

**THE WAY FORWARD IS DEMOCRACY  
A PATRIOTIC CALL FROM THE SECOND PATRIOTIC FRONT CONFERENCE  
27TH - 28TH MARCH 1993.**

We the representatives of political, business, educational, workers, student's cultural, women's, youth, religious and other organisations assembled in this the Second Conference of the Patriotic Front:

- BOUND** by the common objective of bringing about a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa in the shortest possible time;
- BELIEVING** that such an objective can only be realised in the first instance, through the adoption of a democratic constitution by elected representatives of the people in a Constituent Assembly;
- NOTING** that since the Durban Conference, as a result of national and international pressure, advances have been made towards compelling the regime to accept a democratic and participatory transition;
- CONCERNED** that the National Party regime and its allies are striving to delay the negotiations process while at the same time seeking to entrench apartheid in a modified form;
- CONSCIOUS** that the economy of the country is ravaged by years of National Party mismanagement, and that the abject poverty facing millions of South Africans requires urgent attention;
- ALARMED** by the continuing violence and the unwillingness of the regime to take decisive and rational measures to eradicate it;
- CONCERNED** about the absence of the basic freedom of association, expression and assembly in many parts of the country; and
- REALISING** that actions of the regime to unilaterally restructure certain areas of government such as education are precipitating serious crises within society.

**NOW WE RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**I STEPS TO DEMOCRACY:**

1. We reiterate our commitment to a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of one-person, one-vote in a common voters' roll, to draft a new constitution, and that this Assembly will be bound only by broad constitutional principles.

2. To ensure free and fair elections, there should be set up structures with executive powers to level the political playing fields, including a Transitional Executive Council and its sub-structures, as well as Independent Electoral and Media Commissions.
3. After elections for a Constituent Assembly, should be set up representative interim organs of government at all levels.
4. The drafting and adoption of a new constitution will mark an important departure from the past, but it will not overnight eradicate the evils of apartheid. It will therefore be necessary to embark on a systematic programme of socio-economic reconstruction and the dismantling of apartheid state machineries, as well as efforts aimed at bringing about national unity and reconciliation. In so far as such measures entail limitations on majority rule in the executive, they should operate for the shortest possible duration, specifically not more than five (5) years after the Constituent Assembly elections. These measures should facilitate movement to full democratic majority rule.

## II VIOLENCE

1. This Conference is firm in its view that the most effective antidote to the violence is the speedy conclusion of negotiations, the setting up of multi-party executive structures and election of a government representative of all South Africans.
2. One of the major tasks of the transitional executive structures should be to bring all armed formations under joint control, as the necessary first step towards the creation of legitimate and peace-loving security forces representative of all the people of our country and serving their interests.
3. As part of the steps necessary to immediately address the problems of violence, the Conference resolves:
  - 3.1 to intensify efforts aimed at strengthening the National Peace Accord;
  - 3.2 to continually expose the double agenda of the National Party regime to negotiate on the one hand, while attempting to weaken and destroy anti-apartheid forces, on the other hand; and
  - 3.3 to campaign for an enhanced role for the international community both in efforts to eradicate violence and ensuring free and fair elections.
4. Patriotic Front forces assembled here also take it

upon themselves to more vigorously work for the observance of the principles of peace and tolerance by their members; and in areas where PF forces are in charge of administration, to ensure that these principles are adhered to by all functionaries.

5. We reject the latest decision of the De Klerk regime to use draconian security measures ostensibly to deal with the violence. These measures, including the threats against the Transkei administration for its resolute position against apartheid, will only have the effect of further polarising society and undermining the peace process. The Patriotic Front is not in any doubt about who the main culprit in the violence is: the apartheid regime and its agents.

### III. ELECTIONS

1. We call for the setting of the date for Constituent Assembly elections as a matter of urgency. This will help to focus the nation as a whole on this important phase of the transition in which the people will play a direct and central role. It will also inject the necessary urgency into the multi-party negotiations, and extricate the country from the current rudderless drift.
2. Patriotic Front forces approach the coming elections conscious of the fact that the essence of the contest is between democracy and apartheid. It is therefore crucial that all our energies should be directed at defeating representatives of apartheid, in whatever modified form they seek to project themselves.
3. The various organisations commit themselves to speedily finalise their positions on electoral strategy, and through bilateral and multilateral consultations, to emerge with an approach that will obviate the debilitating possibility of competing patrioting formations.
4. Noting that the majority of South Africans have all along been denied the right to vote, we resolve to, individually and collectively, undertake an extensive voter education campaign, especially in rural areas and among women.

### IV. CAMPAIGNS:

1. This PF Conference undertakes to intensify the campaign to expose and challenge corruption and mismanagement in both public and private sectors, at the same time as our organisations present viable alternatives to the present order of things.

2. We express our strong indignation at the government's insensitive and careless attitude to the plight of black students and the teaching fraternity and therefore resolve to support the campaign to rectify the situation. We shall engage in such programmes mindful of the best immediate and long term interests of the students, teachers and society as a whole. In this regard, we call on the youth to redouble their efforts in pursuit of peace and democracy; and to prepare themselves for their rightful role in the future democratic society.
3. The Conference resolves to take up the problem of the lack of free political activity in Bophuthatswana, KwaZulu, Ciskei and other areas both through negotiations and other forms of pressure, particularly on the De Klerk regime.
4. We express our deep concern that the regime has conducted negotiations on the appointment of the new SABC board with the intention of maintaining as much National Party control as possible of this public resource. Given that the term of office of the current board expires on March 31st, Patriotic Front forces join the Campaign for Independent Broadcasting in calling for decisive action if the independent mechanism for the appointment of the board has not been set up.
5. We express our solidarity with the democratically elected Angolan government and call on the international community to take further measures to help stop the war directed against the Angolan people.

V. **STRUCTURES**

1. Conference resolves to strengthen and expand liaison structures of the PF to coordinate joint activities and ensure better communication among the organisations.
2. Such liaison and coordination need to be strengthened especially at regional and local levels, and the necessary structures set up to facilitate this.
3. In setting up all the envisaged structures and in our conduct and formulation of policy both inside and outside negotiations, it is absolutely imperative to address seriously and deliberately the involvement of women at all levels of our society.

VI. **BROADENING UNITY**

1. This PF Conference calls on those anti-apartheid forces not represented here to join in our efforts to ensure a purposeful and effective challenge to the

forces of apartheid.

2. Conference therefore mandates the Liaison Committee to work out mechanisms to engage all such forces.

We, the Patriotic Front forces emerge from this, our Second Conference, reinforced in our commitment to speed up the process leading up to the establishment of a democratic and just society. We are mindful that those who have all along benefitted from apartheid seek to preserve this system in a modified form and in the process to fudge the issues. The Patriotic Front hereby serves notice to those who seek to delay the process that our organisations and our people can no longer countenance this.

Our confidence in the future is an expression of the morality of our cause, the legitimacy of the people's aspirations, the popular resolve to effect fundamental change and the support our humane ideals enjoy among peoples of the world. United in our endeavours and committed to these patriotic ideals we are confident that South Africa's true interests, the true interests of all its people, will triumph sooner than later.

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