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W O M E N ' S D E V E L O P M E N T C O R E G R O U P

W O R K S H O P

DATE: 20 MARCH, 1992
VENUE: SHELL HOUSE

PROGRAMME

Session I

1. What will the implications for the ANC be if it becomes a political party
2. What will these implications be for the ANC Women's Leagus
3. The position of the ANC WL after the establishment of the Interim Government
4. Relationship between donors and the ANC WL
5. What strutegies will be adopted for ANC WL projects

Session II

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICA (WISA)
STUTTERHEIM MALIGONGWE INSTITUTE

1. The role of the ANC WL in WISA during IG and after
2. The executive structure of WISA
3. The Management and Administrative structure
4. Programme of the first year
 - Training course
 - Facilitators
 - Fulltime staff
 - Projects

Session III

REGIONAL STRUCTURE

Regional Core Groups
Regional Development officers
Regional Centres

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORE GROUP

WORKSHOP, 20th MARCH, 1992.

Participants:

Makho Njobe, Thandie Modise, Zanele Mbeki, Thabe Shonge, Girly Pikoli, Doris Skosana, Nosimo Balindlela, Ivy Matsipe, Bridgette Mabandla, Manto Tshabalala, Lulu Xingwana, Rita Mfenyana, Olive Ndlovu, Thandie Memela, Kidiboni, Regina Nzo, Maggie - the fundraiser.

Chairperson: cde Reguna Nzo

Scribe: cde Rita Mfenyana

Procedure

- Opening remarks
- Introduction
- Input by Cde Lulu Xingwana
- Agreement on proposed agenda

In session I, as stated in the agenda, the main question was about the need to adjust to the fast changing circumstances around us. Taking into consideration the transitional period/CODESA/ interim government/ new government, what will be the fate of the ANC and its components, when it becomes a political party? It was felt that we are moving too slowly, and the events may overtake us.

Question from most of the participants was: "What is the thinking of the WL? Were there any strategies/programmes suggested? Is the League still on ors and ifs, with no concrete solutions proposed?

It was unanimously felt that the present Core group's brainstorming results should go to the ANC WL NEC, which is aware of the problem but has not gone into details on how to tackle it.

It was agreed that when ANC becomes a political party, some of its activities will shrink. As for the funding, it will stop almost immediately. The friendly donors will support the government programmes and developmental activities which are clearly non-partizan.

Where does it put us, the WL?

It was agreed that the League will continue as a mass-based wing of the ANC, there is no other way. We must be clear about the nature of the WL, the mass-based nature of the ANC political agenda. It should not be allowed to be donor-driven.

There are then three levels of getting assistance:

1. From the CODESA/Interim/new government as an important component of the new South African society, as will do other organisations. However, and may be especially, if ANC is a part of the new government, it cannot be seen to be favouring WL, otherwise this will be corruption. It will also depend on how the projects are presented. The Women's Institute can be seen as a part of economic affirmative strategy and a budget can be presented to the IG, especially the administration and management.

2. The WL may still apply to donors/ international organisations, and if her programmes are clearly beneficial to the country, they may support them, even if the WL is a political body. Examples: UNIP Women's League Programme on child immunisation in Zambia, was sponsored very successfully by UNCEF.

3. The WL may decide to delink its developmental activities into an NGO-like structure, and continue working for the benefit of the whole community, having a decisive voice in control. Other political parties exist and they still get the support. E.G. the S.A. government is distributing funds to many bodies, which all belong to the network of boer women's organisations. They don't appear to belong to the N.P., all have an NGO face, but they are controlled by N.P. To prevent such corruption, we must have a multitude of women's organisations.

The idea of presenting the WISA to Interim gov. for funding was well received.

In order to be able to withstand the pressure of donors and continue with a clear political agenda, a Trust could be created for developmental activities.

Trust is not something active, it is a reservoir of funds from local & international donors, and it gets disbursed to regions. It could be a association of regional trusts/ network with linkages.

These are different levels, trust is a reservoir, programmes could be linked to trust.

Trust is a source of money, community identifies the needs, WL helps CBO to write an application. CBO will run it itself, not the WL for CBO. But a degree of control and access to info remain with WL.

Clearly, WL will exist as long as the ANC exists, but will our focus change? How will it work if ANC is part of a government, like a dev. dept.? or will the League still have its own dev. sector? Wouldn't it be better to pull out the dev. sector, and concentrate on activities on the level of WISA and RWCs?

Short summary

1. WL will be a party, how big?
2. Within the WL a core will look into all aspects of women, which will give an input into CODESA/Interim G.
3. Trusts - regional/national, where? Nature of WI/RWCs? IG/business?

We need legal advice, about +/- of trusts and Co-s under Section 21.

WISA /RWCs need IG as well as training component, at different levels - from professional to local.

The meeting looked onto pro-s and con-s of centralisation. Need to control resources for even distribution or in favour of weak regions. At the same time, there is favouritism in the trusts that we know.

There will still be need to conduct different programmes for the League itself, and for CBOs.

To be able to take the correct decision on legal side, we need corporal lawyers. The present tendency is to move away from Section 21, to Co proper, to be able to share the dividends and gain. Now, even the taxes will be the same, we should not put limitations.

Clearly, we are coming to identifying three levels:

1. WL HQ should have a policy making body at government level
2. To continue with ANC programmes which will help to self generate funds with fund raising.
3. Delinked programmes, where our members can have CB activities for all. Malibongwe Co-not-for-gain to be set up and the directors to be appointed as soon as possible.

There are many variations of creating fund raising organisations - trusts, Co not for gain, Co proper, co-op, deposit taking institutions. The government problem at present is that it was not able to control the informal sector, because of apartheid and rigidity of financial regulations. Yet, 60% of population are fed from it. Task of the new government is to look closely at the existing laws and to fill in gaps in legalities, to cover people's activities.

The Co not for gain is strict with the profit, they can be only ploughed back into Co, after production expenses are paid. It is good for expansion of activities. But it was noted that this regulation often undercuts individual's initiative. people become discouraged from being too creative, because they don't gain. It was agreed that for non-partizan activities, the link with Shell house should not be too visible.

So what could be the criteria as to what to delink?

The projects that are not too expensive, and bring in sufficient funds, should remain in the League. Others, too expensive, without immediate output, better to be transferred to NGOs. Delinking can even go further, put people into other organisations, it is advantageous.

What are the mechanisms in the governments? Some have special ministries for women's development, did it work?

Would be useful to send delegations to Namibia/ Zimbabwe, to get some insight.

Other experiences could be also useful. Some have PM Office on status of women. But in opinion of progressive women's organisations, they are not really useful. On paper it is all nice. But the goods are not delivered. When ANC is in power, the WL might have to reconsider its position, if there is no practical improvement. The government structures for women are dependent on this very government, even people on pay roll, so they can be objective or critical.

But we must know the experiences of others. We will need to push the IG in a certain direction, to have policies. Our main interest is empowerment on grass root level, we must combine the experiences.

And we must be aware of the anti-government culture in this

country, it will be there for some time. Problems will not disappear suddenly, people will be frustrated with their own gov. The donors' support will dwindle. Time to go back to the idea of a national women's organisation.

At the same time, having women's organisation within a party leads to gettoysing. Need to support the idea of Women's Commission in IG. The problem of S.A. is not just changing the laws, but raising conscience level of women. Service organisations, networking alliances will be giving direction to the emancipation effort.

We must go back to the WL constitution draft, in which the order of objectives should change. As it is now, the WL is more of a tool for the ANC. We should look at the ANC as a mechanism for facilitating our emancipation, then it will be committing the movement.

The Women's Commission in CODESA is not a watchdog, but a strategising organ. During Malibongwe Conference, in 1990 more than 40 organisations supported the idea of National Women's Alliance. Only the mechanism was left out. Now there is the National Coalition which will be strengthened by the workshop on 24 April. National women's organisation is on the way. We can give it a push on the ground of Women's charter. Idea of having National Commission of women on gov. level is like what they do in governments. We are already practising. The other opportunity - Women's advisory committee in CODESA. ANC accepted the idea. It also leads towards IG and new gov.

On the ground there are imbalances of political immaturity. While at the national level we accept alliances and coalitions, the women in branches and some regions want to own development. At the same time we must guard against the hijack attempts of our initiatives. Our capacity/resources are limited.

The workshop produced a multitude of ideas. We must start thinking concretely about implementation within next 6 months or so.

- Research is needed on delinking legal procedures. We must assign resources to have one person specially to deal with it. Shall we expect a concrete plan within next few weeks/months?

- To follow up RWCs needs, so that when ANC becomes the party, the RWCs will function

Need to have regional strategies suitable for local conditions. Need to revive national alliances, may be through workshops for combined regions, for resources saving, e.g. provincial size.

Warring area - elections, black women are afraid of writing process. The RWCs should take this as a priority.

other priorities, that need not consulting with NEC:

- Feasibility study for delinking, from Monday (23rd March). Mandate is given to Dev. Section to do research on options of delinking.

- Organisers to attend to the problem of immaturity at grassroots level

terms of reference of this workshop: the WDF gave a mandate to create a development core group which will meet every now and again or implementing programme drafted at WDF. Regional core groups are also envisaged, of local resource people, not all ANC.

RWCs must network between regions

Need to rectify relations between REC-ANC & RWL

SESSION II

Legal process of Stutterheim Convent transfer has started. Legal advice - to form Malibongwe Co not for gain under Section 2. Need to supply f.f. names:

Seven persons - Co owners

About four persons as directors.

The process is :

1. Names
2. Malibongwe Co not for gain to be legalised
3. Purchase agreement to be signed by both sides. 20% to be paid.
4. Upon formalisation in Pretoria, to pay the rest.

Immediate needs are - to pay the watchmen, maintenance workers etc.

PROPOSED DIRECTORS/ OWNERS

Name	Occupation
1. Thoko Mpulwane	SACC
2. Bridgitte Mabandla	Lawyer
3. Leah Gcabashe	Lawyer
4. Lydia Kompi	
5. Nadine Gordimer	Writer
6. Shirley Moulder	
7. Doris Skosana	Field research
8. Anne Colvin	
8. Nosimo Balindlela	Educationalist
9. Laura Mphahlwa	
10. Lulu Xingwana	
11. Zanele Mbeki	Women's Banking
12. Margaret Winter	Dep. Mayor of Durban
13. Mrs. Maponya	
14. Mary Burton	ex-President, Black Sash
15. Ivy Matsepe	Educationalist
16. Phyllis Naidoo	Lawyer
17. Phumzile Ngcuka	WUS
18. Thabe Shonge	ex-SACC, Rural

MALIBONGWE - WISA**Definitions:**

Malibongwe Company not - for - gain will be set up by the ANC WL primarily for managing, receiving and distributing funds for women's developmental activities. One of such activities is WISA - the Women's Institute of South Africa. Further, it was proposed that Malibongwe Company could also initiate income generating projects since we shall need these in future, to assist us work towards self-sufficiency.

WISA -The Women's Institute of South Africa - will be one of the major programmes or projects of the Malibongwe Company.

WISA is both - a concept and a network for facilitating women's development. WISA starts with thinking and research on gender and development. It incorporates educational centres and other opportunities for training women formally and informally for their political, economic and social upliftment and integration into the main stream of the economy. WISA will not have a specific location; it will be set up in all our regional centres, but with a different focus for each centre. For the purpose of national co-ordination and strategising, a national Institute will be established in Stutterhem, the Border region.

Justification

1. Despite the adoption of the slogan for a non-sexist future South Africa, there are no institutions - political/social/academic - which list research on gender amongst their objectives. For a country like South Africa, with particularly strong patriarchal inclinations, gender equity will not be attained without a special effort. The removal of social and economic oppression of women should not be seen in the context of an international vogue, but rather as a practical measure aimed at addressing the basic needs of the millions of our population. Although there are organisations and academicians who are interested in gender studies, the flow of relevant information is haphazard. WISA will network between numerous organisations, individuals, departments, desks which are presently engaged in various aspects of gender studies, and will undertake specific research into gender and development under South African conditions.

2. More than half of adult black women in South Africa are illiterate.

Although, there are many initiatives directed at creating facilities for adult basic education, somehow not many women who need it, benefit from it.

Maybe because historically, the concept of education was developed around men's style of life, it is not easy for women, particularly the adult black women to fit into the existing facilities. There is a need to understand why more women are left behind in education, and to experiment with more suitable forms of learning and training for women.

3. There are already some skills identified by women as priority, to enable them to move into productive activities. The project management and administration are the skills which should be acquired before the actual projects can start. The existing project management courses do not have the content suitable for grassroots/community initiated projects, they are mostly industry-oriented, and do not include gender issues. That is why the WL has decided to create its own school of project management which will incorporate the theoretical knowledge, the experience of other developing countries, and provide ground for experimenting.

4. South African women are still barred from property ownership by law.

It means that even when they have the ability to run businesses, they will need consent of the husband/father/son. It interferes even their right to the products of their labour.

While awaiting for the change in the country's laws, the women have decided to embark on a massive education/skills training campaign.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Malibongwe Company should have a board of directors consisting of not more than seven members. The following factors must be taken into account, in selecting the directors:

- The creative interest and commitment of the persons to women's development
- Broad representation across political, professional range
- They must be people who will be able to function, that is attend meetings and implement decisions tasks agreed upon, (not too overstretched).
- They must be competent to make /influence/implement decisions

WISA PROGRAMMES

The major programme of Malibongwe, at the moment, will be establishing the WISA national training centre in Stutterheim former Convent. These will include:

- Gender research
- Training in research skills
- Leadership training, including civics and local government
- Project management training
- Skills training for income generation
- Marketing and experiments in income generating projects

However, each regional centre will adopt the WISA programme, perhaps with its own local focus, as well as its own income generating projects.

Malibongwe - WISA will therefore play a networking and co-ordinating role for the regional centres programmes.

Names proposed by the WL NEC WC:

1. Bridgette Mabandla	Lawyer
2. Zanele Mbeki	Women's Banking
3. Lulu Xingwana	ANC WL
4. Nosimo Balindlela	Educationalis
5. Thabatha A.D. Shange	Development/church
6. Amina Cachalia	Pol. Activist/businesswoman
7. Nadine Gordimer	Writer

Executive directors:

Nosimo Balindlela
Lulu Xingwana

Resident ED
Co-ordinating ED