

THE WOMEN'S LOBBY

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The Chairman
Working Group I
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Dear Sir

The agreed terms of reference of Working Group I for CODESA are the "creation of a climate for free political participation". This implied the involvement of all South Africa's inhabitants. Women form more than half the population of the country and yet they are not present in significant numbers in the decision-making arena at national, regional and local levels.

The Women's Lobby questions whether the issue of full participation of all citizens is being seriously addressed in South Africa at this critical time with so few women taking part. There are substantial numbers of competent women who should be drawn into CODESA and subsequent political processes. "Free political participation" means not just putting a stamp of approval on decisions but being intimately involved in arriving at those conclusions.

In planning the new South Africa, Working Group I must ensure that significant numbers of women are included every step of the way. Only then can a true democracy be created in accordance with CODESA's Declaration of Intent.

Yours sincerely

pp Babette Kabak - Chairman

pp Doris Ravenhill - Vice Chairman

Hildred Hadassin - Treasurer

pp E E Monro - Committee Member