

THE WOMEN'S LOBBY

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2 March 1992

The Chairman
Working Group I
CODESA
P O Box 307
Isando
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Fax No : 397-2211

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.

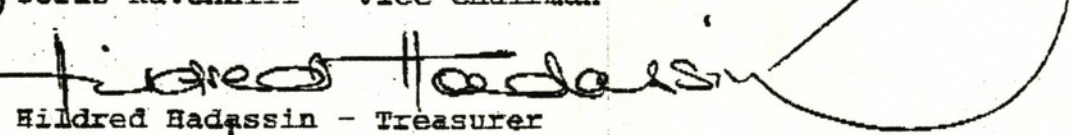
The Women's Lobby questions whether the issue of full participation of all citizens is being seriously addressed in South Africa at this critical time with so few women taking part. There are substantial numbers of competent women who should be drawn into CODESA and subsequent political processes. "Free 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

FAX-MEMORANDUM

TO: CODESA
THE SECRETARIAT

FAX NO: (011) 3972211

FROM: JAY DOUWES

FAX NO: 021 - 23 0448

SUBJECT: THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL HOUSING
FORUM

DATE: 16 MARCH 1992

NO OF PAGES: 3 (INCL COVER PAGE)

WORKING COMMITTEE
NATIONAL HOUSING FORUM
P.O. BOX 15714
VLAEBERG
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1992.03.13

THE SECRETARIAT
CODESA
P.O. BOX 307
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ATTENTION : MR THEUNS ELLOF

Dear Sir

THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL HOUSING FORUM

1. A widely representative National Discussion Forum held on 1 August 1991 to consider the Hostels issue concluded the following:
 - 1.1 The hostels issue is a National Priority that must be resolved with the participation of Hostel Dwellers and Adjoining Communities, Political Parties and Civics, The State and Local and Provincial Authorities.
 - 1.2 A National Housing Forum must be established to develop a framework within which hostel issues can be addressed.

The IDT and DBSA were requested to act as conveners of a Working Committee to address these issues.

2. The Working Committee consisted of representatives of the ANC, PAC, AZAPO, IFP, NATIONAL INTERIM CIVICS COMMITTEE, NACTU, COSATU, W.Cape Hostel Dwellers Association, the South African Government (Dept. of Planning, Provincial Affairs and Housing), as well as a support group consisting of representatives from the SAHT, SBDC, UF, IDT, DBSA and CBM.

The Working Committee evolved the following terms of reference:

- 2.1 After due consultation with all current policy initiatives/actors, to develop proposals for a broadly based, representative National Housing Forum to formulate National Housing Policy and Strategy within an overall development framework (including the integration/co-ordination with other housing policy initiatives).
- 2.2 To formulate short-term guidelines to address current and new hostel initiatives while recognising the need for such initiatives to be integrated into the local housing and urban development context.

3. A subsequent National Discussion Forum was held on 1 November 1991 and the Short Term Guidelines and the Proposals for a National Housing Forum (attached) were adopted by those mandated to do so and referred to a Working Committee for further action.

The Working Committee was composed of representatives from the ANC, PAC, AZAPO, IFP, NACTU, COSATU, NICC, EMPLOYERS, GOVERNMENT, SAHT, SBDC, UF, IDT, DBSA and CBM.

4. The Working Committee proceeded with the necessary actions to constitute a National Housing Forum:
- 4.1 On 25 January 1992 the Government representatives advised the meeting that the government had decided to withdraw from forum discussions in favour of potential alternative processes that could develop via CODESA.
 - 4.2 The remaining participants, being a broadly representative group, decided to proceed with the establishment of a National Housing Forum in view of the urgent need to discuss and resolve substantive problems in the housing field. This process will, of necessity, have to interact with the CODESA processes and a working relationship will have to be developed.
 - 4.3 Minister Leon Wessels met with the Working Committee on 18 February 1992 and it was agreed that the Government would retain a working relationship with the National Housing Forum.
 - 4.3 The Working Committee is establishing the National Housing Forum on a basis that will allow all parties who have an interest in the housing process to participate in the development of national housing policy and strategy through constructive interaction with the government of the day.

I would like to meet with you to discuss this process and its relationship with CODESA. Please either contact me directly at the Centre for Policy Studies (011) 402-4305 or Jay Douwes of the Secretariat (021) 24-5592.

Yours Sincerely



Khehla Shubane
CHAIRMAN
WORKING COMMITTEE

cc WORKING GROUP 1
KADER ASMAL
c/o ANDREW FEINSTEIN

WORKING GROUP 2
COLIN EGLIN
c/o MARK PHILLIPS

WORKING GROUP 3
KEN ANDREWS
c/o COLIN COLEMAN