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⇒ WG-2.

14 February 1992

The Management Council  
Codessa  
PO Box 307  
Isando 1600

Dear Sirs/Madams

**Women in Codessa**

Throughout history democracy and civilization have been marked by the extension of women's rights. It would be a sad thing for South Africa were it to fall short in this respect.

I am particularly concerned that attention be given to this matter by Working Group 2 : Constitution making. It is NOT "one man one vote" but "one adult one vote" that is necessary for the full democratization of the new South Africa.

Yours faithfully

Victoria Canning

J Victoria Canning



J Victoria Canning  
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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.

CONVENTION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

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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)