping of rocket stages into oceans.

89 The accumulation of space debris, atmospheric pollution from discarded
90 machinery, and the escalating risk of Kessler Syndrome represent a new frontier
91 of ecological harm (16). Humanity's extractive industrial practices – driven
92 primarily by the Global North – have already caused profound damage to Earth's
93 ecosystems. Extending these logics beyond planetary boundaries constitutes both
94 an ecological threat and a moral failure.

95 This expansion is fuelled by techno-optimist narratives that frame space
96 exploration as humanity's escape route from ecological collapse. Space tourism
97 initiatives, including high-profile projects such as the 2025 all-female
98 commercial spaceflight, exemplify how corporate spectacle can masquerade as
99 progress while obscuring underlying systems of exploitation and exclusion (17).

100 These narratives promote the illusion of a "Planet B" for the wealthy, while
101 diverting attention from the urgent responsibility to repair and protect the
102 Earth we already inhabit.

103 As is often the case with techno-optimism, these projects are sustained by a
104 destructive feedback loop. Mining for rare earth minerals, intensified
105 geopolitical competition over resources, and deeply unequal supply chains
106 divided along Global North and South lines, which all contribute to the very
107 instability used to justify further expansion into space (18). The belief that
108

109 humans will be able to escape earth before it becomes uninhabitable is a
110 betrayal of our role as a steward species (19). It is also a fallacy, an elite
111 fantasy - such extraction represents a desecration of life and demonstrates how
imperialism permeates every layer of the phenomenon.

112 For young people worldwide, these systems foreclose futures. They entrench
113 conflict, accelerate ecological collapse, and normalise domination over
114 ecosystems and peoples alike. Anti-imperialism is therefore not an abstract
115 ideology, but a necessary framework for justice, peace, and mutual thriving.

116 We affirm that true global stability requires respect for the sovereign agency
117 of all peoples and nations, regardless of economic or military power. Economic
118 and technological relationships must be based on transparency, mutual benefit,
119 and ecological responsibility, rather than coercion or exploitation.

120 We reaffirm that outer space is the common heritage of humankind. Wonder and
121 appreciation for the beautiful strangeness of an extra-planetary space or
122 phenomenon must not be justified or destined to justify the colonisation of that
123 space (20). Any attempts to colonise, militarise, or privatise celestial bodies
124 or orbits constitute a dangerous extension of imperial expansion and must be
125 collectively resisted. Knowledge and technology must serve emancipatory and
126 redistributive purposes, not reinforce structural exclusion or domination.

127 In line with this analysis, we call on FYEG, its Member Organisations, and the
128 wider Green political family to:

- 129 • Support knowledge sharing: devise and implement policies that prioritise
130 'open' learning initiatives and localisation of technology.
- 131 • Advocate for enforceable international mechanisms that sanction unilateral
132 acts of imperialism, including territorial annexation, economic coercion,
133 and violations of sovereign self-determination.
- 134 • Promote resource sovereignty – Advocate for transparency standards for
135 multi-national corporations to ensure extraction of raw materials provides
136 fair compensation and investment to the host community.
- 137 • Support transparency and accountability standards for multinational
138 corporations, particularly in resource extraction, digital infrastructure,
139 and space-related industries, ensuring fair compensation, environmental
140 protection, and local benefit.
- 141 • Advocate for ethical oversight of trade, investment, and lending
142 practices, including the review of agreements that compromise long-term

- 143 fiscal autonomy. Moreover, encourage the restructuring of international
144 institutions to provide low-interest credit facilities that prioritise
145 developmental stability over external market access.
- 146 • Demand the strengthening of international space treaties to prohibit
147 private or unilateral ownership of extraterrestrial resources and ensure
148 that benefits derived from space activities are shared equitably.

 - 149 • Apply the same ethical, ecological, and distributive standards to resource
150 extraction in space as are demanded on Earth.

 - 151 • Address injustices on earth, recognising when space exploration projects
152 are explicitly or implicitly designated to provide a 'Planet B' and
153 condemning those as distraction tactics.

 - 154 • Call for a transparent cost-benefit analysis of Space exploration
155 projects, as well as further research on the environmental costs of rocket
156 launches.

 - 157 • Oppose monopolies in digital, technological, and space-related sectors and
158 promote open, cooperative, and publicly accountable alternatives.

 - 159 • Protect the night sky as a shared cultural, ecological, and scientific
160 commons.

 - 161 • Address the erosion of international law's credibility strengthening
162 enforcement mechanisms and reaffirming its universal applicability.

 - 163 • Promote reform of multilateral institutions, including addressing
164 permanent veto powers and unequal governance structures that undermine
165 accountability and justice.

 - 166 • Enforce equal accountability for all political leaders accused of war
167 crimes, ensuring that International Criminal Court arrest warrants are
168 upheld without geopolitical bias and obstruction.

 - 169 • Prohibit the use of sanctions, diplomatic pressure, or political
170 interference to undermine international judicial institutions,
171 particularly the International Criminal Court.

 - 172 • There needs to be fundamental reform of the United Nations Security
173 Council, specifically the abolition of the Veto Power under Article 27 of
174 the UN Charter. Veto powers should never be used to obstruct justice for

175 war crimes or genocides. We “Veto Initiative” (UNGA Res 76/262) ensure
176 transparency and accountability.

- 177 • Reform the United Nations Security Council to prevent the use of veto
178 powers in cases involving war crimes, crimes against humanity, and
179 genocide, and support measures that increase transparency and
180 accountability in its decision-making.

- 181 • To ensure transparency and accountability. that all European states,
182 immediately ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
183 (TPNW). We insist that nuclear-armed states fulfill their disarmament
184 obligations under Article VI of the NPT, moving beyond deterrence toward
185 total elimination.

186 The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) must remain the non-negotiable
187 legal floor, and all states must comply with the rulings of the European Court
188 of Human Rights (ECtHR) without exception.

- 189 • The universal abolition of the death penalty. We call on all states to
190 ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, using European
191 diplomatic and trade relations as leverage to end this violation of the
192 fundamental right to life.

- 193 • The legal recognition of the Right to Food and Clean Water under the
194 ICESCR.

- 195 • We condemn starvation as a method of warfare (Art. 8, Rome Statute) and
196 demand the strict regulation of commodity trading hubs to end neocolonial
197 extractivism that exploits the Global South.

- 198 • Condemn all ongoing and future forms of imperialism and call for an
199 immediate end to any support or cooperation with states engaged in
200 systemic oppression or violations of international law, including through
201 trade agreements and institutional partnerships. Furthermore, we urge the
202 EU to sever all economic and political relations with states that violate
203 human rights, including the full repeal of the EU–Israel Association
204 Agreement.

205 We call on governments, international institutions, and the Green political
206 family to move beyond rhetorical commitments and take concrete action to
207 dismantle imperial systems in all their forms. This includes centring
208 anti-imperialist analysis in climate, economic, social, digital, and space
209 policy, and recognising the leadership of Indigenous and Global South
210 communities in shaping just and regenerative futures.

211 We must demonstrate leadership and creative thinking to reimagine solutions
212 beyond the existing capitalist systems of globalization. Not isolationism, not
213 nostalgia, but International solidarity. Bravery to challenge too-big-to-fail
214 systems and think beyond the limits of neo-liberalism.

215 As Young Greens, we commit to focusing our energy on addressing injustices on
216 Earth, resisting narratives that frame space exploration as a substitute for
217 ecological responsibility, and challenging colonial mindsets wherever they
218 arise. We urge coordinated action to ensure that humanity's relationship with
219 both Earth and space is guided not by extraction and domination, but by care,
220 solidarity, and shared stewardship.