

## TELEFAX COVER SHEET

TO: CODESA  
 ATT: MANAGEMENT  
 COUNCIL

FROM: T. S. CURTIS

DATE: 18/2/92.

FAX NO: (011) 397.2211

NO OF PAGES: 1  
 (including this one)

RE: RATIO MEN:WOMEN  
AT CODESA

It would seem obvious that, quite apart from considerations of women's rights, CODESA would be more likely to achieve a successful, peaceful, democratic New South Africa if its participants were more evenly balanced: MEN/WOMEN. Equally obvious is it that in this respect women's rights to participate in shaping their future are being neglected.

I therefore wholeheartedly support the appeal of WOMEN'S INITIATIVE to put pressure to this end on the parties involved in CODESA. I am Thomas Curtis  
 (MALE)

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Thomas Curteis  
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4/3/92

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter received in February 11.

We have received quite a steady stream of letters on the question of the representation of women at CODESA . This we obviously appreciate because there can be no running away from the fact that present society is totally male dominated and any attempt to jog society's conscience on this issue is very welcome.

From our point of view the representation of women at CODESA is not directly CODESA's responsibility but is really the responsibility of each and every Party that constitutes the CODESA process.

However in recognition of the seriousness of this matter, CODESA has gone some way within the ambit of its function to deal with the issue of women's participation in the CODESA process.

At its meeting of 13 January 1992, CODESA's Management Committee "agreed that each Working Group shall determine ways and means by which women's and other interest groups which are not participants in CODESA, may make submissions to that Working Group on matters relevant to its Terms of Reference.

The meeting further agreed that Management Committee members "should draw to the attention of their respective organisations the importance of involving women representatives in the CODESA process" by among other things:

- debating this matter at constituency level
- applying for permission to appoint additional advisers to the Management Committee to address plenary sessions on the understanding that these should be women
- debating this matter with women's organisations at constituency level; and
- appealing for more women delegates to the plenary sessions.



Over and above this, even CODESA's Declaration of Intent (5a) goes a long way towards addressing this issue by declaring to set in motion a process ensuring that the new constitution will ensure that "South Africa will be a United, democratic, non racial and non-sexist state."

Yours Sincerely

Murphy Morobe  
(CODESA Administration)

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