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Dear Sir,

At our Political Science class of Journalist 1 students at the M.L. Sultan Technikon, Department of Public Relations and Journalism, we decided to respond to CODESA's invitation to participate in the Convention's deliberations.

We thank you for this invitation and enclose, herewith, the students' contribution.

Yours faithfully

S. Gono  
(Lecturer)



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c.c. Head of Department  
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WORKING GROUP 1

CREATION OF A CLIMATE FOR FREE  
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



### Violence and Intimidation :

In the first instance, the state should take the initiative in quelling the widespread violence and intimidation. Carrying of dangerous weapons in public should be forbidden. Offenders should strictly and firmly be dealt with according to the law.

Impartiality of the security forces and the police to cease immediately.

Creation of a body of monitor the security establishment is imperative, even at this early stage of CODESA. Peace initiatives should be created from community level, right up to the highest level of government. The state should encourage and support such initiatives.

Leaders from grass-root level should not only encourage political tolerance, but actually educate their supporters and members on its importance to the survival and progress of CODESA. Coersion to join a certain political party or trade union should cease.

Resolutions and decisions of one party should not be imposed on other parties or individuals e.g forcing people to stay away from work.

### Access to the Media :

Freedom of expression should be guaranteed.

All political parties should have access to the media.

All political parties should have equal coverage on their campaigns, rallies or debates.

### Political Prisoners and Refugees :

All political prisoners, as agreed in the Pretoria minute, should be released.

All political trials should cease immediately.

Returning refugees should be granted free access into the country and should also be granted immunity.

Above all, the negotiating parties should have no hidden agendas.

In creating a climate for free political participation, the following have to be taken into account :-

Social Factors :

Basic needs have to be provided for i.e. the underprivileged should be allocated housing, jobs and health services. With these facilities - unrest in townships should decrease.

Economic Factors :

Due to sanctions imposed on South Africa by the international community, the country was forced into political change and democracy, thus creating a climate for free political participation. Yet it is due to sanctions that South Africa's economy is in a "poor" state.

The Media :

By giving equal time and representation on television radio and newspaper to all political points of view, unbiased reports will ease tensions and promote a relaxed climate for negotiations.

Security Forces :

The role of international community is vital. Will the UNO provide security forces such as UNTAG during the negotiation period in Namibia. For unity and democracy to be instituted in South Africa, all security forces of all parties and the state should unite (MK & SAP).



WORKING GROUP 2  
GENERAL CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES

South Africa should be a unitary, multi-party, non-sexist, non-racial democracy.

We should have a one house parliament guided by a constitution. A president should be the chief executive. He/she should be able to veto any laws passed by parliament. His veto can inturn be overridden by a special majority (eg. 60%) in parliament. All amendments to the constitution should be put before the people in the form of a referendum. A presidential executive should consist of a proportional representation of all parties.

An independent judiciary should exist, with the rule of law a must. This judiciary must uphold the country's laws both criminal and legislative but must be able to revoke any constitutional law. A special parliamentary committee should exist to elect officials of the judiciary. The judiciary should serve as a protection for individuals against the state by especially upholding a bill rights.

This bill of rights should be entrenched in the constitution and derived from the Human Rights body of the United Nations. This serves as an adequate protection to the liberty of all citizens.

We should have a 3-tier system. That is parliament, provincial or regional body with limited powers and a strong local government. One city, one tax base should exist.

WORKING GROUP 3  
INTERIM GOVERNMENT, TRANSITIONAL  
ARRANGEMENTS AND AUTHORITY



We students of Journalism believe that during the transitional period, South Africa cannot participate in an election and oversee this election. As Mandela says, South Africa cannot be a referee and player.

We feel that while this transitional period unfolds, there must be some kind of neutral body to oversee the process - transformation from an undemocratic and racist Government to a non-racial democratic Government.

This body may be the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), United Nation (UN) or possibly the political organisations existing in the country. South Africa cannot be trusted because over the years this Government had brought about disparities in Education, Health, Welfare, etc.

Therefore we demand an Interim Government to take control of the Media, Security forces and the Administration.



WORKING GROUP 4  
FUTURE OF THE INDEPENDENT HOMELANDS

## SHOULD THE TBVC STATES BE INCORPORATED INTO SOUTH AFRICA ?

Our answer to this question is simply yes. These states are independent in name only. This fact is even recognised by the international community. They depend on South Africa for their basic income which is brought in by the migrant workers, working South African mines under contract. Incorporated into South Africa a vast number of problems can and will be solved, namely, the problem that the states have when their working generations leave for South Africa. They are left with the old, women and children who cannot work the lands to it's fullest potential, getting a maximum yield that brings in revenue for the state.

The homelands will get a chance to prosper if incorporated since a single currency will be used and the citizens will not lose money when they return through taxes and exchange rates. This new relationship will be beneficial to South Africa too, our labour problems will be solved and the shortage of space for expansion of our ever increasing industries. If South Africa does incorporate these states then without a doubt foreign investment will increase.

Previously, these states were unstable. The TBVC states are gold mines waiting to be mined.

### PROBLEMS OF INCORPORATION :

The people of these states are mostly unskilled labour that we use in our mines. From previous and present experience South Africa had had problems with faction fights in the mines. No doubt this can be eradicated with time when the culture shock has worn off. These fights have been part of History.

South Africa is already almost in an economic depression. Our country has a very real problem with a lack of housing, in adequate education systems. Increasing squatter population. Can we afford to take on additional burdens.

Can South Africa afford to subsidise these states to enable them to utilize their land's potential.

Problems of poverty, illiteracy, etc. will remain unsolved.

### SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOMING PROBLEMS :

The problem of faction fights can only be solved when time has elapsed and the culture shock has worn off.

Codesa must make sure that these people will be comfortable under South African Government i.e. their traditions, existing laws, etc. must be evaluated before the drafting of a new constitution.



Foreign investment can solve problems regarding these states becoming a financial burden.

South Africa's labour problems will be solved.

The TBVC people will not lose a lot of money through exchanges and taxes. Their areas will be richer.

South Africa already is the biggest factor in keeping these states above water so logically. The country should not have a problem with regards to financial aid.

### TBVC States :

The incorporation of TBVC states must be done immediately so that the country as a whole can move to a new South Africa. This will also improve and play a very large part in our economy.

### Employment :

Job opportunities must be provided for the people. People have to be trained to do jobs locally instead of bringing skilled people from overseas. There are far too many qualified people who are not employed. Jobs must be created for them.

### International Influence :

Less international influence must be placed on South Africa. The sanctions and introduction to international sports must not influence the decision of the people. South Africa must be able to make their own decisions.

### Media :

Less restrictions must be made on the media. Freedom of speech and choice must be exercised. People have to be given the opportunity to choose what they need to know and what they want to know. However, limitations must be made on pornography, violence and vulgarity. People must be given the opportunity and freedom when it comes to culture, religion, politics and international coverage.

### Disillusion of Tri-cam system :

All race groups must be included in the government. One central government must rule the country and sub-ordinate regional governments must rule over local areas. These governing bodies must include all races, sex, status.

### Ruralization :

A move must be made to develop the rural areas. This will answer the problem of over population in cities. More job opportunities will be made by this development. An increase in production will occur as rural areas are rich and fertile. The problem of squatters, influx, unemployment and many others can be answered in this way.

We hope that these points will be among others discussed by CODESA and we wish them all the luck!



WORKING GROUP 5  
TIME FRAMES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
CODES 'A' AGREEMENT

Should there be a time limit for CODESA's work to completed ?

Yes, there definitely must be a time limit for CODESA to complete their work. We feel that a time limit would provide the public with a kind of stability until an interim government is established. A time limit would give a deadline for negotiations to be completed for a New South Africa which the public wants as soon as possible.

If so, what has to be done within the time limit ?

We feel that many points should be addressed especially when considering socio-economic problems.

#### Housing :

The question of housing must be taken very seriously. Homes should be provided to the lower income groups and the homeless must be provided with some form of housing either by means of government flats or housing shelters. Townships have also to be developed so that they serve the community well with all the commodities.

#### General Election Body :

This body must incorporate all members of different parties as well as members of the community. It has to be a neutral body who control the elections in order to be a "democratic election". This body must not be part of CODESA but must be an independent control body.

#### Education :

Financial cutbacks on Education must be eliminated. Everyone has the right to education it must therefore be free at least up to tertiary level (beginning). One national education department must exist to control the whole country. Provisions should be made for people studying indifferent language mediums than they are used to. More choices of subjects or directions of education must be provided (vocational, academic, etc) and a move to vernacular languages has to be implemented. Emphasis placed on the matric examination has to be reconsidered. Students should be given a second chance as well as the opportunity to take an exam with relation to their choice and ability.

#### Economy :

More exporting and less importing must occur in the future. Use of indigenous raw material must increase. Less money must be used on events that do not benefit the people eg. A - aggregate function H.O.D. South Africa needs a lot of money and CODESA must provide means to improve the situation.

Vat has to be well researched to see if it benefits the public.