

MULTILATERALISM

What does the Bible say?

Come now, let us reason together. **(Isaiah 1:18a)**

In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. **(Hosea 2:18)**

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. **(Micah 4:4)**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. **(Matthew 5:9)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

We endorse the United Nations and its related bodies...as the best instruments now in existence to achieve a world of justice and law.” **(Social Principles ¶165.D)**

We endorse international aid and cooperation on all matters of need and conflict. We urge acceptance for membership in the United Nations of all nations who wish such membership and who accept United Nations responsibility. We urge the United Nations to take a more aggressive role in the development of international arbitration of disputes and actual conflicts among nations by developing binding third-party arbitration. **(Social Principles ¶165.D)**

We, as United Methodists, must build the conditions for peace through development of confidence and trust between peoples and governments. Peace and societal harmony are greatly enhanced when peoples and nations cooperate to address global concerns for economic and environmental justice, for peace and security, and for human dignity and human rights. Addressing these in a manner that invites all peoples and nations to just, participatory, and democratic processes is the hallmark of international law and cooperation, which are the cornerstones of multilateralism. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #6129 “The United Methodist Church and Peace”)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

What do the facts say?

- We live in an interdependent world. Multilateralism is acting upon this world together, with commonly established rules, mechanisms and institutions like the United Nations.
- Multilateralism is about addressing together, rather than unilaterally, the complex problems we face in the world today. Like stopping wars before they even begin, or ending those that have been launched or are ongoing. Or, working collaboratively to address the global scourge of violence and terrorism and the protection of human rights. The negotiation that produced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a prime example of multilateral cooperation.
- Negotiating the 17 goals and 169 targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and working together to eliminate hunger and eradicate poverty will only be possible through multilateral efforts.
- Multilateralism made possible the passing of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that reaffirmed “the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security”.¹



¹ *United Nations Women Watch*

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Support** the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Urge your government to meet the goal's 169 targets. Visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.
- **Learn** about the status of ratification by your country on the many multilaterally-negotiated treaties and agreements addressing global issues at local and global levels—like poverty eradication, finding medication and treatment to pandemics, addressing humanitarian crises, and many more: www.treaties.un.org.
- **Discuss** with a group in your church or community one or some of the 70 ways the UN as a multilateral body affects you every day. Visit www.un.org/un70.
- **Advocate** for timely and full funding of your country's share of the core budget of the United Nations. Funding the UN System through assessed and voluntary contributions from member states will ensure that this multilateral body can eradicate hunger and poverty, develop vaccines and treatment for pandemics and debilitating illnesses, promote human rights, prevent violent conflicts and atrocities, and protect civilians, especially women and children, at risk around the world. Visit <https://bit.ly/3CML7L1>.



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