

**WORKING DOCUMENT OF THE PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA:  
COMMENTS FOR THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON REGIONALISM**

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(SIXTH DOCUMENT IN THE SERIES)

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The Constitutional Principles of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (dealt with in document number five in this series) spell out clearly:

There shall be a united, unitary state:

Certain well-defined autonomous powers of government shall be devolved upon regions (a maximum of seven regions is recommended) as well as upon local government structures without detracting from the residual powers of central government which shall be unfettered in order to undertake programs of restructuring and redistribution. All government structures shall be democratic in the sense set out in the document on constitutional principles.

The above implies the following principles:

1. The reason for curtailing the number of regions is the high costs involved in setting up regional government structures.
2. The fundamental principle in demarcating the regions should be that economic realities must dictate the boundaries of the regions. Certainly, the boundaries that relate to the history of apartheid should be ignored in order to ensure that this history is not entrenched under the new Constitution.

3. Language and ethnicity should likewise not be factors to be taken into account in demarcating regions. The idea is that everything that will lead to division should be avoided and that a system of regional government must not hinder the essential ideal of nation building based on the idea of one unitary, united state.
4. Above all, any system of regionalism should not detract from the ideal of a unitary state with a strong central government that will retain all the important governmental powers in order to, inter alia, undertake programs of redistribution and restructuring.
5. As far as possible the economic strength of the regions should be equal in order to ensure that one region would not be able to prescribe to another and that the regions co-exist in a spirit of co-operation and not competition. In this regard, the central government should retain powers to intervene in the regions in order to ensure that equality prevails.
6. The above principles clearly imply that a so-called confederation as well as so-called a "pure" federal system of government are ruled out and that the regions will (within the united, unitary state) only obtain certain well-defined powers of government but will not be represented in the central government and will not have any veto powers whatsoever with regard to the central government powers.