

VENDA GOVERNMENT SUBMISSION TO CODESA WORKING GROUP 1 ON THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

1. The Venda Government considers it necessary that Codesa should address urgently the question of the role of the international community. Our request is being made at this late juncture as the Venda Government wanted to allow Codesa working groups to arrive at solutions which would address the vital issues of security, the conduct of elections, the control of broadcasting etc.
2. Regrettably, the Venda Government has concluded that the proposals and agreements that have emerged in Codesa have not addressed the crucial question and to how actual decisions will be taken in the interim period before a Constituent Assembly is elected. We are particularly concerned at the continuation of the horrendous violence in our country and the inability or unwillingness of the South African Government to grapple with the blood-letting.
3. It is therefore the conviction of the Venda Government that without international intervention, there will not be an acceptable levelling of the playing field and the removal of obstacles to enable normal political authority.
4. It is our view that because of the unequal relations between the parties, entirely determined by the overwhelming power of the South African government which controls the security forces, broadcasting and the administration, only an external role will result in a degree of equality and fairness.
5. Working Group I can assist other structures of Codesa by identifying the areas where a degree of international participation will assist in the process identified above.
6. In particular, we believe that the South African Government has shown its lack of ability to control the spiralling violence. There have been recent calls for an international peace-keeping force as over 1,400 people have been killed since the signing of the National Peace Accord in September 1991. This loss of lives far exceeds the number killed in Yugoslavia since July 1991, yet the UN has committed itself to send over 10,000 UN-organised forces to ensure peace there.
7. In a similar vein, international participation can monitor the process leading to elections, apart from the actual monitoring of the election itself. We agree with the view that without international and national supervision, there will not be the conditions for free and fair elections.



8. The Venda Government is convinced that there are a whole range of functions which cannot be carried out by consensus. This is specially true of executive decisions concerning such matters as the maintenance of law and order, the regulation of broadcasting and the running of the elections. Unless majority decision-making powers are given to the structures which will run those areas in the interim, there will be total immobility if decisions have to be arrived at by consensus, as has been seriously proposed.
9. In the areas covered by paragraph 8, the Venda Government believes that we can draw on the experience of the international community to ensure that deadlocks and lack of agreement can be broken by the participation of individuals and institutions external to the parties directly involved.
10. The international community has played an important part in opposing apartheid up to now. The Venda Government believes that it can play a positive and new role in order to ensure that our road to democracy is not obstructed by those who do not, up to now, show much commitment to sharing power.

30 April 1992