



3RD INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

25–28 OCTOBER 2012
TSHWANE CITY HALL

Tshwane Declaration, 28th October 2012

1. We, the former Anti-Apartheid Movements, National Liberation Movements, the ANC's Alliance partners, Solidarity groups, NGOs, Trade Union formations, the faith-based sector, various Left formations, Community-Based Organisations, think-tanks, writers, artists and Pan-African and international intergovernmental organisations from across the world gathered in the city of Tshwane, South Africa, on 25-28 October 2012 under the umbrella of the African National Congress (ANC) for the 3rd International Solidarity Conference;
2. The Conference took place in the context of the ANC's Centenary Celebrations and coincided with the birthday date of Comrade OR Tambo on the 27th October, in recognition of the pre-eminent role he played in galvanizing international solidarity for the struggles of the oppressed, particularly in South Africa and the world over. We also recognise the towering stature he represents in the international solidarity movement;
3. In organizing this Conference, the ANC was informed by the resolution of its 52nd National Conference held in Polokwane in 2007, which directed that *"the ANC embarks on a programme to strengthen the progressive movement in Africa and formalise relations with the global progressive movement"*. This resolution tasked *"the NEC to commit resources and space for the holding of a first meeting of the progressive parties/movements in Africa, with a view to holding an international meeting of all progressive parties/movements in the world before the next conference of the ANC"*;
4. The Conference built on the long tradition of the ANC's international solidarity, including the 1st and 2nd solidarity conferences organized in Tanzania in 1987 and Johannesburg in 1993, where the world's progressive movements came together to deliberate on advancing the struggle against apartheid, racism and to build a better Africa;
5. The Conference recalled and celebrated the Anti-Apartheid movement as the largest ever global solidarity movement and acknowledged its contribution to the liberation of South Africa;
6. Participants paid tribute to Comrade Nelson Mandela as one of the enduring symbols of the struggle for justice, human rights, peace and reconciliation;
7. Participants also paid tribute to Comrade Fidel Castro as one of the revolutionary icons in the fight for freedom and equity in a world free from oppression, exploitation and prejudice. Further acknowledged was the supreme sacrifices made by Cubans alongside combatants of the liberation movements;
8. Conference also saluted the selfless contribution of progressive African and world leaders to the struggle in South Africa, notably the front line states, which bore the brunt of apartheid state savagery where many paid the ultimate sacrifice, as well as their global efforts in the promotion of a progressive and a better world;



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9. Participants appreciated the challenges of establishing a prosperous, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic South Africa against the background of the legacy of apartheid and the global political economic context. The Conference commended the ANC for the significant achievements made since the advent of democracy and encouraged it to continue striving for a better life for all;
10. The participants deliberated with the required focus under the theme of a **“United for a Progressive, Better World”** and called on Conference:
- to note the recent adverse developments in the global financial and economic systems. European and American activists should strive to work together with African, Asian and South American activists to reform and restructure the global finance system and balance of trade, including the re-structuring of the Bretton Woods institutions. In this context, welcome the BRICS bank initiative as a measure by countries of the South to transform the international financial regime;
 - to mobilise progressive forces towards building a World Movement against colonial and structural Global Economic Apartheid and to negate the growing co-operation of reactionary states and multinational corporations;
 - in renewing our collective efforts towards the global advancement of Pan-Africanism, world peace and the negotiated settlement of conflicts, we shall:
 - campaign against the constant exploitation of Africa and her natural resources by Western powers and their multinational corporations;
 - lobby our governments to advance progressive positions on Africa’s development in the African Union, the United Nations and international financial institutions;
 - consolidate the African Union’s initiative of engaging the African Diaspora as the sixth region of Africa;
 - condemn our colonisers for sponsoring factionalism amongst liberation movements, including the use of some NGO’s and media outlets;
 - to express concern at the prevailing situation of the peoples of Sudan, notably the situation in Abyei, the displacement of peoples in Nuba mountains, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. A call was made to progressive forces to support the AU and UN efforts to stabilize both Sudan and South Sudan;
 - to unite on the urgency of advancing the aspirations of the peoples of Western Sahara towards a free and fair referendum as Africa’s last colony seeking self-determination;
 - to recognise that political solutions in Swaziland should be led by Swazis;
 - to develop creative programmes to ensure the potential of women and the youth on our continent is harnessed for a constructive, patriotic role in our societies;
 - to urge the US President and Congress to immediately release the Cuban Five, and for the lifting of the illegal economic embargo against Cuba by the United States;
 - to condemn the continued occupation of Palestinian territories by the Israeli government and called for a free Palestine along the 1967 borders with (East) Jerusalem as its capital:
 - Re-iterated its support for Palestinian aspirations for an independent state including the full membership of the UN; and called on the UN Security Council to show leadership in halting the expansion of Israeli settlements and the harassment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails;
 - Conference supports the call of civil society’s BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign.
 - In re-affirming their commitment to building a just, humane and equitable world and the strengthening of multilateralism:
 - To transform the United Nations, in particular the UN Security Council;
 - to commend the aspirations of the North African masses for democracy and social justice and urged activists to examine more closely the lessons from the Arab uprising and particularly the negative role of external players and reactionary forces.
11. Delegates called on the ANC to identify the champions of international solidarity and to explore, in consultation with key partners, the setting up a Steering Committee to work on follow-up solidarity activities, including the setting up of a website for dialogue amongst solidarity activists.
12. Participants thanked the ANC for having organized this historic Conference and pledged their solidarity and support to the ANC as it forges ahead towards its next Centenary and beyond.