**DRAFT DEBATE ON THE BUDGET VOTE 6 ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

1. Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget Vote 6 on international Relations and Cooperation.
2. We do so firstly because we fundamentally disagree with the ideological laxity that seems to be guiding this department in its approach to the question of international relations.
3. Secondly, we reject the budget for the simple reason that it is led extremely lazy and visionless people who cannot do the bare minimum.
4. Chairperson, our approach to international relations is deeply rooted in the timeless goal of Pan-African unity, which itself must be premised on the ultimate objective od delinking form exploitative forms of international relations to those based on the principle of equality amongst people and nations.
5. It is for this reason that in our founding manifesto we say;

“The EFF’s internationalism is premised on building solidarity and working relationships with all movements in the world that identify ideologically with anti-capitalism and anti-imperialism. In this regard, the EFF will ideologically and politically support movements that seek the economic decolonisation of the African continent. The EFF will also advocate for free trade across the entire African continent, with common tariffs for goods and services from country to country. The EFF will also advocate for the ultimate integration of the African continent through the erosion and eventual elimination of unnecessary borders”.

1. At the core of our foreign policy posture is the centering of the African continent and African people in almost everything we do.
2. We therefore reject South Africa’s dramatic retreat from active involvement in the advancement of the interests of the continent.
3. The African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the African Court of Human and People’s Rights are all shells, falling far short of unifying the African continent. These institutions are failing to perform because there is no leadership amongst member states.
4. South Africa, as one of the biggest economies in the continent, has dropped the ball and has no idea whatsoever of what a Pan-African future ought to look like.
5. Under your watch, we have seen the intensification of armed conflicts sponsored by western powers in the continent.
6. The conflict in Tigray in Ethiopia is going on unabated, and South Africa and the African Union are dead silent.
7. The destabilization of West Africa by France has been going on for years, but there is still no coordinated effort by the continent to extricate France out of the affairs of the continent.
8. It is for this reason that the EFF will march against the involvement of France in African affairs. Africa must no longer be treated like a colony, and France must stop thinking of itself as a colonial master.
9. There must be no foreign military bases in the continent, because these military bases are used to train dissidents who then topple legitimate governments in the continent.
10. There must be a stable government in the Democratic Republic of Congo for that country and the whole continent to benefit from the riches of this continent.
11. We need to be more persistent in our push for a representative United Nations and do away with the veto power enjoyed by just six nations in the United Nations Security Council.
12. We must be more vocal in our opposition to the genocide of Palestinian men, women and children by the apartheid state of Israel.
13. We must publicly and privately call out the hypocrisy of the war alliance that is NATO, which is basically a military tool that the United States uses to suppress other nations.
14. The conflict in eastern Europe is primarily sponsored by the United States through the unjustifiable expansion of NATO towards Russian territories.
15. There will be no resolution of the conflict in Ukraine until the US stops its greedy incursions into Russia, and if we want to see a new world order based on fairness and mutual respect, it is then our responsibility to make our voice heard on this and other matters.
16. At a programmatic level, this government is corrupt and visionless to the core. Millions of Rands have been spent and yet no one can account what monies have been spent on. Instead of holding officials to account, the department allows them to resign without even accounting.
17. It is time for Mam Pandor to go on retirement, and for a new vibrant leadership to take over the affairs of this department.
18. We reject this budget vote.