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7 February 1992

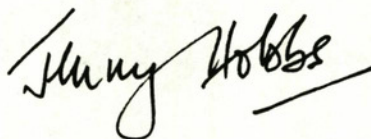
The Management Council, CODESA

Dear Sirs

You have asked for submissions by South African citizens. I am extremely concerned about the following matters, and would like to know what action is being taken regarding them.

1. First and foremost, the paucity of women representatives at CODESA. Less than seven per cent is not good enough when women form the majority of the voters. What is being done to increase the representation of women at CODESA?
2. I do not believe that our future should be decided upon solely by politicians, who have their own (often self-serving) agendas. It is patently wrong and unjust that obscure political parties should be allocated voting rights when major interest groups such as trade unions, church, business, educational, health and charity organisations are denied the right - with all their expertise! - to make decisions about our future. WE MUST GATHER OUR BEST PEOPLE TOGETHER IN A COALITION INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE NEW SOUTH AFRICA.
3. I would like to see on the CODESA agenda:
 - * a fully enforceable Bill of Rights for women
 - * provision for a detailed investigation of the violence that is racking our country, by impartial international experts provided by the United Nations
 - * indications of strong and immediate action being taken over the provision of housing, education, social services and decent medical care for everyone
 - * the lifting of VAT on more basic foods, books, health care and medicines; the shortfall could be made up by double-taxing luxury goods, cigarettes and alcohol.

Yours sincerely



(Mrs) Jenny Hobbs

The Women's Initiative



Mrs Jenny Hobbs
The Women's Initiative
P.O. Box 67356
Brynstan 2021
12 February 1991

Dear Mrs Hobbs

Thank you for your letter dated 7 February 1992. The question of 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 functions to deal with the issue of Women's participation in the CODESA process.

At its meeting of January 13 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.

I hope the foregoing reference forms a good indication of how the first point in your letter is being handled.

As for your 2nd and 3rd points, they are being forwarded to the relevant CODESA committee for its consideration.

Yours Sincerely


M Morobe
(Head:CODESA Admin)

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