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STATEMENT OF TRI-PARTITE ALLIANCE OF THE ANC, COSATU AND THE SACP

Delegations of the tri-partite alliance of the ANC, SACP and COSATU met on 20 February 1991 to examine the current political situation and chart the way forward. The delegations were led by the Presidents of the ANC and COSATU, Nelson Mandela and John Gomomo respectively and the General Secretary of the SACP, Chris Hani.

The meeting noted the advances made by the democratic movement as a whole towards the creation of united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. The successful convening of CODESA I and the limited progress being recorded in the Working Groups underline this. In particular, the meeting endorsed the Declaration of Intent as a basis for the principles which should underpin the future democratic constitution.

The tri-partite alliance reiterates its call for an Interim Government, and a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of one-person, one-vote in a common voters' roll. With regard to Interim Government in particular, the meeting noted that transition could have a number of phases, each requiring appropriate structures.

In the course of our meeting, we received news of De Klerk's decision to hold a referendum for the white community. A response to this is attached.

The tri-partite alliance condemns continued actions on the part of the state and big business to unilaterally restructure the economy. We support the efforts to set up an effective National Economic Negotiations Forum to prevent unilateral restructuring in the transition and begin to address the immediate socio-economic demands of the people in the fields of labour relations, health, education, housing and so on. A sub-committee has been established to work out the necessary details.

The meeting further agreed to elaborate a programme of action focusing on these immediate demands of our people and speedy movement towards a Constituent Assembly. Among others, mass action will be undertaken from 18 to 21 March. Details in this regard will be announced in due course.

The meeting also examined measures needed to further strengthen the alliance at all levels.

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