



13 April 2022

Margaret Reynolds
President
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Email: president@wilpf.org.au

Dear Ms Reynolds,

I write in response to your survey regarding Priority Foreign and Defence Policy issues sent to Penny Wong on 10 April 2022. Please find below the response from the Australian Labor Party.

Q1: Labor has consistently emphasised the importance of diplomacy in the pursuit of Australia's interests and values in the world. We have committed to rebuilding the capability of DFAT. We remain deeply concerned at the running down of Australia's diplomatic capability which we have seen over the course of the Liberal / National Government.

Q2: Labor's Platform conference resolved to refer the issue of how Australia makes decisions to send service personnel into international armed conflict to an inquiry to be conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Trade. This inquiry would take submissions, hold public hearings, and produce its findings during the term of the 47th Parliament.

Q3: Labor's platform strongly supports the maintenance of a rules based international order, auspiced and supported by multilateralism and the United Nations. We support strengthening the United Nations' capacity in preventive diplomacy, peace building, peacemaking, peace keeping and peace enforcement. It also committed to ensuring that our development assistance addresses global humanitarian crisis and the root causes of crisis, conflict, stability and insecurity.

Q4: Labor will implement a range of economic policies in government. More details of these can be found at <https://alp.org.au/policies>. Internationally, Labor will progressively rebuild Australia's Overseas Development Assistance which has been run down by the Liberal / National government.

Q5: Labor has announced an ambitious package of climate change measures – Powering Australia. More on this can be found at <https://www.alp.org.au/policies/powering-australia>.

Labor will also co-host an UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties with our Pacific neighbours, as a sign of Australia return to being a constructive player on climate change. We have also committed to a working with Indonesia to deliver a \$200 million climate change partnership with Indonesia.

Q6: Labor has committed to asking the Director-General of Intelligence and the Secretary of Defence to do a rapid assessment of the national security implications of climate change on our coming to office. This assessment would also look at the use of the ADF to respond to domestic emergencies.

Q7: Women, peace and security has always been an important Labor priority and will continue to be so. We will ensure our development assistance prioritises gender equality and empowerment of women and girls as a key objective, including ensuring at least 80 per cent of Australia's aid investments address gender issues and tackling violence against women and children.

Labor will have more to say regarding our engagement with our region, including on the issues raised in this survey, throughout the election campaign.

Yours sincerely



Paul Erickson
National Secretary
Australian Labor Party