



ANC

Negotiations Bulletin

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Introduction

The Negotiations Planning Conference held over the 4 and 5 March 1993 was an unqualified success.

26 Parties, administrations and organisations attended. These included the 19 parties and organisations which participated in Codesa, the PAC, the CP and the Afrikaner Volks Unie. In addition, the ANC was successful in securing the attendance of traditional leaders from throughout South Africa, on a provincial basis.

Through the hard work and commitment of all parties involved, the Conference achieved its basic objective which was the immediate resumption of multi-party negotiations. All parties, with the exception of the Conservative Party who abstained from the decision, unanimously resolved to resume multi-party negotiations.

The announcement that the multi-party forum shall be reconvened not later than 5 April is an indication of the urgency with which the Conference approached the looming crisis which faces all South Africans. This sense of urgency raises the hope that all parties and participants do indeed have the political will to place the interest of our country above all else.

The urgency with which we have to address our country's problems demands that the achievements of past negotiations should serve as a constructive foundation for the resumed negotiations we are embarking upon now. In this regard the ANC reaffirms its commitment to the scenario hammered out at CODESA. The ANC remains convinced that a democratically elected Constituent Assembly and the formation of an Interim Government of National Unity and Reconstruction is the surest way to achieve democracy in our country.

The ANC also firmly believes that the resumption of multi-party negotiations will further strengthen the peace process in our country.

Resolution on the need for the resumption/commencement of multi-party negotiations

We, the parties, organisations and administrations assembled in this the Multi-party Planning Conference:

Aware of the responsibility we individually and collectively bear for the well-being of our country;

Believing that the problems of our country should be resolved peacefully through process of negotiation;

Realising the urgent need for the economic development of the country;

Agreeing that the resources of the country need to be preserved, developed and improved for the benefit of all the people of this country and for future generations;

Accepting that all the people of this country and the whole community of nations throughout the world look to us to move the country forward towards a non-racial, non-sexist and fully democratic future;

Now resolve to:

- 1 Commit ourselves, individually and collectively, to the resumption/commencement of multi-party negotiations within the next month, in order to move as speedily as possible towards the attainment of our primary objective, which is the drafting and adoption of a new Constitution for South Africa;

AND FURTHER RESOLVE THAT:

- 2 The multi-party forum shall be reconvened as a matter of national urgency, not later than 5 April 1993;
- 3 Each participating organisation will send two delegates and two advisers.
- 4 The first meeting will determine, inter alia:
 - 4.1 mechanisms and procedures (including chairpersonship);
 - 4.2 how to accommodate the views of those

participants who were not in CODESA, in relation to the agreements reached in CODESA;

- 4.3 how these agreements can serve as a constructive foundation for the resumed/commenced negotiations process to build on;
 - 4.4 how this forum shall be structured and named;
 - 4.5 the role of the international community.
- 5 The Facilitating Committee of this Conference will have the responsibility of deciding upon and implementing the steps that are necessary to give effect to this resolution.
 - 6 All participants are required to make an unqualified commitment to this process of negotiations as a pre-requisite for their participation.

Decision Making Process

The decision of the Facilitating Committee on the process of decision-making in the Planning Conference and the Facilitating Committee is as follows:-

- 1 All decisions are to be taken by general consensus.
- 2 If this cannot be achieved, conference will use the method of sufficient consensus.
- 3 This means that:
 - * there is a lack of general consensus;
 - * there is enough agreement from enough participants to enable the process to move forward;
 - * parties who disagree can record their objections or rejections formally, but will, in the spirit of co-operation, not hinder the process to go forward.
- 4 The ruling that there is consensus/sufficient consensus or not, should be taken by the chair in his/her discretion. This can, however, be challenged by any party who disagrees. The meeting will then deal with it as is appropriate. deal with it as is appropriate.

List of Participants

ANC; AVU; Bophutatswana; Ciskei; CP; DP; Dikwankwetla; IFP; Intdo ye Sizwe; Inyandza; Labour Party; NIC/TIC; NP; NPP; PAC; Solidarity; SA Government; SACP; Tanskei; Venda; Cape, OFS and Transvaal Traditional Leaders; Natal Traditional Leaders/Kwa-Zulu Administration; UPF; Ximoko.

The Way Forward

The Facilitating Committee is constituted by one representative from each of the 26 parties, administrations and organisations. It will meet on the 18 March and make the necessary plans for the convening of the next multi-party negotiation forum. This forum should take place by no later than the 5 April 1993.

This meeting of the Facilitating Committee will therefore have to take decisions on the following matters:-

- 1 The name of the multi-party forum.
- 2 How such a forum would be managed and administered.
- 3 Who the participants of such a forum should be.
- 4 The structure and form of the negotiations forum. In this regard, the Facilitating Committee will have to move from the premise that the primary objective of the multi-party negotiation forum is the process leading to the drafting and adoption of a new Constitution for South Africa.
- 5 What is the status of the agreements reached at Codesa.

The position of the ANC

The ANC has over the last few months held a number of bilateral meetings with different parties in an attempt to have multi-party negotiations resumed. Having successfully achieved this objective it is important that this process continues in an uninterrupted manner. Our objective is the holding of free and fair elections of representatives who will draft and adopt a new constitution.

The proposal of the ANC is as follows:-

- 1 The immediate result of the process of multi-party negotiation must be the installation of the Transitional Executive Council, an Independent Electoral Commission and an Independent Media Commission.
- 2 The tasks of these structures will be to ensure that in the period leading up to the elections the playing field is levelled and that there is a climate conducive to free political activity.
- 3 The elections should lead to the installation of the Constituent Assembly (whose task it would be to draft and adopt the first democratic Constitution) and an Interim Government of National Unity.

Notice

This Bulletin is designed merely to inform and stimulate discussion. The views contained herein do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the NEC of the ANC.