



FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS

THE CAPE TOWN
TRADE UNION
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POLICY RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT

THE SECOND FOSATU NATIONAL CONGRESS

APRIL 1982

A. POLITICAL POLICY

B. TRADE UNION UNITY

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A. POLITICAL POLICY

1. THIS 2ND CONGRESS OF F.O.S.A.T.U.

1. BELIEVES THAT ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION MAKING ON THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA.
2. DEPLORES THE ACT WHEREBY CITIZENS OF SOUTH AFRICA ARE STRIPPED OF THEIR BIRTH RIGHT AND DECLARED FOREIGNERS IN THE COUNTRY OF THEIR BIRTH.
3. REJECTS THE HOMELAND POLICY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.
4. REITERATES ITS SUPPORT FOR A DEMOCRACY BASED ON ONE MAN ONE VOTE AND MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. THIS SECOND CONGRESS OF F.O.S.A.T.U. NOTING THAT:

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, CORRESPONDING WITH THE FIRM ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWING POWER OF MAJORITY UNIONS IN THE FACTORY IN SOUTH AFRICA, SIGNIFICANT PRESSURES ON THESE UNIONS TO TAKE A POLITICAL STAND HAVE BEEN EXERTED.

F.O.S.A.T.U. FURTHER NOTES:

- i) that unshakeable unity based on effective organisation at the point of production is an essential prerequisite to any organisation of workers to gain a more just society.
- ii) that it is in the interest of any worker organisation that the production and distribution of wealth be done in a politically democratic and economically equal way.
- iii) that the majority of workers in this country are forced to work and live in conditions which are neither politically democratic or economically equal resulting in poverty, hardship and social deprivation for most workers.

F.O.S.A.T.U. THEREFORE RESOLVES:

- a) to continue its efforts to organise all workers into one movement in accordance with its policies and principles so that an effective organ for change can be created.
- b) to participate in campaigns directed at the establishment of a more just society in such a way that the working class movement is strengthened.

- c) to participate in such campaigns only after thorough discussion with members at a grass roots level to ensure that democracy is not merely spoken, but also acted upon.
- d) to participate in such campaigns only where unity of purpose and aim has been achieved by all participants.

3. F.O.S.A.T.U. WILL NOT AFFILIATE TO ANY PARTY POLITICAL ORGANISATION, BUT SHALL ENGAGE IN STRUGGLES TO SECURE A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL SECURITY AND POLITICAL EMANCIPATION FOR WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE MEMBERS OF OUR AFFILIATES LIVE.

B. TRADE UNION UNITY

1. THAT THIS 2ND CONGRESS NOTING:

1. THAT FOSATU WAS ESTABLISHED TO BRING ABOUT UNITY AMONGST ALL WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.
2. THAT THE FEDERATION HAS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS TESTED AND DEVELOPED CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT UNIONS AND REGIONS.
3. THAT SUCH UNITY HAS BEEN BUILT IN A DISCIPLINED AND STRUCTURED WAY FROM THE SHOP FLOOR UPWARDS.
4. THAT MANY OTHER DEMOCRATIC NON-RACIAL UNIONS, SOME OF WHOM WERE AND OTHERS OF WHOM WERE NOT IN EXISTENCE AT THE TIME OF FOSATU'S FORMATION ARE NOW EXPRESSING INTEREST IN SOLIDARITY AND UNITY WITH THE NON-RACIAL UNION MOVEMENT AS WHOLE.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

TO CONTINUE WITH THE AIM OF
BUILDING A UNITED WORKING CLASS
MOVEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE
FOLLOWING UNITY PROGRAMME:

1. WE SEEK OUT WORKER ORGANISATIONS WHO BROADLY SHARE A COMMON PURPOSE WITHOUT PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES.

2. HAVING IDENTIFIED SUCH POTENTIAL ALLIES WE SHOULD FORGE A CLOSER IDENTITY OF PURPOSE THROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY OURSELVES.
3. WE BEGIN DISCUSSING THE ORGANISATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF "DISCIPLINED" UNITY.
4. WE DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES JOINTLY WITH SUCH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.
5. WE PLAN FOR THE MERGER OF EXISTING UNIONS AND THE RATIONALISATION OF ORGANISATION.
6. WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS A DISCIPLINED NON-RACIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT WHICH HAS THE STRUCTURES TO ENSURE MASS PARTICIPATION IN A GENUINE MANNER.
7. WE DISSOLVE FOSATU IF IT IS APPARENT TO THE CONSTITUENT UNIONS THAT SUCH AN ACT WOULD FURTHER THE CAUSE OF GREATER UNITY IN LINE WITH THE AIMS AND OBJECTS OF A DISCIPLINED DEMOCRATIC UNION MOVEMENT.
8. WE INSTRUCT THE C.C. TO TAKE STEPS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS RESOLUTION WHENEVER IT DETERMINES THAT FOSATU'S DISSOLUTION WILL GIVE RISE TO A GREATER AND MORE POWERFUL NON-RACIAL AND DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION OF UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.