

CODESA WORKING GROUP 4
(FUTURE OF THE TBVS STATES)

MEETING ON 6 FEBRUARY 1992
AGENDA ITEM 5

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

In the Terms of Reference of Working Group 4, the Parties in CODESA "recognise the need to provide for the meaningful and democratic participation of the people living in the TBVC states in the process" of drafting a new constitution for South Africa.

The right to choose whether or not to opt for re-incorporation into South Africa under an interim constitution or a final new constitution remains that of the Governments and the people of the TBVC states.

The views of the people of the TBVC states on these two alternatives must be tested in a democratic manner before the decision is made.

The South African Government respects this right which belongs to each of the TBVC states and will not exert pressure on any party to choose either re-incorporation or the retention of the status quo.

The effects of any such decision will have to be negotiated between the South African Government and the TBVC Governments concerned.

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The consequences of the choice made by each of the four states will be for this Working Group to determine and to analyse, in order to enable it to advise CODESA.

The South African Government Delegation remains ready to make a full positive contribution in Working Group 4.