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Perspective of the wAfrieeenh National Congressu Youth
League ' (South Africa) on a. new International Youth
Movement 1

Athens, October 1992

1.0 Introduction

The ihtepnational_situatioh over the past few years has,seent
Some dramatic changes. Amongst others, the end of the Cold
War, the collapse of the socialist community of 'states,
democratisation processes in Africa, European unification andn/_ll
a realisation, that -a .numberg of the problems -facinggshation:?w7
states can only be addresSed on a global scale. '

Within this context, the democratic youth of the worlu has
found themselves having less and less of aa voice, due to a
range of reasons. One of the main reasons - we believe - is
the ideological polarisation of international youth
orgg isations as.part og,the3baggage from our not so recent
;past7wlwhich' means 'that34theTe 7is no coherent and sgnifieq?
F%respbnSe from us to issues of the day. '.

Cognisant.of the role played-hy WFDY in the past as a broad-
ihased forum_ of youth otqahisations, it certainly does not
Tremain unaffected by the present changes-taking place in the
world. The role it.hag3playeg in galvanising the youth with
different scopes of thihkihqthas given impetus to the image
that indelibly becomes Zimportant. The ANC Youth League
values this endeavorfkandV thus proposes the need for all
international youth mOVements to pay attention to this issue.
We must study all the ;necessary requirements for the
broadening of the youth movement, for closer cooperation which
respects independence and foster unity beyond ideological
vestiges.

2.0 Towards international youth cooperation

The ANC Youth League, given the above, believes that there is
an urgent need for a relook by the youth of the world in their
various formations, at ethe issue of how we build a strong
international youth movement. In learning from the mistakes
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recognition of pluralism in the youth movement
de-ideologisation of international youth relations
, ; ; pgn7exclpsiveness and broadness 1

;H s and based on prpgressive principles such as

t "'- de'mbdracy' ' '-

- social progress
- equality of nations
- respect for human rights
- protection of the environment
- world peace, etc.

3.0 Process

In preparing for the emergence of such a new international
iiygnth movement, we should ensure that the process: 1

(i) sTOWard3ltheYeStabli\$enti9f such a movement

' Lshould be demecratrbtand tbpglaf ;and be as inclusive as
fpo'sSibler'1:53;: _ -

(ii) Be decentralised to ensure maximum participation from all
regions of the world, no domination by one continent - a
bottom-up approach;

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(lii)Facilitate the building and strengthening of the'youth
movements in the various sub regions and continents;

(iv) Allow for sectoral consultation and cooperation in
recognition of the plural nature of the youth movement,
e.g. students, environment groups, etc.

(v) de-ideologisation of the process in order for it not to
be the sole terrain of one ideological group, but is as
inclusive as possible;

(vi) the process recognise the independence and autonomy of
youth formations in their plurality.

4.0 Prbgramme

We propose that the process towards such a new international
youth movement - which we are all impatient to build - should
unfold in the following way:

4.1 We believe that this consultative meeting in the main
should achieve the following objectives:

reach broad agreement on thedneea for youth cooperation
and the emergence of aa new world youth movement, based on
the principles we outlined above;

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broadly agree on the mechanisms to take forward this process.

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4.2 Such mechanisms should include the following steps:'

4.2.1 A process of sub regional and continental/regional consultations, and consultations with and within all international youth organisations to address issues such as:

- nature and form of a new world youth movement
- principles
- programme
- relations to the UN and other world bodies
- international governance

-4 building and co-operation of the youth movement at sub-regional and continental level;

The international youth organisations shiT .-then5 convene a meeting whose terms of reference will be to discuss and ensure; i

the implementation of the process towards the new international youth movement;

cbordination of fundraising for this process;

briefing of the United Nations and other world and ?regional qul.es on the process;

reports to.and consultlons wltl the participants ln ,this_meetlng, and emerglng regional and sub- regional ' fforums.i ' w u , , v -

:7. -We should identify minimum issues or programmes l around which we can facilitate and strengthen the above process; as well as a commitment from participatihg youth yworganisations to strengthen the above process in their "programmes.

4.2.4 Such process to culminate in the launch (3f a new broad international youth movement.

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