



PATRIOTIC/UNITED FRONT CONFERENCE

DECLARATION ADOPTED AT THE PATRIOTIC/ UNITED FRONT CONFERENCE HELD IN DURBAN ON THE 25 - 27 OCTOBER 1991

We, women and men, together as equals, assembled under the banners of political, labour, women's, religious, youth, professional, sports, cultural and business formations as well of organisations of traditional leaders;

Experienced in diverse ways of engaging in the struggle against apartheid and minority rule;

Repositories of true democratic values and champions of human rights in our country gathered together in this conference of the Patriotic/United Front in Durban on 25th - 27th October 1991:

Reaffirming our commitment to the establishment of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, unfragmented and unitary country;

Recognising that through struggle our country has reached the point where the transfer of power from the white minority regime to the people as a whole now is the most urgent necessity of struggle;

Convinced that the de Klerk regime cannot be, and is not the agent of democratic change;

Resolved together to seize this moment in history to ensure the speedy establishment of national democracy.

Believing that a democratic order can only be ushered in through a mechanism in which our entire nation elects by proportional representation on the basis of universal suffrage, a Constituent Assembly that drafts and adopts a democratic constitution which shall constitute the basis for unifying our divided and tortured land around a common patriotism;

Recognising that the de Klerk regime is illegal, illegitimate, and totally discredited and does not enjoy the trust of our people, and that it has unilaterally embarked upon the restructuring our economy and shaping our social life in order to perpetuate, in a new guise, the old social order based on the white privilege and black impoverishment;

Pledging ourselves to ensure that these designs shall be defeated, we demand that the regime ceases such action forthwith and acknowledges it has no right to unilaterally take such measures;

Commit ourselves to create the necessary mechanism to harmonise our approach to socio-economic transformation;



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Condemn the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) and call upon all our people to support and participate fully in the national strike on the 4th and 5th November 1991 and all other forms of united action on this and other issues;
 Noting that de Klerk's constitutional proposals are intended to entrench minority privilege and the current power structure and represent nothing else but a dying order which seeks to give itself a veto power over the future of our country.

Noting further that the violence raging throughout our country today has been initiated and sponsored by the apartheid state, including the use of foreign mercenaries, and that it has the power to stop it, we demand that it does so forthwith; Further that there should be the immediate and verifiable expulsion of all foreign mercenaries from our soil;

Call upon our people to refuse to become tools of the regime, assert our inherent desire for peace and to take all measures to contain and eliminate the violence which constitutes a prime obstacle to the establishment of a genuine democratic order;

Accordingly pledge to ensure that all peace initiatives, including the Peace Accord, aimed at assisting in securing peace among our people are fully exploited at every level of our community;

Sharing the agony of those in sorrow over the dead and injured and searching for their lost ones and concerned that the violence has rendered our women and children as victims of the carnage;

Call for the normalisation of the relations between our people and our traditional chiefs;

Commit ourselves, side by side with our people, to bring peace by all means at our disposal including helping in the creation of self defence units and embarking upon programmes to assist the victims of violence.

NOW THEREFORE

In order to ensure that elections to the constituent assembly are free and fair we insist upon the establishment of an Interim Government / Transitional Authority to ensure that the de Klerk regime does not preside over or manipulate the transition through the misuse of its de facto control over state power and resources;

Commit ourselves to a sovereign Interim Government / Transitional Authority that shall at the very least control security forces and related matters, the electoral process, state media and defined areas of budget and finance, as well as secure international participation;

DEMAND the holding as soon as possible of a All Party Congress / Pre-Constituent Assembly Meeting (APC/PCAM) which shall be brought together by independent and neutral conveners as a necessary mechanism to set into motion the process leading to a democratically elected Constituent Assembly which shall effect the transfer of power;

CONFIRM our common understanding that the APC/PCAM shall underwrite the Constitutional Principles, find the modalities for drawing up the constitution through the Constituent Assembly, realising the establishment of the IG/TA, ensure the re incorporation of the bantustans, define the role of the international community and agree upon the time frame to bring about a democratic order.

Resolve further that the joint liaison committee established by the co-convenors of this conference be maintained to facilitate post-Conference follow up as well as look into ways and means, including the establishment of a Consultative Forum and the convening of a further Patriotic/United Front Conference within six months in

order to involve all the organisations gathered here today into closer consultation, joint action and the drawing in of formations still outside the process.

Outraged at the failure of the regime to fully comply with the demand, endorsed by the whole international community for the unconditional release of all political prisoners and for general amnesty for all exiles;

DEMAND that the regime complies with these requirements forthwith;

AND PLEDGE to campaign for the immediate realisation of these aims.

United by the common positions, maintaining our separate identities and independence, we assembled at this Patriotic/United Front Conference now therefore, separately and collectively, dedicate ourselves to intensify the struggle on every front and every terrain to realise, within the immediate future, a truly democratic order in which every individual is assured a place and a say as an equal and in which non sexism, non racialism and democratic majority rule shall be non negotiable and be realised in practice.

To this end and acknowledging that there remains areas where consensus amongst us still needs to be reached, we pledge ourselves to continue our search for united action and widening the areas of common understanding;

And call upon our people wherever they are to join and engage in this process emanating from our Conference to create a nation that will be at peace with itself.



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PATRIOTIC/UNITED FRONT CONFERENCE

STATEMENT

. JOINT APPROACH ON CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS WITH REGARD TO NEGOTIATIONS

The Patriotic/United Front Conference, held in Durban, South Africa, from October 25-27 1991 agrees:

1. TRANSFER OF POWER

The transfer of power from the minority regime to the people is the main objective of our struggle. In pursuance of this objective an All Party Conference/Pre-Constituent Assembly Meeting (APC/PCAM) will have to be convened as soon as possible.

2. PURPOSE OF THE APC/PCAM

The purpose of the APC/PCAM would be to work out modalities of transferring power to the people. The modalities must centre around the establishment of an elected Constitutional Assembly based on one person one vote with all eligible voters voting on a common voters roll; constitutional principles within the framework outlined in the UN/OAU Declarations; Interim Government/Transitional Authority; the role of the international community; re-incorporation of Bantustans and a definite time-frame.

3. CONVENORSHIP

3.1 The APC/PCAM must be convened by an independent and neutral convenor, and not the regime.

The PAC and ANC must agree on an acceptable convenor.

3.2 A meeting should be held within the next few weeks with the regime and other interested parties to discuss the date, venue and an independent convenor for the APC/PCAM.

4. APPROACH TO PROCESS

4.1 On issues where there is agreement at this or future meetings of the Patriotic/United Front actions and positions will be underlined by the principle of unity in action and unity of purpose as a Front. On issues where consensus has not been reached endeavours to find common ground will continue. Should consensus not be reached organisations can act independently.

4.2 The Patriotic/United Front shall be reconvened after six months for the purposes of reporting and future consultations and joint planning.