

R4 Protecting International Law Against Empires: to Infinity and Beyond

Proposer: Swiss Young Greens, Giovani Europeisti
Verdi, Joves Ecosocialistes, Young Greens
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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. Today, imperial domination is exercised through military occupation,
4 economic coercion, debt dependency, control over knowledge and technology, and
5 the monopolisation of global commons, including outer space.

6 International law exists to protect everyone, people and states, especially in
7 an asymmetric geopolitical landscape where many small actors are challenged by
8 few powerful empires. Many promoted the illusion that modern empires would
9 balance their influence, resulting in peace. However, reality is different:
10 while superpowers will not engage in direct confrontation, they express violent
11 imperialistic attitudes against their neighbours.

12 In their eyes, international law is not valid within their regional spheres of
13 influence, where they play by their own rules.

14 This crisis directly challenges core Green values: peace, democracy, climate
15 justice, feminism, and anti-racism. Imperialism disproportionately harms
16 marginalised communities, including women, racialised groups, and young people,
17 while concentrating power in the hands of states and corporations. The urgency
18 to act is therefore both global and European.

19 Clear contemporary examples illustrate these dynamics.

20 Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 represents a blatant act of territorial
21 annexation that violates international law and sovereignty, denying Ukraine's
22 right to exist and aiming for a subordinate regime, while interfering with
23 democratic processes across Europe.

24 Imperialism is also exercised through economic warfare and destabilisation. The
25 United States intensified sanctions against Cuba through “maximum pressure 2.0”,
26 demonstrating how economic coercion punishes sovereignty and constrains
27 democratic choice. Similarly, the kidnapping and extraterritorial detention of
28 Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in 2026 highlights risks posed by unilateral
29 interventions bypassing international legal processes.

30 Israel's strikes on Iran, with US support, and the invasion of Lebanon,
31 including sieges and attacks on healthcare and civilian areas, constitute
32 violations of international law and possible war crimes. The ongoing assault on
33 Gaza, which UN bodies and genocide scholars deemed genocide in 2025, exemplifies
34 imperial violence through occupation, collective punishment, and denial of
35 Palestinian self-determination.

36 China, far from being a peaceful superpower, has extended sovereignty over Hong
37 Kong, pressures Taiwan toward annexation, and commits human rights violations
38 such as the persecution of Uyghurs.

39 The pattern is clear: modern empires seek to delegitimise international law and
40 multilateral institutions, presenting themselves as the only legitimate
41 providers of security. This reflects a system where power is concentrated among
42 a few states and corporations, benefiting dominant actors while harming smaller
43 states, marginalised communities, and future generations.

44 For young people, this system undermines democratic participation, economic
45 justice, climate stability, and peace. Existing policies have failed because
46 they allow selective application of international law and prioritise
47 geopolitical interests over justice and accountability.

48 Europe plays a key role globally but often subordinates itself to these systems,
49 as seen in energy dependence and extractive economic relations. Neocolonial
50 practices persist, while human rights are inconsistently applied. Protecting
51 international law also means protecting AFAB and marginalised communities
52 globally.

53 This urgency extends beyond Earth. The increasing commercialisation,
54 militarisation, and privatisation of space risks reproducing extractive and
55 colonial logics beyond planetary boundaries, threatening both ecological
56 integrity and global equity. Control over knowledge, data, infrastructure, and
57 critical technologies has emerged as a central axis of imperial power.
58 Monopolisation of digital platforms, satellite systems, and surveillance
59 infrastructure enables a small number of states and corporations to exert
60 outsized influence over populations, markets, and political processes. This
61 concentration of power deepens global inequalities and erodes democratic
62 accountability.

63 Such monopolisation raises serious concerns around surveillance, democratic
64 oversight, and the privatisation of a shared global commons. Space exploration
65 and infrastructure development are increasingly driven by geopolitical
66 competition and private accumulation rather than collective benefit.

67 This expansion is fuelled by techno-optimist narratives that frame space
68 exploration as humanity's escape route from ecological collapse. The belief that
69 humans will be able to escape Earth before it becomes uninhabitable is a
70 betrayal of our role as a steward species.

71 We reaffirm that outer space is the common heritage of humankind. Any attempts
72 to colonise, militarise, or privatise celestial bodies or orbits constitute a
73 dangerous extension of imperial expansion and must be collectively resisted.

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

- 76 • The EU end all economic and political relations with states that violate
77 human rights. We call on the EU to completely repeal the EU-Israel
78 Association Agreement.
- 79 • Strengthen relations and unity within the EU and also paneuropean
80 countries and strategic democratic partners to have a more powerful voice
81 in the international scenario
- 82 • Enforcing a swift transition from fossil fuels to end reliance on
83 authoritarian countries and guarantee energy independence
- 84 • Develop EU-technology, (explore the possibility of higher public ownership
85 or control in these areas)
- 86 • International law has to be binding for every country. Democratic
87 countries should explore measures to enforce it. For instance: protecting
88 ICC officials from US sanctions.
- 89 • Strategic autonomy, we shouldn't rely on weaponry and external forces
- 90 • that European governments refrain from engaging in the Board of Peace, a
91 unilateral organisation created with the only aim of challenging
92 multilateral institutions
- 93 • that all political leaders face equal accountability for war crimes. ICC
94 arrest warrants must be enforced without geopolitical bias, and any

- 95 sanctions or pressure to obstruct the Court must be abolished.
- 96 • a fundamental reform of the UN Security Council, specifically the
97 abolition of the Veto Power under Article 27 of the UN Charter. The veto
98 must never be used to obstruct justice for war crimes or genocides. We
99 support the "Veto Initiative" (UNGA Res 76/262) to ensure transparency and
100 accountability.
- 101 • that all European states, immediately ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition
102 of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We insist that nuclear-armed states fulfill
103 their disarmament obligations under Article VI of the NPT, moving beyond
104 deterrence toward total elimination.
- 105 • absolute adherence to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional
106 Protocols.
- 107 • The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) must remain the non-
108 negotiable legal floor, and all states must comply with the rulings of the
109 European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) without exception.
- 110 • the universal abolition of the death penalty. We call on all states to
111 ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, using European
112 diplomatic and trade relations as leverage to end this violation of the
113 fundamental right to life.
- 114 • the legal recognition of the Right to Food and Clean Water under the
115 ICESCR. We condemn starvation as a method of warfare (Art. 8, Rome
116 Statute) and demand the strict regulation of commodity trading hubs to end
117 neocolonial extractivism that exploits the Global South.
- 118 • that international law applies equally to all, regardless of power. We
119 demand full support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the
120 Rome Statute, including the protection of its officials from external
121 sanctions and political interference.
- 122 • that states fulfill their obligation to protect human rights from climate
123 change. Following the ECtHR ruling in *KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland*, we
124 affirm that Article 8 of the ECHR protects the right to a safe climate and
125 demand science-based, legally binding targets for all.
- 126 • Advocate for enforceable international mechanisms that sanction unilateral
127 acts of imperialism, including territorial annexation, economic coercion,
128 and violations of sovereign self-determination.

- 129 • Promote resource sovereignty – Advocate for transparency standards for
130 multi-national corporations to ensure extraction of raw materials provides
131 fair compensation and investment to the host community.

- 132 • Support transparency and accountability standards for multinational
133 corporations, particularly in resource extraction, digital infrastructure,
134 and space-related industries, ensuring fair compensation, environmental
135 protection, and local benefit.

- 136 • Advocate for ethical oversight of trade, investment, and lending
137 practices, including the review of agreements that compromise long-term
138 fiscal autonomy. Moreover, encourage the restructuring of international
139 institutions to provide low-interest credit facilities that prioritise
140 developmental stability over external market access.

- 141 • Support knowledge sharing: devise and implement policies that prioritise
142 ‘open’ learning initiatives and localisation of technology.

- 143 • Demand the strengthening of international space treaties to prohibit
144 private or unilateral ownership of extraterrestrial resources and ensure
145 that benefits derived from space activities are shared equitably.

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

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

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

- 152 • Promote reform of multilateral institutions, including addressing
153 permanent veto powers and unequal governance structures that undermine
154 accountability and justice

155 We call on governments, European institutions, international organisations, and
156 the Green political family to move beyond rhetorical commitments and take
157 concrete action to dismantle imperial systems in all their forms. Immediate
158 steps must be taken to enforce international law, strengthen multilateral
159 institutions, and ensure accountability for violations.

160 We must demonstrate political leadership and solidarity to reimagine solutions
161 beyond current globalisation models—not isolationism, but international
162 solidarity. As Young Greens, we commit to addressing injustices on Earth,

163 resisting narratives that frame space exploration as a substitute for ecological
164 responsibility, and challenging colonial mindsets wherever they arise.

Reason

The rationale behind this resolution is rooted in the transition from a rules-based international order to **"geopolitical oligarchy."** Imperial powers (specifically Russia, the US, Israel and China) are systematically eroding international law by creating spheres of influence where they operate with impunity. This trend is replicated in the space competition, dominated by few predatory actors.

This resolution serves as a strategic demand for Europe to end its energy dependency on authoritarian regimes, abandon neocolonial trade practices, and champion the reform of multilateral institutions (such as the UN Security Council) to ensure that accountability is not a privilege, but a global legal foundation.

P.S.

this resolution is inspired by a merger of former R9 and R14.

due to time constraints we couldn't to align with the proponents of former R14 (now Resolution on Anti-Imperialism, Global Justice - To Infinity and Beyond).

For transparency, the current text includes parts of that resolution.