

February 20, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

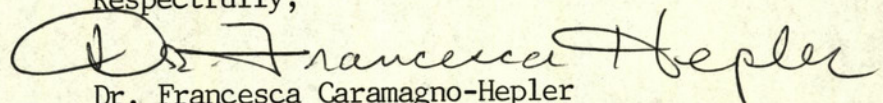
I am writing to encourage you to include more women as delegates of the political parties to the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) which will begin in March.

Although women make up 53% of the South African population, they have a very small part in this decision-making process.

In order to become a democratic ruling country it is very important that women be included in every aspect of government.

Thank you for anything you could do to address this problem.

Respectfully,



Dr. Francesca Caramagno-Hepler
Idar-Oberstein School
Unit 23901 - Box 563
APO AE 09262

Germany.

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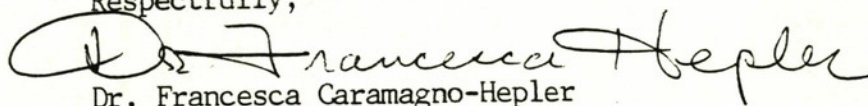
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Date Rec'd :	12/3/92.....
Date Ackn :	12/3/92.....
Docs Sent :	n/a.....
Handed for Processing to :	Murphy.....



Dr Francis Caramago -Hepler
Idar Oberstein school
Unit 23901 Box 563
APO AE 09262

16/3/92

Dear Madam

Thank you for your letter dated 20/2/92.
As far as the question of membership to CODESA is concerned, we enclose for yourselves a questionnaire which we ask you to respond to and send back to our office. We will then immediately channel it to the Management Committee for a decision.

We however at the same time wish to advise that as per decision of the Management Committee, membership to CODESA is only open to political Parties/organisations/administrations from South Africa and its self governing territories, as well as representatives of the administrations of the TBVC states (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei)

As far as the question of CODESA and the representation of Women is concerned, 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."

Among the ideas before CODESA's Management Committee is one calling for the establishment of a Gender Advisory Committee. The matter is of course still open to discussion as finality has not as yet been reached.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murphy Morobe', is written over the typed name.

Murphy Morobe
(Head:CODESA Administration)