



Mrs M Neemborn  
P.O. Box 2124  
Cramerview  
2060

4/3/92

Dear Madam

Thank you for your letter dated 14/2/92.

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)



P.O. Box 2124  
Cramerow  
2060

14th February '92

The Management Council  
CODESA  
P.O. Box 307  
Isando  
1600

Dear Sirs,

In response to your letter in The Star, of 13th February, I would like to point out that the overall lack of representation of South African women in all working groups will hinder your search for a fully participatory, nonracial democracy.


Women constitute a 53% - of - the - population - interest - group, whose specific concerns are also those of vital national importance.



I would like to suggest that you co-opt some of the nation's very able ladies onto an affirmative action group to redress our poor representation, with specific reference to the concerns of working group 1 and 2.

As women are thin on the ground in politics, may I suggest that you be innovative and look for women prominent in other fields; publishing and the electronic media, the judiciary, healthcare, consumer groups, Black Sash, Church, formal and informal business, academics and teachers; even socialites doing major charity work.

I believe you would get a fresh perspective on life in this country and its requirements, for a just, good constitution.

 Yours faithfully  
Margaret Neumborn  
(Mrs.)