

55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
GAUTENG 16 - 20 DECEMBER 2022
ANC

ANC

55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

16–20 DECEMBER 2022
5 JANUARY 2023

REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS

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INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
COMRADE FIKILE MBALULA

In December, we gathered against the backdrop of a very challenging and complex period leading up to 2027; reflective of the uncertain and volatile global world. Our organizational review stated that we are at a crossroads in our pursuit of the NDR. Our current state has been influenced by the cumulative effect of being in power, complacency and the influx of cadres that has denuded our revolutionary zeal. We remain committed to uniting South Africans behind the common goal of building a better life for all and in creating a non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous country. The critical issue of renewal has been on the agenda since 1997 and has been consolidated at subsequent conferences. This has been a painful and necessary journey, although not an easy one. Let us be steadfast on this journey of rebuilding, unity and renewal with the reorientation of our movement.

President OR Tambo cautioned prophetically in 1977 that the post-apartheid period will be challenging and complex and that it is *"actually more difficult to keep the power than to wage a liberation war."* We have to admit that we have often complicated matters, rathar than making the change process, an easier one.

During the 55th Conference, in December 2022 and in our follow-up discussions in January 2023, our deliberations were frank about our shortcomings and what is required to improve matters in our ranks. We discussed and debated transformative policies that seeks to address the aspirations and needs of people in the current conjuncture and into the medium term. We must be mindful that we will be judged on our actions, rather than our policies and articulation. Given our challenges, locally, continentally, and globally, people are impatient for rapid change and turnaround. Our declining election results and increasing trust deficit reflect this dissatisfaction with our efforts. Our economic recovery, started during the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, is continuing, despite the challenging economic environment, accompanied by higher inflation (prices) rates. These conditions necessitate us to be steadfast in finding creative solutions to create jobs, jobs, jobs, speed up land reform, deal with the energy crisis, lower our carbon footprint, deal decisively with GBV, corruption and crime amongst all other challenges we are confronted by.

We have overwhelmingly adopted **Vision 2032** and the **Road Map for renewal 2032** to take us forward to rebuild, renew, and revitalize the ANC and its socio-economic programme. Our actions must ensure that we secure electoral victory and that the ANC is a fit for purpose organisation to carry out the tasks at hand. We need to ensure a renewed and revitalized ANC together with the Alliance remain the trusted agents of change and we continue to be humble, hard-working servants of the people that serves their interests and needs.

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CREDENTIALS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Credentials Committee is appointed by the National Executive Committee and is responsible for making proposals on participation and size of the Conference to the NEC, to oversee the process of delegate selection, to prepare pre-registration and accreditation at Conference, to present the draft Credentials report of Conference, and to prepare the Voters roll for handover to the Electoral Committee.

2. The Credentials Committee appointed by the NEC included the following comrades:
   Cde Senzo Mchunu (Chair)
   Cde Nomvula Mokonyane
   Cde Dakota Legoete
   Cde David Mahlobo
   Cde Mdu Manana
   Provincial Secretaries/Coordinators
   League Coordinators

3. Even though the NEC for logistical reasons had to limit the size of conference, the 55th National Conference has the largest number of participating branches, and the participation of the Leagues, the NEC, PECs and RECs. This is an important achievement following the disruption of the organizational and political work of the ANC during and post the COVID – 19 lockdowns.

4. A new online membership system was introduced in 2020, to modernize the management of the organizational work of the ANC, including management of registration at ANC events.

5. Whilst the new system has had some teething problems it has played an important role in reducing fraud and manipulation of membership and overtime will ensure that we have more credible registration and credential processes.

6. We apologise unreservedly for the delay in the commencement of registration which had a knock-on effect for the entire registration process.

7. We must commend the ANC leaders and members at all levels for their patience in the registration process and we regret the behaviour of a small number of our delegates whose conduct was unbecoming of a disciplined ANC member.

SELECTION OF DELEGATES AT BGMS: 16 SEPTEMBER – 8 DECEMBER 2022

1. The Constitution in Rule 10, stipulates that *"at least 90% (ninety per cent) of the delegates at Conference shall be from Branch¬es, elected at properly constituted Branch General Meetings."*

2. The NEC set the cut-off date for 55th National Conference as 3 September 2022. It furthermore adopted the revised Guidelines for BBGMS, BGMS and Conferences, which guides the holding of BGMs for Conferences and set out how disputes are handled. The Guidelines also provided rules for how League delegates are elected.
3. After the cut-off date of 3 September 2022, branches were audited and a Projected Credentials proposal adopted by the NEC.

4. BGMs were held starting on 16 September 2022, with initial hiccups caused by new features to the system, industrial action and load-shedding. Many branches had to go to BGMs more than once, before they managed to reach a quorum. By the 7 of November 2022, 89% of eligible branches, a total of 3 982 branches, managed to hold qualified BGMs to select their delegates to the 55th National Conference.

5. By 8 December 2022 following re-runs of disputed branches as allowed by the Dispute Resolution Committees, 3 547 branches qualified to participate in conference, 89% eligible branches, a total of 3 957 branches. (Correct the numbers)

6. The final projection of provincial delegates on 8 December 2022 is set out in Table 1 in the Annexure.
7. The fact that not all BGMS managed to sit successfully, had an implication for the overall proportionality of the Conference. The NEC therefore decided to reduce the voting delegations per PEC from 24 to 18, and for the Leagues from 40 to 25. It further agreed that the remaining 15 League delegates would be allowed to attend as non-voting delegates.

8. Regular meetings were held with Provincial and Regional Secretaries, the Leagues and the Organising committee on the BGMs. Throughout the process, Secretaries were very engaged in managing the process and making themselves available to advise on challenges.

DEALING WITH DISPUTES

9. The Guidelines provided for a robust dispute resolution mechanism, starting with the branch if a member had an issue of membership or with the conduct of the BGM. If a member was not satisfied with the response of the BEC, s/he Members had the right to appeal to the Provincial Dispute Resolution Committee (PDRC), and if not satisfied, to the National Dispute Resolution Committee.

10. The PDRCs dealt with a total of 215 appeals from branches and members, ordered 57 reruns and dismissed 156 appeals. The NDRC dealt with 72 appeals against decisions of the PDRCs, ordered 14 reruns, dismissed 57 appeals and 2 referred to the provincial leadership.

PRE-REGISTRATION

11. The long lead time of BGMs and Disputes meant that the process of pre-registration to check delegations and enable advance generation of delegate tags were delayed. The Accreditation at Conference therefore took much longer than anticipated. We thank the delegates for their extreme patience.

12. The Registration Protocol made provision for branch delegates to be submitted in three ways, scanned into the evidence of attendance system (EAS) after the BGM, and submitted by email and in the boxes in the provincial and regional offices. These were reconciled and the Master Lists of delegates sent to provinces. Where there were no delegates recorded or where more than one form for the same delegate was recorded, these were added to the Exemption report, which were also shared with provinces. Last but not least, over the last week before Conference, provinces also had to finalise their proportional share of branch delegates.

13. The principle on which branch delegates are allocated is that each branch in good standing have at least one delegate. The remainder are allocated in proportion to the size of the membership of the branch.. Due to the limits on the numbers of delegates, the proportional share of branch delegates allocated for 55th National Conference were limited to 525 branch delegates.

REGISTRATION

14. Registration started on Wednesday, 14 December 2022, with the largest part of registration on 15 December 2022. This could not be completed, and therefore spilled into the first day of Conference and into the early hours of today. Today Registration closed at 15:30.

15. Challenges experienced include a new system of registration, poor network in the venue, poor process flow, equipment, and load-shedding. Other issues include: late change from PECs to make provision for two IPC's, duplicate tags printed and having to be destroyed, and challenges with photos.

16. One unfortunate incident happened during registration, where a fight broke out amongst Mangaung delegates. In the commotion, someone grabbed and ran away with the Free State delegate tags. We therefore had to restart the creation of Free State tags on the basis of different colours.

Corrections and Replacements

17. The corrections and replacements per Province in the accreditation process are contained in Table 2 in the Annexure. The Guidelines limited the number of replacements to not more than 10% of a provincial or League delegation.

FINAL CREDENTIALS ADOPTED BY CONFERENCE

18. Conference adopted the final credentials for the 55th National Conference of the ANC as follows.

Category	Delegates Expected	Delegates Registered	%
VOTING			
Branch delegates			
Eastern Cape	662	657	99%
Free State	258	251	97%
Gauteng	466	465	99.9%
Kwa-Zulu Natal	877	876	99%
Limpopo	597	593	99%
Mpumalanga	369	369	100%
Northern Cape	249	249	100%
North West	328	305	93%
Western Cape	263	258	98%
TOTAL	**4069**	**4023**	**90.7%**
Additional delegates			
NEC	110	106	96%
PEC	266	232	87%
ANC Veterans League	25	25	100%
ANC Women's League	25	25	100%
ANC Youth League	25	25	100%
% of total delegates	**451**	**413**	**9.3%**
Branch delegates as a % of total		**4436**	**90.7%**

Category	Delegates Expected	Delegates Registered	%
NON-VOTING			
ANC Veterans League	15	10	67%
ANC Women's League	15	11	73%
ANC Youth League	15	11	73%
ANC Structures (Renewal Committee, NDC, NDCA, Integrity Commission)	33	33	100%
Alliance	32	32	100%
MDM (COSAS, YCL, YWD, LGBTQI desk)	26	26	100%
Civil society, think tanks and foundations	23	15	65%
MKLWV	16	16	100%
CONTRALESA	7	5	71%
Business and Professional Associations	22	13	59%
Faith-based Organisations	15	15	100%
Gender Reference Group	10	10	100%
OR Tambo School	5	5	100%
ANC Caucus	30	28	93%
Deployed Cadres/Policy Support	65	51	78%
SALGA	5	5	100%
Staff	350	350	100%
International Guests	44	44	100%
Diplomatic Corps	105	105	100%
Guests	60	60	100%

ANNEXURE
TABLE 1

PROVINCE	Total Membership	Percentage	1 per branch qualifying for BGM	BRANCHES WITH QUALIFIED GMS BY 7/11/22*	% BGM QUALIFIED OF ELIGIBLE BRANCHES	Branches qualified after resolution of disputes and corrections on 8/12/2022	% BGM QUALIFIED OF ELIGIBLE BRANCHES	% BGM QUALIFIED OF ELIGIBLE BRANCHES	PROPORT-IONAL SHARE	REVISED PROJECTED PROVINCIAL DELEGATIONS
Eastern Cape	111 486	16.13%	644	**574**	89%	577	90%	89%	85	**662**
Free State	52 325	7.57	280	**212**	76%	218	78%	76%	40	**258**
Gauteng	84 417	12.21%	468	**405**	87%	402	86%	87%	64	**466**
KZN	131 610	19.04%	835	**781**	94%	777	93%	94%	100	**877**
Limpopo	122 315	17.69%	559	**505**	90%	504	90%	90%	93	**597**
Mpumalanga	65 975	9.54%	361	**318**	88%	322	89%	88%	50	**372**
Northern Cape	30 873	4.47%	226	**226**	100%	226	100%	100%	23	**249**
North West	56 293	8.14%	342	**286**	84%	285	83%	84%	43	**328**
Western Cape	36 087	5.22%	267	**236**	88%	236	88%	88%	27	**263**
TOTAL	691 381		3982	**3543**	89%	3547	89%	89%	525	**4072**

55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE CONTINUATION
5 JANUARY 2023 ROLL-CALL

For constitutional amendments, two thirds of delegates present and voting

VOTING DELEGATION PER CONFERENCE HUB		
KZN		
Branches	702	
PEC	38	
Veterans League	2	
YL	1	
NEC	3	
North West		
Branches	277	
PEC	17	
Veterans League	1	
YL	1	
NEC	2	
Limpopo		
Branches	497	
PEC	21	
Veterans League	2	
Women's League	2	
Youth League	0	
NEC	5	
Mpumalanga		
Branches	311	
PEC	22	
Veterans League	2	
Women's League	0	
Youth League	2	
NEC	4	
Eastern Cape		
Branches	519	
PEC	32	
Veterans League	4	
Women's League	0	
Youth League	2	
NEC	2	

Gauteng		
Branches	311	
PEC	26	
Veterans League	5	
Women's League	0	
Youth League	1	
NEC		
North West		
Branches	221	
PEC	20	
Veterans League	1	
Women's League	1	
Youth League	1	
NEC	3	
Western Cape		
Branches	165	
IPC	17	
Veterans League	1	
Women's League	4	
Youth League	2	
NEC	4	
National Hub		
Free State Branches	199	
E Cape & NW Branches	3	
FS IPC	24	
Women's League	10	
Youth League	2	
NEC	20	
TOTAL PRESENT	255	

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following constitute the National Executive Committee duly elected at the 55th National Conference:

NATIONAL OFFICIALS

President	Cyril Ramaphosa
Deputy President	Paul Mashatile
National Chairperson	Gwede Mantashe
Secretary General	Fikile Mbalula
1st Deputy Secretary General	Nomvula Mokonyane
2nd Deputy Secretary General	Maropene Ramakgopa
Treasurer General	Gwen Ramakgopa

DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS

Sihle Zikalala
Mduduzi Manana
Ronald Lamola
Mdumiseni Ntuli
Bheki Cele
Senzo Mchunu
Malusi Gigaba
Pule Mabe
Zizi Kodwa
David Makhura
Andile Lungisa
Mmamoloko Kubayi
Tina Joemat-Pettersson
Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams
Thembi Nkadimeng
Zweli Mkhize
Soviet Lekganyane
Febe Potgieter
Enoch Godongwana
Sibongile Besani
Pinky Kekana
Buti Manamela
David Mahlobo
Cassel Mathale
Pemmy Majodina
Lindiwe Zulu
Aaron Motsoaledi
Khusela Diko
Bathabile Dlamini
Phumulo Masualle
Mzwandile Masina
Thandi Modise
Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma
Mondli Gungubele
Thoko Didiza
Parks Tau
Obed Bapela
Supra Mahumapelo

Joe Maswanganyi
Tandi Mahambehlala
David Masondo
Babalo Madikizela
Noxolo Kiviet
Njabulo Nzuza
Dickson Masemola
Nobuhle Nkabane
Peggy Nkonyeni
Barbara Creecy
Kgosientsho Sputla Ramokgopa
Khumbudzo Ntshavheni
Joe Phaahla
Lindiwe Sisulu
Polly Boshielo
Zuko Godlimpi
Nonceba Mhlauli
Thabang Makwetla
Nkenke Kekana
Donald Selamolela
Cyril Xaba

Sindisiwe Chikunga
Dakota Legoete
Bejani Chauke
Lindiwe Ntshalintshali
Lungi Gcabashe
Nocawe Mafu
Ronalda Nalumango
Dina Pule
Joy Maimela
Angie Motshekga
Mahlengi Bhengu
Pam Tshwete
Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba
Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane
Nomakhosazana Meth
Faith Muthambi
Nokuzola Zoleka Capa
Sisisi Tolashe
Reginah Mhaule
Violet Siwela
Thandi Moraka

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55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE DECLARATION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS:

16 – 20 DECEMBER 2022 IN GAUTENG AND 5 JANUARY 2023 IN FREE STATE

We, the delegates to the 55th National Conference, gathered at Nasrec in Gauteng on 16-20th December 2022 and concluded on 5 January 2023 at Imvelo Lodge in the Free State, under the theme "Defend and Advance the Gains of Freedom. Unity Through Renewal" deliberated on critical tasks facing South Africa with the view to finding lasting solutions.

We considered the outcomes of the 6th National Policy Conference held in July 2022, the outcomes of regions, provinces, branches, and submissions from Leagues of the ANC, from Alliance partners and deliberated on the Political Report by the President, the Organisational Report, and the Treasurer General's Report.

55th National Conference affirms as follows: The strategic objective of the ANC remains the resolution of the three basic and inter-related contradictions of colonialism of a special type (CST) – racial oppression, women's oppression and class super-exploitation. We seek to achieve this through the fundamental socioeconomic transformation of South Africa into a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic and prosperous society based on the vision, values and principles of the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of our country. Simply put, the ANC's is primarily about building a better life for all South Africans.

That in 2024, South Africa will reach a historic milestone of 30 Years of Democracy. Conference further asserted that the democratic gains made over the first three decades of freedom should be highlighted, consolidated and defended. The narrative by the conservative and neo-liberal forces in our country that suggest that life was better under apartheid and colonialism must be rejected and rebutted by all freedom-loving and democratic-minded people in our country and in the world.

We must publicise the achievements and gains such as a transformative Constitution that guarantees political, socioeconomic and other human rights; progress in the expansion of basic services and infrastructure to meet the needs of millions of people who now have access to housing, education, health, water, energy and other services; the establishment of a credible democratic political system which is based on the will of the people; institutions that function in accordance with the Constitution and setting the economy on a positive growth trajectory in the early years of our democracy.

The ANC is the principal architect of the transformative constitutional democratic order in our country – a democracy with South African characteristics wherein the state is accountable and capable of improving the quality of life of all citizens.

The newly-elected NEC must act with demonstrable urgency in addressing the shortcomings, setbacks, and reversals that threaten to undermine and erode the democratic gains. These include chronic poor economic performance and the resultant high rate of unemployment, poverty and inequalities; rising lawlessness, criminality and violence.

The ANC-led government must move decisively to implement conference resolutions to end load-shedding and stabilise electricity supply. Priority must be given to speeding up the resolution of the energy crisis, in particular undertaking critical maintenance at Eskom so we return existing generation capacity to reliable service.

We must transform and grow the economy so that it creates jobs and empowers African in particular and Blacks in general, particularly the youth, women and people who live in townships and rural areas. We must introduce new measures to cut red tape and ensure small enterprises, co-operatives and informal businesses, particularly those owned by women and young people, have effective means of raising finances, and accessing markets.

We call on government to prioritise unlocking the potential of the country's land for employment, rural development, food security and economic development. We must do more to bring underutilised land into production and enable the state to acquire agricultural land for purposes of distribution to previously disadvantaged persons.

Social support provides a safety net for communities living under conditions of poverty. Conference therefore supported the continuation of the social relief of distress grant while government investigate the modalities and affordability of the basic income grant.

The security agencies must more effectively tackle rampant crime and corruption.

While we welcome recent deployment of new police recruits, security agencies working with communities must take decisive steps to stamp out kidnapping, gender-based violence and femicide; gangsterism, the drug trade; illegal mining and the wanton vandalism of public infrastructure.

We note with concern that our mission to create a non-racial, non-sexist society and democratic society has been undermined by conservative and neo-liberal forces opposed to fundamental transformation of South Africa who have been gaining confidence and expanding their zone of influence with the aim of sustaining racial and patriarchal privilege in the economy and broader society. Racism and sexism remain prevalent in all spheres of society.

We condemn in the strongest terms the continued harassment of and discrimination against Black people who regularly get attacked and victimised on the basis of their skin colour. The ANC calls for the introduction of more effective instruments to combat racism which has no place in our constitutional democracy. Because the ANC has been the principal architect of our transformative Constitutional Democracy, Conference instructed that we must recommit ourselves to developing and deepening this democracy into a truly people-oriented, people-centred participatory democracy.

The agenda for state transformation includes transforming the three arms of the state and all its critical apparatus. The transformation consists of institutionalising integrity and ethical leadership across the state. In this regard, the ANC-led government will push ahead with the implementation of the outcomes of the state capture commission.

We must push ahead with the reforms to professionalize the public service to ensure capacity and stability in the state. Through institutions such as the national school of government and the public service commission, we must continue to recruit the best skills in society and, more importantly, recruit capable and ethical women and men to serve the people of South Africa.

As the ANC, we must continue with the agenda for equality by ensuring that women hold leadership positions, including the LGBTQI+ community, who continue to play a critical role in development.

We also believe that the state must play a significant role in realising the one plan and one vision through the district development model. In this regard, the conference declares commitment to long-term planning and makes sure that through an intergovernmental relations framework, we respond to the challenges facing the people in a focused manner as envisaged in the district development model.

We reaffirmed that the cause of socio-economic transformation is taking place in a global environment characterised by contradictory tendencies in terms of human development.

We will continue to work toward a multipolar world order, wherein national sovereignty and solidarity are not undermined. The conference declares that we will work with progressive forces in the world by focusing on the

implementation and realisation of the goals of Agenda 2063 for the Africa we want. We believe the recently signed African Continental Free Trade Area presents an opportunity to improve trade in the continent and promote investment in critical sectors. We will work with the progressives in the world to realise the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which include human security and peace.

We will continue to support the struggles of the people of Western Sahara, Cuba, Venezuela, and Palestine. We will also continue to support peace efforts in war-torn countries such as the DRC, Somalia, CAR, Yemen, Syria and the peace agreement in Ethiopia.

The ANC and the Alliance must act together in a decisive, empathetic and principled manner to generate hope for a more inclusive, just, equitable and sustainable future for our country. The ANC will only succeed in realising its strategic objective of transforming South Africa when it has successfully transformed itself into a renewed, responsive, modernised, well-governed, well-resourced, caring and effective political formation – the central focus of the ANC Roadmap to 2032.

This means we must build an outward-looking ANC with a clear programme to serve the people. Consequently, all ANC structures have to change their focus towards the people we serve and the problems and challenges they face in their daily lives.

We must build dynamic ANC branches that engage with communities, and become active in ward committees. Branch members must join community policing forums work with local law enforcement to promote safety in our communities and combat vandalism of community infrastructure.
We must develop strong branches that monitor local services to prevent corruption and poor service delivery while they strengthen advice offices and contact centres for residents to access government services.

We also believe that central to the renewal agenda is the quality of the membership. In this regard, we declare that we will strengthen the programme of building the New Cadre over the next five years. We equally reaffirm the importance of compulsory induction and political schools for all leadership collectives and public representatives. This includes attracting skilled people with abilities that can help us in our transformation agenda.

55th National Conference rose with determination to implement the immediate programme of renewal, which demonstrates that the ANC by its actions can be trusted to put the improvement of the condition of life of all the people at the centre of all its actions.

The campaign will focus on three issues critical to our people which are (a) delivery of basic service at the local government level, (b) addressing state capture and corruption, and (c) ensure the active participation of the people in development.

As delegates to 55th National Conference, representing ANC members, Veterans League members, Women's League members, Youth League members, together with our allies Cosatu and the SACP, and a broad range of organisations who participated in our conference, remains resolute to defend and advance our democratic gains, and to continue to unite around the common goal of a building a better life for all.

ANC LIVES. ANC LEADS.

RESOLUTIONS 5

ON STRATEGY AND TACTICS

1. The 55th National Conference reaffirms that the strategic objective of the ANC is the fundamental transformation of South Africa into a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. This strategic objective derives from the character of the national democratic revolution and the three basic and inter-related contradictions of national oppression, class super-exploitation directed at Black workers and the oppression of women.

2. The vision, values and principles of the national democratic society we seek to create are well articulated in the basic documents of the ANC such as the African Claims, the Women's Charter, the Freedom Charter and the Strategy and Tactics document and they are enshrined in the Constitution of our country.

3. For the ANC to be an effective instrument and powerful vehicle for fundamental transformation or radical change, its members must distinguish themselves as the most loyal, ethical, committed and capable servants of the people of South Africa and agents for change in the struggle to build a better Africa and a more equitable global order, in line with the movement's longstanding tradition of Pan-Africanism and International Solidarity. The matter of the quality of an ANC members has become a strategic question upon which the survival and success of the movement depends.

4. The **55th National Conference** overwhelmingly adopted a **new Preface** to the **2017 Strategy and Tactics of the ANC**. Given the dynamic shifts and new developments in the domestic and global balance of forces, the current Strategy and Tactics document should be reviewed and reformulated by the NEC for presentation and consideration by the National General Council. This review will take into account, among others, the dynamics within the motive forces and the current strategic positioning of the forces opposed to the national democratic revolution.

5. On the **Global Balance of Forces** – The Conference identified some distinct developments and dynamic shifts that are reshaping the global order and influencing the prospects of Africa's Renaissance as well as the future of the national democratic revolution in South Africa:

   5.1. We live in an international era characterised by contradictory political-economic trends. On the one hand, there is a **deepening crisis of neo-liberalism and a resurgence of populism and right-wing nationalism** in the Global North. On the other hand, China's rise as a global player is gathering pace; India is increasingly becoming more assertive as demonstrated in its positions in the run-up to the G20 Summit it will chair; the re-emergence of progressive governments in Latin American countries and key economies in the Global South is providing a counterweight to imperialist hegemony. Most significantly, the ANC welcomes the victory of the progressive forces in the recent Brazilian elections. This victory augurs well for the strengthening BRICS and other progressive forces in the Global South. The BRICS bloc, which will be chaired by South Africa in 2023, is gaining momentum as a new centre of influence - more countries in the Global South are showing keen interest in joining BRICS in order to push back the neo-liberal agenda and Western imperialist hegemony. The **rise of China and the growing influence of BRICS** are being countered by the US and other countries in the Global North through the intensification of geopolitical tensions and trade wars.

   5.2. The ongoing war in Ukraine has strategic geopolitical and economic consequences for all the peoples of the world. This can no longer be described simply as a Russia-Ukraine war – it is primarily a conflict between the US and US-led NATO military alliance and Russia in pursuit of the objectives of the Wolfowitz doctrine. According to this doctrine, the US should not allow that any country in the world should have the possibility, in the post-Cold War period to

challenge its interests and hegemony. In this regard, its geopolitical strategy has identified Russia and China as the two powers that must be contained. The dividends of peace and globalisation promised at the end of the Cold War and the emergence of a human security ethos towards the new millennium, have been shattered. The doctrine of unilateral domination of every region, is being advanced not through multilateralism and equitable globalisation, but through expansionist military strategies, a persistent unjust and unequal global trade and economic architecture and through regime change. There is a conspicuous failure of the current global multi-lateral institutions to resolve conflicts fairly, justly and equitably in order to safeguard the interests of all nations. The Ukraine war has caused major disruptions to people's lives all over the world – the disruption of supply chains of food, fuel, fertilizer and energy, sky-rocketing inflation, the cost-of-living crisis at a global scale and the threat of nuclear escalation. **This war must come to an end now!**

5.3. The ANC's attitude and posture regarding conflicts and wars has been shaped over many years of struggle. During the anti-apartheid struggle, **the ANC has been part of the non-aligned movement**. **We are also part of the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial forces**. The ANC remains firm in its view that all conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. We totally reject gun-boat diplomacy. Coming from a continent whose structural transformation is hampered by conflicts sponsored by imperialist interests, we know from experience that war is costly, and that without peace, there can be no sustainable development. As a matter of principle, the ANC is opposed to imperialist wars. We will therefore continue to resist joining those who beat the drums of war. We want a peaceful, just and more equitable global order. Under the leadership of the ANC, South Africa will continue to lead peace-keeping missions and contribute to negotiated resolution of conflicts as part of building a better Africa and a better world.

5.4. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted global affairs, posing a serious existential threat to humanity. The pandemic has eroded some of the gains which were being made on the Sustainable Development Goals. Levels of poverty, inequality, vulnerability, gender-based violence, racism and precarity have increased, thus placing the lives and livelihoods of large sections of the poor, working class, women, youth and middle strata in both developed and developing countries at great risk. At the same time, a small global elite in the pharmaceutical and technology companies have massively increased their wealth, cashing in on the devastating human disaster occasioned by the pandemic. The global response to COVID-19 was characterised largely by the assertion of dominant geopolitical interests which gave rise to what was described as "vaccine nationalism" or "vaccine apartheid", instead of international solidarity and multi-lateral collaboration. Under South Africa's leadership, Africa's response was driven by a collective agenda of common concern for humanity. As Africans, we will invest in our own scientific, industrial and state capabilities to deal with pandemics, climate disasters, peace and security as well as economic development challenges and ambitions.

5.5. In the past five years, the **increasing intensity of the climate crisis poses an existential threat to biodiversity and human progress**. Climate change is neither a hoax nor a conspiracy. It is a real threat that continues to devastate economies and destroy livelihoods. Many communities across the world, including in our country, have been experiencing more frequent extreme weather events – floods, fires and droughts and greater levels of water-energy-food insecurity. People in the Global South bear the greatest burden of the climate crisis, whilst industrialised countries of the Global North that are largely responsible for this crisis are attempting to shift costs towards the developing countries. The Just Energy Transition towards a low carbon future is necessary to save the planet. However, the Just Energy Transition must be fair and just, and its place must put at the forefront the needs of the developing countries of the Global South, rather than being determined by the geoeconomic and geopolitical interests of the Global North. Developing countries have to prevent yet another plunder of their rare earth minerals and develop their own technologies so that they can be central players in the production of renewable energy resources.

5.6. **Rapid technological change** including the fourth industrial revolution is changing economies, societies, polities, forms of organisation, ways of thinking and the battle of ideas in unprecedented ways. There is a need to further strengthen relevant policy that will enable skills development and create opportunities for educational and economic development. New digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Blockchain, Machine Learning and

- others have created new economic activities that can expand job creation and self-employment. The key public policy agenda is to promote access to digital infrastructure and deploying new digital technologies to solve problems in the economy and broader society, such as the development of new productive forces and enhancement of the innovative delivery of public services such as healthcare, education, community safety and food security. The progressive forces need to ensure that the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) and the consequent digital transition is not appropriated by elites to displace workers and marginalise poor people; it must not reproduce and sustain existing global, regional and national inequalities and injustices; the risks such as displacement of workers, increased cyber-crime and cyber insecurity as well as violation of privacy should be addressed proactively. Tackling the digital inequalities and harnessing the transformative and developmental potential of new technologies to empower the youth, women, the working class and the poor is one of the defining features of what it means to be progressive in the 21st century. The developmental state we lead must invest in science, technology and innovation, digital infrastructure and massive skills development to equip workers and young people with new knowledge and digital skills for the new economy and society.

5.7. **We in Africa are severely impacted by the unfolding global developments**. Africa is not a neutral observer or a disinterested bystander on global politics. We are deeply interested in the kind of global order that will safeguard our common interests. We belong to the progressive family of nations and regions that seek to free themselves from neo-colonial capture and imperialist plunder. We have suffered from slavery, colonialism and imperialism. We seek to carve our own democratic and developmental path that puts the interests of the people and the sustainability of the planet first. A s the world undergoes multiple transitions and crises, we urgently need a more inclusive, equitable and just system of global governance. Africa will insist on the restructuring of multilateral institutions to safeguard equity, justice and redress as we deal with pandemics, climate change, peace and confliction resolution as well as trade and investment. Progressive global forces must ensure that countries in the Global South are not marginalised, exploited or left behind. Africa will also continue to insist that the destiny of our continent is in our own hands, that we will build the Africa we want, as set out in the African Union Agenda 2063.

5.8. There are **three significant developments** that warrant strategic attention in the African continent. Firstly, as Africa, we had to weather the multiple storms of COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine war, climate change, rapid technological change, the global economic slowdown and rising geopolitical tensions. **Africa's response to COVID-19** was commendable: coherent leadership, better coordination and good execution, offering many lessons for our future response to other development challenges. Secondly, the **signing of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)** is one of the most positive developments of this decade, marking a historic era that offers real prospects and opportunities for increased levels of economic integration, industrialisation and trade between countries on the continent. Thirdly, there is a worrying development in our continent: **the resurgence of conflicts and military coups in some countries and regions** is a serious reversal of the gains made since the establishment of the African Union twenty years ago. The ANC hereby underscores the importance of peace and human security. Silencing the guns is an urgent development imperative for our continent. In this regard, the ANC will do its part to ensure that African leadership across the different sectors work together to advance Africa's renewal and renaissance, prioritise peace, economic integration and industrialisation.

5.9. The ANC must pay persistent attention to the strengthening of party-to-party relations and solidarity work with progressive forces, including liberation movements as well as emergent progressive parties and movements. We must build relations with those that share our vision for Africa's renaissance and win more forces over towards the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063, including those in opposition. We must play our full role in ensuring that African continental institutions are strengthened to enable our continent to advance self-reliance, solidarity, collaboration and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

5.10. Globally, women and young people, especially in the Global South, suffer the most in pandemics, wars, climate disasters and socio-economic ills such as unemployment, poverty, inequality, violence and crime. Strengthening the women's movement and taking forward the Gender Agenda 2030, as well as the Global Youth Agenda are strategic imperatives of

all progressive forces in the 21st century. In this regard, the ANC welcomes the launch of the Young Women of Africa (YWOA) in 2021, which is convened by South Africa. The progressive forces should lead national, continental and global campaigns to genuinely and effectively integrate women and the youth into the sustainable development agenda, including challenges such as migration, developing a common African language and fighting against trans-national organised crime such as drug and human trafficking.

5.11. In summary, we live in an era where the world is in the midst of multiple crises that cannot be resolved through a unipolar and unilateral dominance by the Global North: the multiple crises of the current international situation are pointing to a shift back to multipolarity and multilateralism. Developing countries and progressive forces, through platforms such as BRICS and G20 as well as other global platforms, are pushing for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced global order that will guarantee humanity's collective survival and success, buttressed by strong multilateral collaboration and international solidarity. This is the best way through which we can tackle multiple existential problems humanity faces.

6. With regard to the changing **domestic balance of forces** and current developments in South Africa, Conference identified the following as the key trends and developments that have profound implications for the future of South Africa:

6.1. Conference noted, with a profound sense of reflection, that South Africa reaches the milestone of **30 years of democracy in 2024**. This will be an important moment to boldly review the journey of our country's transition from apartheid colonialism to a national democratic society – the indisputable and irreversible progress; serious setbacks and reversals we have suffered and areas in which we have reached stagnation. This, we must do, in order to guarantee the forward march to build a better life for all and rid our society of all vestiges of apartheid colonialism.

6.2. As a starting point, we move from the premise that South Africa has made **significant gains since the dawn of our democracy in 1994**. The gains of our democratic breakthrough include the following:

- the adoption of a transformative Constitution that guarantees fundamental freedoms and human rights to all citizens and the establishment of democratic institutions that function in accordance with the Constitution;
- expansion of basic services and infrastructure to millions of people who now have access to housing, education, health, water, energy and income support through a social security net;
- and kick-starting the first phase of economic transformation by introducing laws and policies on worker rights, employment equity and Broad-Based Black Empowerment and some level of GDP growth.

6.3. Conference is of the unanimous view that the gains of our freedom and democracy must be defended, consolidated and advanced by ensuring that all citizens enjoy a better life as demanded by the Constitution of the Republic. Ours must become a people-centred and people-driven democracy in practice – what the veterans refer to as *"a democracy with South African characteristics where the interests and well-being of the people must come first"*. Whatever debates we can have on the shortcomings of our constitutional democracy, one thing must be clear: the narrative propagated by conservative and neo-liberal forces – defenders of white privilege and the colonial legacy – that life was better under apartheid colonialism, is rejected with all the contempt it deserves. Similarly, the ANC rejects the notion, by peace-time armchair critics, that our constitutional democratic order is a sell-out of the revolution. We will continue to defend and advance our long-standing ideals of transformative constitutionalism, while working hard to translate these ideals into a better life.

6.4. Conference noted the conservative and neo-liberal forces opposed to the fundamental transformation of South Africa – those who want to retain white domination, patriarchy and colonial privilege in the post-apartheid socio-economic reality have been gaining confidence and expanding their zone of influence. These counter-revolutionary forces are pitching for a moral and intellectual claim on how to take South Africa out of the current multiple crises. Their common strategic agenda is to stop or derail the national transformation project in South Africa. They hope to do so by undermining the authority of the democratic state and questioning the moral legitimacy of the ANC as a force for change. They use the demoralisation and discontent of the motive forces to achieve their counter-revolutionary and racist agenda. They have used the dem-

ocratic institutions skilfully to try and sustain racial privilege in the economy and broader society.

6.5 Racism and sexism remain prevalent in all spheres of society. The racists are attacking, victimising, harassing and hounding Black people out of important sectors and critical spaces. We need to strengthen the instruments to fight racism and ensure that there is no place for racists in our constitutional democracy. In a similar vein the war against women, manifested in pandemic-level incidences of gender based violence and femicide and against LGBTQI persons, is a backlash against advances in tackling gender oppression. We must remain resolute in our determination to dismantle patriarchy and build a truly non-sexist society.

6.6. The 55th National Conference reaffirms the assertion of the 50th National Conference, the ANC-led Alliance and the broad progressive movement in our country must be conscious of the activities of **organised counter-revolution** in our country, whose objective has always been *"to disorganise, weaken and destroy the ANC from within and from outside and to weaken the state institutions responsible for realising democratic gains"*, and in the face of this, be persistent in safeguarding the people's interests. This Conference also reaffirms the view of the 54th National Conference Strategy & Tactics resolution that *"on the other hand, there is a possibility that the mass of the people can, by commission or omission, precipitate an electoral outcome that places into positions of authority, forces that can stealthily and deceitfully chip away at the progressive realisation of a National Democratic Society…Further, it cannot altogether be ruled out that the liberation movement itself can be so corrupted – in terms of its objectives, policies, value system, as well as composition and conduct of leadership – that it becomes a bed of counter-revolutionary infestation."* In order to defeat counter-revolution and guarantee the continuity of our National Democratic Revolution, we must pay serious attention to the socio-economic reality of the people and prioritise the fundamental renewal and re-invigoration of the ANC alongside strengthening state capacity to meet the socio-economic needs of the people.

6.7 Conference therefore calls on the NEC to ensure that, wherever we govern, there must be demonstrable urgency and decisiveness in dealing with the pressing social and economic problems facing the people of South Africa. Unless we urgently deal with the pressing problems of the people in general, and the motive forces of the NDR in particular, the transition to a National Democratic Society will be aborted and the forces opposed to change will be victorious.

6.8 These problems include the following:

- chronic poor performance of the economy and the resultant high rates of unemployment, poverty and inequality;
- the collapse of many municipalities and poor maintenance of infrastructure across government undermining service delivery;
- the energy crisis undermines growth, investment and job creation efforts and further hampers delivery of education, water, healthcare, safety and other social services;
- rising cost of living makes it difficult for households to meet their most basic needs such as food, transport and clothing;
- increasing levels of lawlessness, criminality and violence, including gender-based violence and racism erode social cohesion gains made over the years.

6.9. In summary, the developments on the domestic front point to the conclusion that the NDR is facing grave danger: unlike in the earlier period of our transition to democracy, the balance of forces is shifting away from the progressive force and the motive forces are getting demoralised and demobilised. For reasons outlined in the Renewal Commission document, the ANC-led democratic movement is increasingly losing the strategic initiative and moral high-ground, while counter-revolution is gaining confidence about the possibility remove the ANC from power and ultimately derail the transformation of South Africa.

7. The 55th National Conference strongly reaffirmed the resolutions of the 53rd and 54th National Conference on the **sustained renewal of the ANC** to regain the moral, intellectual and political high-ground as the leader of society. There is no turning back on the fundamental renewal of the ANC and radical socio-economic transformation of South Africa. Conference delegates share a common commitment to arrest any negative tendencies and decisively correct errors that threaten to overshadow and reverse the gains of our democracy and frontiers of freedom.

8. The principal contradictions and problems faced by the motive forces must be resolved as a matter of urgency by a more renewed and rejuvenated ANC that leads a state that is bold, ethical and capable of implementing a developmental and transformative agenda. Resistance to transformation must be crushed by the combined force of the people and the democratic state. Corruption is the enemy of the people and a counter-revolutionary act that must be defeated. Poor performance, laziness and incompetence are anti-people tendencies that must not be tolerated wherever the ANC governs. The ANC must take steps to re-invigorate its tactics for national democratic transformation through policy renewal, institution-building and enhancing the capabilities of the state. We must review policies and programmes that have not worked and boldly make changes. Our country, especially the motive forces, need a more assertive and emboldened ANC that is capable of defending the gains of our constitutional democracy and advancing the transformation agenda without any apology.

9. Conference noted that many progressive parties and movements are renewing themselves and re-imagining progressive politics and governance in the 21st century. As a disciplined force of the left, the ANC's renewal project is about positioning the movement to play a leading role in developing a humanistic, people-centred and ecologically sustainable response to all global issues such as climate crisis, the fourth industrial revolution, pandemics, conflicts and migration. Progressive forces should also have a common agenda about issues such as de-colonisation of education curricula, de-criminalisation of sex work and respect for the rights of all people, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Progressive forces should further harness the potential and power of social media to shape public consciousness and political discourse; and its potential to transform political organisation as we have known it. Social media must be used as a platform of connecting with the people, advancing progressive ideas and receiving feedback – rather than merely as an instrument for individual self-promotion. In this regard, there must be revolutionary discipline among the members of the ANC on how they conduct themselves on social media platforms.

10. Conference also reviewed the political state of the Alliance and the broad Mass Democratic Movement. These democratic forces were at the centre of our struggle for liberation and are part and parcel of the ongoing efforts to transform South Africa into a National Democratic Society. The Alliance has been impacted by the changes in the global and domestic environment over the past three decades. It also faces new strategic and organisational questions about relevance, renewal and reconfiguration. Critically, the NEC should ensure that the discussion on the reconfiguration of the Alliance is concluded, paying adequate attention to the theoretical underpinnings and organisational form that the Alliance may require as the new conditions of democracy take root.

11. In the past five years, South Africa is confronted by the question of unstable of coalitions in local government. The ANC and its Alliance partners have been found wanting in dealing with his new reality. As a matter of principle, our attitude and approach to government coalitions must be shaped by our overall perspective on the best way to advance and achieve the goal of building a national democratic society. Our failure to adequately theorise this issue places us at risk of entering into opportunistic and personality-driven coalitions that are completely out of sync with our immediate, medium and long-term objectives and core values. The ANC, the Alliance and allied progressive forces need to develop a more coherent perspective that is premised on safeguarding socio-economic transformation, sustainable development, service delivery, accountability and active citizen participation in democratic governance. Firstly, we must strive for and work towards a decisive victory in every election. Secondly, where we find ourselves, objectively, in a situation that requires establishing a coalition, we must ensure that any coalition we are part of must be based on certain principles that put the interests of the people first – a stable government with a minimum programme that can improve service delivery and push forward the transformation agenda from which the ANC will never retreat. Thirdly, the ANC must not participate in a coalition which is simply about the sharing of spoils of office by political parties where there's no chance of delivering any benefits to citizens. If we have performed badly in elections, we should be principled enough go into opposition and build anew than to be part of a coalition government that undermines the foundational principles and values of both the ANC and the Constitution of the Republic. The newly-elected NEC should urgently develop a guiding paper on the ANC's strategic perspective on this matter of coalition governments, learning from other progressive parties across the world.

12. All the issues and perspectives outlined in this resolution require ongoing and much deeper reflection not only in the ANC, but across the entire dem-

ocratic movement and progressive forces in our country, including social movements and civil society organisations that are genuinely committed to transformation. Accordingly, Conference resolves to mandate the newly-elected NEC to convene a series of representative, consultative sessions on issues of strategy and tactics in 2023 and after the 2024 elections. These strategy and tactics sessions will enable the ANC, the Alliance and the other progressive forces to review the changing global and domestic balance of forces and the tasks of the liberation movement in the current phase and beyond. This will also provide the platform to take forward the ideas contained in the report of the Renewal Commission, which were universally appreciated. As part of this process, research on these issues, including scenario planning, will position the movement in good standing as it pursues the renewal of the ANC and the Alliance.

13. The delegates to the 55th National Conference are at one: South Africa and the ANC, are at a moment of fundamental consequence. This moment requires clarity of thought, firm conviction and courage, decisiveness as well as an unshaken commitment to the ideals that have inspired generations of South Africa's freedom fighters who sacrificed and suffered so that our country can be free, and our people can live as equals, with their human dignity fully restored. We shall not allow the gains of our democracy to be eroded and reversed. We shall not allow the radical socio-economic transformation of our country to be aborted. Nor shall we allow the fundamental renewal of the ANC to be stopped or sabotaged.

14. The democratic renewal of our country and the fundamental transformation of our society and economy is a strategic goal from which the ANC will not retreat. As our country undergoes significant macro-social changes and the world experiences multiple disruptive transitions, the ANC and the progressive forces need to re-invigorate a vision of what it means to be progressive in the 21st century - with respect to strategy and tactics, policy, and methods of organisation – placing the well-being of all of humanity and the planet at the centre of our political life

We dare not fail!

ORGANISATIONAL RENEWAL

Delegates to the 55th National Conference, in the various commissions, reflected on the ongoing challenges of renewal. Conference therefore adopted the resolutions on Organisational strategy, renewal, and sustainability of the 6th National Policy Conference.

On the Organisational Culture of the ANC

55th National Conference noted that:

a) Our approach to Organisational Renewal is informed by the character of the ANC as a liberation movement that must organise, mobilise and lead the motive forces in society in pursuit of a National Democratic Society. The ANC is also a registered political party that contests elections, governs; and in some sub-national spheres, participates as opposition.

b) The organisational culture and traditions of the ANC as a movement are based on:

- Being rooted among the people, representing their interests, concerns, aspirations, transforming society and developing every community;
- Maintaining a vibrant internal democracy and supporting the principle and practice of collective leadership;
- Readiness and willingness of our members to serve, and make sacrifices in pursuit of the cause of the people as a whole;
- Readiness to acknowledge and decisively address our weaknesses in order to accelerate the people's struggle;
- Increasing our capacity to plan, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies, and their impact on the people and society;
- Upholding and building unity across all sections of our society and progressive forces in the world in pursuit of social justice across the globe.

c) The ANC must build its capacity in the five pillars of socio-economic transformation, namely the state, the economy, the battle of ideas, international work and organisational work.

d) Instructs the National Executive Committee to develop a short term renewal programme of action, which includes the following elements, with clear timeframes and a monitoring and evaluation framework, as follows:

- Implementing the resolution of the 54th Conference which said:

  "Organisational renewal therefore is an absolute and urgent priority, and we may go as far as to say, to the survival of our great movement";
- Adressing the strategic challenge of the deterioration of the political quality of membership of the ANC as successively raised at all National Conferences and NGC's of the ANC during the period 1997 – 2022 and therefore the imperative urgently to adress the political quality of our membership, focussing on quality rather than quantity;
- Carrying out an audit of our membership on the basis of agreed objective criteria;
- A renewed vision with a renewed leadership;
- Building branches and the new membership system;
- Building the New Cadre;
- Building a non-sexist and non-racial movement;
- Fighting corruption, and organisational misconduct;
- Strengthening the accountability and performance framework;
- Strengthening elections campaign capacity;
- Mobilising and organising the motive forces and sectors;
- Strengthening the leadership selection process;
- Strengthening the Alliance.

On a Renewed Vision

Conference notes:

1) Work done by the Renewal Commission towards the development of the draft 2032 Roadmap, towards the realisation of the National Democratic Society.

2) The need to engage branches, sectors and broader society in discussions on the 2032 Roadmap, and to ensure its localisation based on the material conditions in each locality and sector.

3) The need to enhance discussions in branches, regions, provinces and the NEC, and Alliance partners on the Strategy and Tactics of the ANC, ahead of the Strategy Convention.

4) The need for meetings of RECs, PECs and the NEC to reflect on the Balance of Forces and the Programme of Renewal, from the local to the global situation, guided by the ANC's vision and mission.

5) The renewal process must not only be an internal ANC process but must also lead to a renewal of governance, and society as a whole.

6) Conference confirms the overarching framework for renewal as recommended by the 6th National Policy Conference as:

   - Renewal of values and organisational culture and ethics;
   - Dealing decisively with corruption and unacceptable conduct;
   - Engaging with, and pursuing the aspirations of the people;
   - Taking responsibility to use the resources of the state for the people's benefit as required by the Constitution – economically, efficiently and equitably.

Though Conference understood that strictly speaking the Renewal Plan of Action by the ANC Veterans League does not address the specific matter of the Organisational Renewal of the ANC, it reaffirmed the following key priorities within the context of the broader transformation agenda of the ANC:

7) Delivering to communities, by creating an environment where people feel hopeful, by addressing local government and basic services challenges, and building on the Letsema and other community campaigns.

8) Addressing state capture and corruption: to regain the confidence of the people, Conference expressed regret for what happened, unreservedly condemn those involved in state capture and corruption, and therefore commit to a national effort to fight corruption, working with civil society and citizens.

9) Democracy with South African characteristics: advancing the principle of participatory and people-centred democracy as set out in the Constitution of the Republic. In this regard, mobilise for peoples active participation in IDP process, public hearings, and development in communities, enhance the role of parliamentary constituency offices (PCOs), service the communities with advice, and improve the relationship between public representatives and the people. Initiate social compacting at local level with business, civil society and trade unions in order to improve food security, fight crime, GBVF and vandalism and enhance imperatives towards local economic development.

On Building the New Cadre

Conference reaffirms the recommendations of the 6th Policy conference, aimed at strengthening our Cadre Policy as follows:

10) Develop political education cells to sharpen the ideological, theoretical, policy and organisational skills of our members in order that they may excel in their organisational tasks.

11) Tailor the OR Tambo political school curriculum to meet the needs of the new ANC member.

12) Rebuild the culture of discipline and dismantle factions aimed at dissension amongst fellow comrades and the organisation. Eliminate activities informed by divisions, sexual bias, disrespect for fellow comrades and intra-organisational violence..

13) Replenish the ANC membership by drawing more young people into its ranks and leadership structures and tackle the perception that the ANC is disconnected from the struggles of young people.

14) The revival of the ANC Youth League remains critical to the renewal project, as a preparatory school. As part of the Roadmap 2032, the ANC must adopt a Ten-point plan for Youth Economic Empowerment, to decisively tackle the youth unemployment crisis.

15) Reaffirm the importance of compulsory induction and political schools for all leadership collectives and public representatives.

16) Attract skilled people with expertise that will assist our transformation agenda. The ANC must invest more resources in cadre development and bring back to the fold its intelligentsia through mobilising in various sectors. This may mean allowing for the recruitment of sectoral expertise that will assist in specific areas e.g., local government, health, education, and others.

17) We must forge a cadreship imbued with a militant, principled and fighting spirit, who, no matter the setbacks or difficulties, will never give up or betray the cause of the people.

On the role and key tasks of the ANC Branch, Conference notes and resolves that:

18) Branches are our means to stay in touch with our constituency/communities and impact on development, and our means to mobilise and organise our people. They are the first point of contact between the ANC, the motive forces and the people as a whole.

19) Branches must respond to the needs and interests of the community and mobilise the people to form partnerships for development and transformation.

20) Branches are ward-based to enable us to drive, monitor and account for delivery of services at the most local level.

21) Ward councillors must report to branches and BECs, and branches work with councillors to report to and serve the community.

22) All motive forces are represented in our local areas and branches must strive to build trust, address issues of concern and work side by side with communities.

23) To strengthen, support and reinforce the work of branches in the community through the following:

    a) All branches should have sub-committees that focus on sectors, community issues and campaigns.

    b) The ANC must be involved in every issue that concerns people and should drive campaigns without gate-keeping and trying to control the people.

    c) Units or sub-branches can be set up to strengthen our ability to reach people directly, as reflected in the ANC Constitution.

    d) Regional structures must bring branches together to plan municipal programmes, elections and hold the ANC in local government to account.

    e) All branch members must be inducted within 3 months and integrated into a sub-committee to work in the community.

    f) Every BEC must draw up an annual plan against which branch performance audits will be done, to achieve the following:

        - Review community profile and identify sectors and their issues;
        - Respond to community issues and make concrete plans on what to do as ANC, community and local government;
        - Identify cadres to participate in CPF, SGB, clinic committees, and any other participation structures with the role of leading through influence and support rather than demanding leadership positions;
        - Develop a sectoral outreach plan and attend meetings of other organisations;
        - Analyse delivery issues and municipal plans, give ANC input and report to community, with councillors and MP/L;
        - Communicate and meet with community at least three times per year and support councillor report-backs and all public participation processes;
        - Develop any key local issue campaigns and roll them out;
        - Advise and support anyone or any group experiencing a problem, disaster or conflict.

24) Encourage voters, especially youth, to register and assist them to do so online or at municipal electoral office.

25) Ensure compulsory BEC induction, new members induction in first six months based on the ANC Branch Manual adopted by the NEC.

26) Review ward-based branches in rural areas, given the challenges of distance and other factors. Where possible set up VD-based coordinating structures.

27) Set up sectoral branches, after developing clear criteria for establishment, role and powers of such branches

28) Branches may be deemed not in good standing if they cannot report on any community programme or activity.

On a non-sexist and non-racial movement, Conference:

29) Note progress with building a non-sexist organisation, reflected in the ANC membership and support. Advance the gender equity principle in our organisation, and the policies and programme of the ANC-led government to advance a non-sexist, non-racial society.

30) Acknowledged the persistence of patriarchal culture in the movement and society, and therefore the need for non-sexism education across the gender spectrum.

31) Mount an effective response to gender-based violence based on intersectional strategy of women emancipation that deals with the root causes of

gender-based violence including patriarchy, poverty, social inequality, and unemployment.

32) Note the significant deterioration of the non-racial character of the ANC, both within membership and leadership of the movement, from branch to national.

33) Recommends a targeted strategy to organise all communities to proactively rebuild the non-racial culture and support base of the ANC.

On Leadership and Renewal, Conference resolved:

34) The unity and renewal of the ANC must be led by the President as the Political Head of the ANC, and assisted by former Presidents of the ANC. The Secretary General must be the Chief Administrator of the Renewal Project, and the Veterans of the movement must be in the forefront of renewal efforts.

35) Leadership within the Organisation must be predicated on attendance at OR School.

36) The ANC's deployment strategy must be based on meritocracy, meaning that cadres with adequate skills and capabilities must be deployed in all spheres of government.

37) Ensure generational mix when electing leadership of the ANC. Young people must be organically developed in the ANC, so that when they are elected, are imbued in the organizational culture and its theoretic disposition. The Veterans League must assist with leadership development by guiding young members of the ANC.

38) Ensure that all leaders are elected within the framework provided by Through the Eye of a Needle.

39) Strengthen ethics of ANC members, including comrades that are deployed into positions, especially in the public sector.

40) Reaffirm the core values of the ANC as courage, service, self-sacrifice, human solidarity, integrity, temperance, humility, honesty, hard work, self-discipline and mutual respect.

On Leadership collectives

41) Instruct leadership collectives to remain preoccupied with the core tasks of building a National Democratic Society, taking in consideration strategic vulnerabilities such as service delivery failures, economic inequality and instability, the impact of climate change, and sabotage of strategic national assets.

42) NEC, PEC and REC members must be active in their constituencies.

43) Strengthen collective leadership that is grounded on the principles of the people first, organisational renewal, introspection and upholding and living the values of the ANC. ANC leadership, as collectives and individuals must be the leading agents for progressive change and building a better life for all.

44) Dispel narratives that the ANC is self-serving and not sensitive to the lived realities of our people, by being responsive on service delivery issues, being held accountable, upholding integrity and behaving in a disciplined, honest, consistent and caring manner.

45) Develop an approach to deal with the growing ultra-left and fascist movements in our society and regain our hegemony.

46) Do away with the culture of recycling incompetent leaders, while we must embrace diversity, debate and ethical engagement.

47) We should constantly improve our leadership election system and the Electoral Committee and the Renewal Commission should examine future options including whether members should vote directly in leadership contests dependant on constitutional amendments.

48) Financial disclosures should be required from all leaders who stand for election or wish to be elected as public representatives. Lifestyle audits may also be undertaken where needed. All members of the ANC must be vetted, particularly in relation to criminal records.

On Building an outward-looking ANC with a clear programme that serves the people, Conference resolves that:

49) All ANC structures have to change their focus towards the people we serve and the problems and challenges they face in their daily lives.

50) We must build the capacity at grassroots level and in government to engage with the people, to develop evidence-based policies, programmes and projects and to deliver these effectively.

51) PEC's, REC's and BEC's should have active sub-committees that deal with areas of concern such as education, health, safety, economic opportunities and other issues.

52) Every structure, every leader, every public representative, every member of cabinet, or MAYCO, will be assessed against the targets set for their engagement with the people and issues affecting them.

On dealing with misconduct, crime, corruption and ill-discipline, Conference

53) Reaffirmed the step-aside resolution of the 54th Conference. The future of the ANC and the trust of our people depend on its speedy and uniform implementation. We cannot as the governing party ask for the trust of the people, while deploying people charged with serious crimes. Conference urged the NEC to ensure that the regulations be implemented uniformly, impartially, consistently and fairly and not used to fight factional battles, and that the situation of those who stepped aside, may be reviewed every 6 months.

54) Urged the NEC, PECs and RECs to ensure that corruption cases and misconduct disciplinary hearings are speeded up. The Integrity Commission and the Disciplinary Committees in the ANC have to be held to deadlines that do not unduly prejudice affected comrades.

55) We must publicly dissoiate from those that are corrupt, commit serious crimes, abuse women and children, and are involved in sexual harassment.

56) Cadres who are charged should not wait for the ANC to tell them to step aside, but must do so before being asked. Their preparedness to protect the image of the ANC is also a measure of their level of political maturity and whether, in the first place, they deserved senior positions in the movement.

57) If at all any instances of abuse of the step-aside rule – such as false accusations and malicious prosecution – is identified and proven, this should be sanctioned to the maximum extent of the law and the ANC Code of Conduct.

On Accountability and Performance management, Conference resolved:

58) The ANC must strengthen accountability for Government interventions as instructed by the SGO. An ANC Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation Department must be established and fortified with appropriate mechanisms that should manage accountability and monitoring and evaluation of policy positions, including the implementation and progress thereof. All public representatives, including the Executive must report periodically against key performance areas

59) At national level the MPs and Caucus report to the NEC and are held accountable by the chief whip and the SGO. The president and cabinet also report to the NEC through the policy unit.

60) At provincial level the PEC should set up a similar policy monitoring structure under the Provincial Secretary's office to hold MPLs to account together with the chief whip and the caucus. The premier and executive committee or cabinet also report to the PEC through then policy unit. At district level the councillors and mayors and chief whips report to the PEC and ANC caucus.

61) At local municipal level there is no adequate reporting mechanism and it is proposed that the sub-regional structures and the leadership of the ANC in council meet regularly to discuss ward issues, problems and municipal programmes.

62) At a ward level the ward councillor sits ex-officio in the BEC and reports every three months to the members in branch meetings and to the voters in public meetings.

63) To provide proper political management of polices and local government. The National Local Government Forum must be revived with all MECs, relevant ministers, Treasury, COGTA, SGO, Provincial Secretaries, Political Education, Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation and Elections committies. The structure must be replicated at provincial level to ensure accountability, speedy and coherent intervention where needed.

64) Long term policy imperatives must not be overshadowed by short term interventions. NEC members should participate but not lead in sub-committees in their respective area of deployment in Government. The NEC must, periodically, review the functionality and performance of sub-committees. Technical experts should moderate progress made on key performance areas/indicators.

On Elections Campaign capacity, Conference noted and resolved that:

65) The 2024 national and provincial elections will be an important milestone in the history of our country, as we celebrate thirty years of democracy. All indications are that these sixth national and provincial elections will be particularly challenging, given our electoral decline since 2004.

66) Concerns of voters centered around poor performance of government (both local and national government), and feelings that the country is moving in the wrong direction. Our core supporters feel that we perform poorly on the economy and dealing with corruption, because we are a house divided.

67) The NEC therefore needs to establish the machinery for the 2024 elections as amongst its first tasks after Conference, including sufficient capacity for communications, mobilization, training, resources and voter education at all levels.

On Mobilising and organising motive forces and sectors

68) The mobilisation of motive forces requires that the ANC engage with critical sectors in society on an ongoing basis and not just during elections. We must involve community-based organisations to contribute to the renewal of the ANC.

69) For better coordination, targeted sectors must be allowed to organise into branches under strict conditions. This will attract many young skilled professionals into the fold of the ANC. We must also consider the needs of those who support the ANC but who are not members.

On strengthening the Alliance, Conference notes and resolves:

70) The dramatic dynamism as characterised by events locally and in the global arena, requires that the ANC in alliance with SACP and COSATU evaluate the progress made in achieving the NDR. This must include prioritised discussions on organisational and political relationships of the alliance partners and the transformation of the economy to achieve the goals of the NDR.

On Coalitions and Opposition

71) The ANC must build its capacities to manage and engage in the art and science of principled, stable and sustainable coalition building, and where appropriate as an effective, patriotic opposition, working for a better life for all.

55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON

FINANCE: ORGANISATIONAL AND PROGRAMME SUSTAINABILITY

Conference Noted:

1. The progress made in implementing the resolutions of the 54th National Conference on building and resourcing the organisation.
2. The Organisational and the Treasurer Generals Reports presented to the 55th National Conference outlining the state of the organisation, stating amongst others that:
    - o to remain the leader of society, the ANC must invest in long-term sustainability and modernisation of the ANC.
    - o the ANC headquarters is making substantial progress in modernising and professionalising the organisation, at the Human Resource and organisational development level, to ensure that those employed deliver on their responsibilities with the correct tools of trade.
    - o The organisation is now operating in a new resoruces environment as a result of the adopted Political Party Funding Act (PPFA), the impact of Covid-19 and other economic related challenges.
    - o The subdued economy has had an enormous impact on the earnings and profitability of South African Companies which in turn has negatively impacted fundraising initiatives.
    - o That despite these challenges, the organisation managed to secure some savings in resourcing the programmes of the organisation, including the payment of salaries, albeit late at times and supporting the elections campaign across the country

- The current organisational structure of the ANC is not fit for purpose at all levels of the organisation, and this includes the administrative and managerial capacity that requires ongoing review and modernisation.
- The current organisational structure and operational expenses are not sustainable wih the current financial standing of the organisation.
- That the heavy relience on donor and private sector funding coupled with the challenges in this regard poses a major risk to the ANC's financial stability and thereby its indepedence and being able to be the leader of society.
- The ANC has not made progress to increase its revenue base which can be used to support is programmes.
- Concerns raised by the Leagues and some delegates at conference in respect of raising the membership fees to R240-00 per year per member.
- That the ANC remains with historical debts, which is rising, the implications are that what we continue to fundraise goes into the interests and other costs related to historical debt.
- The ANC largely depends on private donations.
- The work done by the Renewal Commission and the ANC Vision 2023 and Roadmap Report presented to the 55th National Conference as the basis to advance the renewal and modernisation programme.

Believing:

- That the ANC is guided by the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of South Africa, and that the State must fund democracy.
- That the State has a responsibility to transform the economy through appropriate policies, legislation and procurement procedures.
- The ANC's long terms vision is the progressive redistribution of wealth to reduce the vast inequalities between the rich and the poor.

Further believing:

- It is for this reason that big business and the ultra-rich have preferred to fund other parties rather than the ANC and that this situation will not change as long as the ANC has pro-poor policies.
- That some businesses which have funded the ANC have done so for self-serving interests, including expecting that the ANC as the governing party will use state resources in a corrupt manner to build their business interests, rather than to support the pro-poor agenda of the ANC.
- As leader of society, the ANC has responsibility to champion good governance and good financial management.
- Political parties are essential public institutions for the functioning SA democracy as outlined in the Constitution.
- That substantive further work must be done to enhance the draft Renewal Commisison Report presented to the 55th Conference and that the final outcomes of Renewal Action plan will have resource implications

Therefore Resolves:

1. The State must fully fund the activities of all political parties as part of funding democracy, and protecting the independence, transparency, accountabiity and integrity of political parties

2. To accelerate the implementation of the recommendations in the Treasurer's Report to ensure financial stability, including:
    - Directing the NEC of the ANC to increase the ANC Membership Fee as soon as possible to an appropriate amount that reflects commitment of members to sustain the organisation within the overall context of affordability;
    - Exploring new investment opportunities;
    - Dedicate a Fundraising Team whose sole responsibility will be to raise funds to liquidate the huge debt and liabilities;
    - Consolidate ANC Properties under a Trust to enable the ANC to leverage revenue from these assets;
    - Utilise ANC property assets to generate additional revenue.

3. To standardise and capacitate all organisations structures, financial systems and practices to be compliant in terms of financial mangement, accounting and reporting standards.

4. To implement the organsiational re-design and modernisation project to ensure that the organisation is fit for purpose, capacitated appropriately and able to respond efficiently to the dynamics of our modern ever-changing contexts. This includes:
    - Strenghtening the research-based policy, monitoring, evaluation capacity to support evidence-based decision making.
    - Supporting further training and capacity building of staff
    - Implementing technology-based, enterprise resource operational and management systems

5. That the NEC must take responsibility for managing the further work required on the Renewal report, supported by a resource team of organisational development, change management and finance specialists.

PEACE AND STABILITY

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The Commission affirms the 2022 National Policy Conference recommendations:

1.2 Since the 54th National Conference, the ANC led government prioritised the building capacity within the criminal justice and law enforcement authorities. In this regard, more effort was concentrated towards the restoration of the capabilities and credibility of the National Prosecuting Authority, the South African Police Service, the Hawks and the State Security Agency. However, more still needs to be done towards the re-vitalisation of Community Policing Forums. In its quest to strengthen border law enforcement, concerted efforts have been made towards the establishment of Border Management Authority.

In addition to strengthening the state's ability to respond, the ANC needs to undertake a political programme to safeguard the National Democratic Revolution and the gains of our democracy.

1.3 Crime and violence have become increasingly greater problems for the country. Communities live in fear, worried about gangsterism, armed robberies, rape and murder. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to the violence perpetrated against them by men. The economy is being held back by damage to infrastructure, extortion at construction sites, corruption, proliferation of illicit economy and the high cost of securing businesses and assets.

1.4 Despite 28 years of freedom, many South Africans continue to experience the socioeconomic challenges that manifest themselves as poverty, unemployment and inequality. Many continue to experience deprivation characterised by lack of access to the resources, goods and services that are necessary for sustainable livelihood.

2. STATE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

2.1 The beginning of 2022 saw the continuation of Covid-19 and its economic and societal consequences and thereby posing a critical threat to global peace and stability in South Africa, Africa and the globe. Vaccine inequity coupled with uneven economic recovery present yet another challenge to the world order and the geopolitical outlook. The implications of Covid-19 Pandemic will be felt beyond 2022 characterised by economic decline in most developing countries.

2.2 The apex goals of the National Development Plan (NDP) vision 2030 are to reduce the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. However, our efforts in achieving the NDP milestones are undermined by the global dynamics.

2.3 Slow economic recovery threatens the economic development of the country. Despite government's efforts to address socioeconomic challenges, major challenges of perpetual rising cost of living impact on the life circumstances for the 40% percent of the population living in poverty. These are the people experiencing challenges of transport to work. The ANC led government provides social grants to over 18 million persons to cushion them from the impact rising food and fuel prices.

2.4 The Russia-Ukraine conflict and the US led response, typified by harsh sanctions against Russia, through the mooted Countering Malign Russian Activities Bill, will further put a strain on the global supply chains, especially the energy, food and commodities such as coal, gas, and microchips used in the manufacturing of electronic devices.

2.5 Vandalism of vital state economic infrastructure, poor delivery of basic services by Government, maladministration and corruption are fuelling lawlessness, drug abuse, crime and poverty. Therefore, increasing incidents of criminality remains major security risk to the sovereignty of the Republic. This is complicated by the increasing levels of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBV), of which some of it is perpetrated in people's household by people known to each other.

2.6 The continued porousness of our border environment continues to threaten the country's territorial integrity. Similarly, acts of crime and criminality which threaten the well-being and safety of our people. Illegal mining poses a threat to the sustainability of the mining sector and the safety and security of the communities in the mining areas.

2.7 Further noting that, acts of terrorism in the SADC region, and other transnational organised crime aspects remains a threat to the future stability of South Africa. There is an increased level of state ac-

tors in some of transnational organised crimes. Our neighbouring states remain a conduit for narcotics and other illegal substances into the country. In light of the above, communities have resorted into taking the law into their hands as a response to the perceived state failure in resolving these challenges.

3. PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 54TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

3.1 **Criminal justice system:**

3.1.1 The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD) had to deal with issues of Integrated Justice Management systems, the governance committee was appointed and the process of integration is underway whereby the Justice, Home Affairs, Police and National Prosecution Authority (NPA) would work in tandem with each other.

3.1.2 Government tabled the implementation plan on the Judicial Commission of Inquiry on Allegation of State Capture, Corruption, and Fraud in the Public Sector and the Organs of State report has been tabled in Parliament following the conclusion of the Commission's hearings and issuance of the report.

3.1.3 Work has been finalised to strengthen legislation to give capacity to the law enforcement agencies to be able to do their work efficiently. The NPA has been given more resources to be able to address issues of speedy prosecution. No one is allowed to interfere with the work of law enforcement agencies, especially the prosecution, any suspicion of inference should be reported to the SAPS quickly as possible.as that is a criminal offence.

3.2 Truth and Reconciliation Commission matters

3.2.1 **The commission notes that justice for victims of crimes committed during the apartheid era is being prioritised**.

3.2.2 The NPA has created dedicated capacity and additional posts to deal with TRC cases. Thirteen additional prosecutors were appointed to assist with these cases. In total, the NPA has 23 dedicated prosecutors working on these matters in collaboration with the 34 dedicated DPCI investigators who were recently appointed.

3.2.3 Further notes that the Missing Persons Task Team (MPTT) continued its work in tracing the fate and whereabouts of those who disappeared in political circumstances between 1960 and 1994.

3.2.4 A total of 179 individuals have been recovered to date. The remains of 167 persons have been recovered, identified and returned to the affected families. A further seven were identified and are ready to be returned to their families. Five exhumed individuals are awaiting identification confirmation. Further notes the ongoing inquests flowing from the TRC. Generally, the challenges of limited and lack of evidence due to the time lapse remain. The investigations of these cases are complex and require a lot of resources which are not available.

3.2.5 In terms of the recovery of assets and funds in foreign jurisdiction, significant progress has been made in working towards the extradition of fugitives that are abroad in terms of extradition processes. A multidisciplinary task team has been set up to coordinate repatriation of funds that have been transferred to foreign jurisdictions.

4. Migration:

4.1 The Commission supports the ongoing work of the ANC led government in addressing the issues of illegal migration.

4.2 The Commission notes that the financial constraints have hampered implementation of the ANC resolution regarding the establishment of the Refugee Reception Centres nearest to the ports of entry. Currently, there are five Refugee Reception Centres around the country in Musina, Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban and Gqeberha.

4.3 The Border Management Authority Act was passed in 2020 and this led to the recruitment of the first 200 cohorts of Border Guards who have been deployed at the six vulnerable segments across the country. Additional 400 Border Guards will be recruited and deployed in the next financial year.

5. South African Police Service:

5.1 The resolution to integrate the metro police into SAPS has not been implemented as there is resistance from the metro leadership across the country. This resistance is happening in both the ANC-led municipalities and those other metros led by other political parties.

5.2 The Commission remains concerned about historical underfunding and the impact to the security

cluster. However, in the last two years there has been demonstrable actions to improve the capacity and funding, however this remains inadequate.

5.3 The government has strived to increase the capacity of the SAPS with the recruitment of additional 15 thousand members, including the creation of specialised unit for tacking specialised crimes such as illegal mining (Zama Zama's), Construction Mafias, Fuel theft, theft of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and others.

5.3.1 The Government must strengthen its efforts to improve the professionalism and specialised capacities of the SAPS. In particular, the Government must work further to rid the SAPS, throughout its ranks, of the negative consequences of State Capture, including corruption and the weakening of the police ethic contained in the SAPS Code of Conduct, to be a close partner of the people, committed to ensure their safety and security, and an unwavering combatant against crime and lawlessness.

6. Intelligence services:

6.1 After the finalization and publication of various reports such as the High-Level Review Panel on Intelligence, the Expert Panel Report on July 2021 unrest, the State Capture report and the SIU investigating reports, recommendations contained therein require urgent implementation in order to fast-track the fight against corruption and state capture.

6.2 The capacity of intelligence services should remain a priority. In this context , the Government should carry out a detailed review of the civilian intelligence services to assess its effectiveness and bring about such changes as may be necessary.

6.3 NICOC continues to coordinate the process of the National Security Strategy (NSS). To this end the NSS has been considered and finalised by the National Security Council and currently awaits Cabinet's consideration.

7. Defence matters:

7.1 The inability of the government to provide sufficient resources to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) made it difficult for the department to implement its Defence Review of 2015. Over time the defence budget has decreased and thereby contributing to the department's inability to achieve its strategic objective.

7.2 The ANC took a decision at the dawn of democracy that the defence budget should not go below the below 2% of the GDP. Currently, the defence budget has decreased to 0.7% of the GDP. The Government must increase the resources available to SANDF so that each and all of its services can operate optimally and the Defence Force can effectively carry out its national and international tasks and obligations.

7.3 The Commission notes that we can draw lessons on how our BRICS partners are buttressing the capacity of their defence sector.

7.4 The matter of shifting DENEL from Public Enterprises back to the Department of Defence, is underway. The young black innovators programme is a positive step towards the re-establishment of the Defence Industry.

7.5 The Department of Defence has in-house capacity to undertake maintenance of all its infrastructure in and efficient and cost effective manner.

7.6 The Commission notes the continued capacity challenges that exist in the DMV. Significant strides are being made in the collaboration with Provincial Departments of Human Settlements and Health in addressing the plight of military veterans.

7.7 There are also continuous engagements with the local government to address the housing challenges facing military veterans. The matter of medical coverage for military veterans is receiving attention.

7.8 The Commission notes the interim arrangements to secure state strategic installations through the deployment of members of the South African National Defence Force.

7.9 The Department has moved towards the finalization of the Military Veterans Act in order to streamline the benefits for the veterans such as housing, pension funds, bursary for their children.

8. Unification of the Military Veterans:

8.1 The Peace and Stability Committee noted that the recognition of Umkhonto Wesizwe Liberation War Veterans (MKMV) as the representative of former war combatants. Further, we note the good progress on the work of the Presidential Task Team to address the plight of the military veterans.

8.2 The Department has moved towards the finalization of the Military Veterans Act in order to streamline the benefits for the veterans such as housing, pension funds, bursary for their children. The Defence Charter must be amended to indicate that the benefits for war veterans should be extended to include their dependents, not only the primary war veterans.

9. CURRENT POLICY MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The following policy matters are tabled for consideration by conference:

9.1 MIGRATION ISSUES

Noting that:

9.1.1 Since 1994, the ANC branches have not had a focused opportunity to reflect and discuss migration policy framework to meet modern society challenges. The ANC need to develop a new policy framework to meet modern society challenges. The ANC must ensure that the movement develops a new policy framework on migration , which must combat all manifestations of xenophobia and respects aziridinations of a united Africa.

9.1.2 In 1996 the ANC-led government acceded to the 1951 United Nations (UN) Convention and the 1967 Protocol on refugees and the 1969 OAU Convention on the status of refugees without reservations and consideration of our national interest. However, this matter is now receiving consideration.

9.1.3 The policy gaps are also prevalence in the labour market where some unscrupulous employers are practicing modern day slavery by promoting tensions between Unionised South African workers and foreign nationals and this requires a complete overhauling of the whole migration system.

9.1.4 The Mozambique's FRELIMO and RENAMO conflict displaced a number of people and there rendering them stateless. They were put in camps in South Africa. After 1994 those camps were turned into residential areas and the inhabitants and their offspring have not been documented to this date.

9.1.5 Demographic and migration trends in Southern Africa point to situations where there will be marked increases of migration into South Africa in the near future and the long term.

Therefore resolves:

9.1.6 The ANC led-government must review its accession into the 1951 Convention on Refugees and 1967 Protocol without reservation. The procedure involves depositing the reservations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

9.1.7 The ANC-led government must completely overhaul the Citizenship Act, Refugees Act and Immigration Act to meet the new challenges facing South Africa.

9.1.8 The ANC-led government must introduce a single legislation to deal with citizenship, immigration and refugee protection as it is now an international trend.

9.1.9 Acquisition of citizenship through marriage must be abolished in the new policy framework. If a South African citizen marries a foreign national, their rights and consequences thereof should be governed by other laws such as the marriages act and the children act. This issue should not be linked to immigration law.

9.1.10 As part of the complete overhaul of the system, the policy framework of the ANC-led government must provide for the establishment of the Immigration Board which comprise of relevant Departments.

9.1.11 Ensure the effective implementation of the National Labour Migration Policy which introduced quotas on the employment of foreign nationals and this should go a long way in defusing the violence between South African citizens and foreign workforce.

9.1.12 The ANC should consider the establishment of the Immigration Courts or special mechanism to ensure the speedy decision making process.

9.1.13 Follow the international norm wherein the Refugees Reception Centres are located in border areas in order to avoid people having to present themselves inside the country.

9.1.14 Government should resolve the challenges of the communities around borders especially those who have been existing over a period of time, particularly for those stateless people who are born from undocumented parents in particular areas in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-National and the North-West.

9.1.15 Government should increase the Home Affairs Inspectorate officials in order to address issues of illegal migration across various parts of the country.

9.1.16 There is a need to invest in technology in order to ensure the effective implement border management responsibilities.

9.1.17 Provincial and local authorities should consider supporting the creation of local committees which would convene local and foreign national representatives to engage their communities in order to harmonise relations.

9.1.18 Local government, together with other

stakeholders must conduct comprehensive audit of all business and create data base in their respective areas with the view of regularising them.

9.2 CRIME AND VIOLENCE:

Noting that:

9.2.1 The latest crime statistics indicate that domestic and transnational crime are on an increase. Our uncontrolled migration and social change have also contributed to the proliferation of international criminal syndicates. The illicit mining activities is the case in point.

9.2.2 The US response to the war on terror has created different challenges that have placed Southern African states under enormous pressure leading to the diversion of scarce resources into this campaign.

9.2.3 The SADC region continues to experience isolated armed conflicts despite its commitment to a gradual establishment of peace and security infrastructure in line with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

9.2.4 There are increasing calls for the devolution of the police functions into the provinces and the discussion is being championed by the opposition-led government. The Commission reaffirms the provision of section 199 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 which provides for the existence of single police service.

9.2.5 There is an increase and the proliferation of the private security companies in South Africa which are manned by foreign nationals. Furthermore, the proliferation of high calibre assault automatic rifles and the use of the similar uniform and insignia to that of the law enforcement agency is a threat to the authority of the State.

Therefore resolves :

9.2.6 There is an urgent need to implement the economic reconstruction plan to address the socio-economic challenges.

9.2.7 The work of the crime intelligence within the SAPS should be strengthened and the central role of crime intelligence towards addressing issues of crime prevention and detection must be reinforced.

9.2.8 There is a need to improve the relations between the Police and the Community through the existing structures such as Community Policing Forum (CPFs).

9.2.9 The ANC reaffirms its original position of the police service instead of a police force.

9.2.10 ANC led government is urged to continue to increase its efforts to ensure that in the ratio of police personnel and matches the population ratio in line with international norms.

9.2.11 There is a need to regulate the operations of the neighbourhood watches.

9.2.12 No further reduction of the budgets of the departments in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster should occur.

9.2.13 The SAPS should re-ignite the discussion on the realisation of single police service.

9.2.14 The ANC led government to consider immediate ban on the use of any uniform by any security company or individuals which bears resemblance to that of the country's law enforcement agencies.

9.2.15 Expedite the implementation of the regulation of the scrapyard industry as that continues to perpetuate the stealing of the country's critical infrastructure for recycling purposes.

9.2.16 The SAPS should ensure that Satellite Police Stations operate 24 hours in order to assure community safety of community members and discourage vigilantism.

9.2.17 The SAPS should expedite its efforts to address all types of syndicated crimes.

9.2.18 Members of the Community Policing Forums (CPFs) should be given the stipend as an encourage for their efforts to ensure safety and security in their respective communities.

9.2.19 Governments should consider the review of legislation to enable the security departments to procure specialised equipment critical for the effective fulfilment of their security mandates.

9.3 DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

Noting that:

9.3.1 The Military veterans faces a number of challenges regarding their well-being which are centred on the benefits of military veterans and their dependence.

9.3.2 The establishment of the Presidential Task Team under the leadership of the Deputy President to address the challenges facing the military veterans.

9:3.3 The efforts by the Department of Military Veterans to finalize amendments to the Military Veterans Act in order to streamline the benefits for the veterans such as housing, pension funds, bursary for their children.

9.3.4 The continued work of the South African National Defence Force on peace keeping missions on the continent to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability.

9.3.5 The need to resource the department of Defence to instil values of patriotism, discipline and morality in contribution to the national youth service programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9.3.6 Expedite the finalization of amendments to the Military Veterans Act in order to streamline benefits of the MK Veterans and those to their dependents.

9.3.7 MKLWV should be recognised as the sole representative structure for the ex MK combatants. The ANC must ensure that all ex-combatants of MK are brought into the fold of this unity structure and no one is left behind.

9.3.8 Re-confirm the resolution that there should be no further cuts on the budgets of the South African National Defence Force and the key departments in the security cluster.

9.3.9 Commission recommends that the capacity of maintenance of infrastructure should move from DPWI to the SANDF to alleviate the burden.

9.3.10 ANC led government should ensure that the deployment of the SANDF members to peace missions is driven by the quest to secure South Africa's national interest.

9.3.11 ANC led government should expedite efforts to resuscitate the defence industry to bolster the country's defence and security manufacturing capabilities.

9.4 FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Noting that:

9.4.1 Corruption remains a worldwide phenomenon and there are many lessons to be learned on the successes and failures in tackling corruption. A critical element is the strengthening of the institutions in the criminal justice system.

9.4.2 The call to take action against corruption has seen many positive developments in the form of the Commission on the Investigations of Allegations of State Capture, investigations by the Hawks, the creation of the Investigative Directorate of NPA and the SIU and prosecutions.

9.4.3 In 2020, the Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International ranked our country at 69 out of 180 countries, with a slight improvement from 2019.

Therefore resolve :

9.4.4 The ANC-led government should consider the establishment of a vibrant and independent Anti-Corruption Agency as a structure to address issues of corruption across the country.

9.4.5 The ANC must consider establishing an anti-corruption committee to address issues of corruption within its ranks in order to enhance the integrity of the organisation.

9.4.6 The ANC reaffirms its tough stance in fighting corruption as resolved by a number of conferences, as such no exception is made for any organisation or individual.

9.4.7 Consider undertaking greater efforts to enhance the states mutual and legal assistance capacity to pursue those who have fled and recover the money stolen including addressing illicit financial flows.

9.4.8 Consider the promotion of international cooperation under multilateral frameworks and the UN convention against corruption.

9.4.9 To enforce organisational discipline across all levels of the organisation. This must include removing from its ranks all persons who engage in corruption as well as putting in place ways and means to protect itself from entry into its ranks of people who are not inspired by the values, principles and policies of the movement.

9.4.10 Develop mandatory programmes with the National School of Government for the compulsory training of public servants on issues of ethics, ethos and patriotism.

9.5 CYBERSECURITY AND ATTACK ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Noting that:

9.5.1 The ongoing rapid digitalisation and the introduction of remote working are accompanied by unprecedented risks. Such risks are cybersecurity threats. The threats of disinformation as well as fraud present societal vulnerabilities and diminish trust levels.

9.5.2 Cyber threats are already contributing to poor cooperation and mutual trust among states. South Africa is no stranger to cyber-attacks, as some state entities have suffered cyber-attacks.

9.5.3 Improve our cyber security-capacity in line with the nature of threat and developments in the cyber space.

9.5.4 There is a lot of content consumed by South Africans in the social media which continues to influence the thinking and behaviour of the youth. The implementation of the Cyber Crimes Act 2021 (Act 19 of 2021) remains a crucial avenue to respond to the ongoing threat.

Therefore resolve:

9.5.5 The ANC-led government must the finalization of the relevant regulations to expedite the implementation of the Cyber Crimes Act.

9.5.6 Strengthen. the country's cyber security response through the allocation of dedicated investment in cyber security resources and infrastructure.

9.5.7 Additional resources should be allocated to the law enforcement structures to ensure their ability to counter the threat of cyber security.

9.5.8 ANC led government must enhance the efficiency of the criminal justice system by further modernising it so that the criminal justice system and its agencies are fully integrated.

9.5.9 South Africa together with AU member states and other progressive forces should actively engage in negotiations of the treaty on cybercrime.

9.6 INTELLIGENCE

Noting that:

9.6.1 The government acknowledge the ongoing efforts to improve the capability of intelligence to respond to the nature of emerging threats.

Therefore resolve :

9.6.2 There is a need to reconstruct the Intelligence Services and every effort must be made to ensure that they focus on the task of combating and defeating counter-revolution.

9.6.3 Expedite the implementation of recommendations of both the High-Level Review Panel report on the State Security Agency (SSA) and the Expert Panel Report on the July 2021 unrest.

9.6.4 Prioritise the strengthening of the capacity of the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee (NICOC).

9.6.5 The ANC-led government should ensure the realisation of a better security coordination mechanisms are needed at provincial and metropolitan levels, including with the military, private security and intelligence agencies.

9.6.6 The government must expedite the review of the National Security Strategy.

9.7 GOVERNANCE AND STATE CAPACITY.

Noting that:

9.7.1 The ANC acknowledges its slow pace to transform and build resilient security services for the task of mitigating national security and national interest imperatives.

9.7.2 We have acknowledged that a capable, functioning and effective security services is the bedrock of any constitutional democracy.

9.7.3 The ANC noted strides made by government to strengthen the capacity of the state by introducing the following measures:

- Regular meetings of the National Security Council;
- Integrating Sate Security department into the Presidency;
- Smooth transition in the appointment of a new director-general for State Security, Commissioner of Police and Directorate of Investigations.

9.7.4 The development of a policy on prisoner/offender transfer agreements is impacted upon by immigration legislation. Also, the impact of the increasing state of overcrowding in correctional facilities due to high levels of crime and increasing arrests, prosecution and sentencing of criminals. That the change in the profile of offenders due to long and life sentences imposed by the justice system.

9.7.5 The need to resource the department of Defence to instil values of patriotism, discipline and morality in contribution to the national youth service programme.

9.7.6 ICT capability of the Security Cluster must be moved out of State Information Technology Agency.

9:7.7 The legislative impediments on the procurement of specialised equipment which create dependency for departments to get concurrence of one or more departments to acquire infrastructure that is critical for their security operations.

Therefore resolve:

9.7.8 The national department of Defence should be repurposed for peace support operations in Africa, border protection and support to the police with additional budgetary allocation. Soldiers should be trained and prepared for these functions. Consider re-introducing provincial commands.

9.7.9 The Cabinet should expedite the migration of DENEL from the Department of Public Enterprises back to the Department of Defence.

9.7.10 The South African defence industry should invest in innovation through Research and Development Programmes (R&D) in order to be the supplier strategic prime equipment to the South African law enforcement agencies at all times.

9.7.11 Ensure the capacitation of the state security structures to ensure the speedy prosecution of the GBV+F cases.

9.7.12 To address overcrowding in correctional services the ANC led government must develop alternative sentencing mechanisms of petty crimes by the justice system. The department of Correctional Services (DCS) needs to be supported and capacitated. The DCS should increase its production at workshops and farms to increase income and supply its products to all correctional centres, government entities and communities.

9.8 AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AND COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

Noting that:

9.8.1 The ANC strategy of community mobilisation is premised on the Freedom Charter principle that The People Shall Govern and the affirmation of the centrality of the community in dealing with challenges of security. The ANC-led government experiences a trust deficit from members of the community.

Therefore resolve:

9.8.2 The ANC branches should reclaim the space and play an active role in addressing community concerns.

9.8.3 The ANC branches should consider offering of self-defence training to women and other vulnerable groups.

9.8.4 ANC branches should undertake educational campaigns in their wards to facilitate the reintegration of offenders into their communities .

9.8.5 There should be a workshop convened by the Peace and Stability Committee to engage with the structures of the ANC to address the issues of peace and stability in totality. That would include the Integrated National Crime Strategy and the issue of the Community Policing Forum.

9.8.6 There is a need to review the issue of the Municipal Police and Municipal Courts to address the offences related municipal by-laws. be considered in order to deal with the issues of cable theft.

9.9 CROSS-CUTTING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MATTERS

Noting that:

9.9.1 In the pursuit of peace and stability efforts in South Africa, there is a need to strike a balance between the national security imperatives and our international relations posture in relations to SADC, African Continent, BRICS and other multilateral structures.

Therefore resolves :

9.9.2 The ANC led government should ensure the effective collaboration of the various clusters during the development of key policy and operational imperatives on critical cross cutting matters relating to domestic and international interface to ensure policy alignment.

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1. We move from the premise that the African National Congress is the leader of society charged with the mammoth task of leading the National Democratic Revolution. The main objective of the National Democratic Revolution is to build a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist society in which all citizens enjoy a better life, and are guaranteed political, social, economic, cultural and religious rights as enshrined in our Constitution.
2. Part of the tasks that the ANC has to undertake in spearheading the National Democratic Revolution is to implement a radical social transformation programme geared towards ending poverty, unemployment and inequality.
3. The strategic objective of social transformation is to transform and build a new society that is peaceful, equal and just as envisioned in the Freedom Charter, Ready to Govern policy document, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the National Development Plan Vision 2030, the UN Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063.
4. Our primary focus is on prioritising the rights of all women, youth, children, people with disabilities, marginalised groups as well as the previously disadvantaged people. Our aim is to work tirelessly in reducing discrimination and violence against all women and children, and foster gender equality in every level of society.
5. We seek to ensure equal access to quality basic services such as water, sanitation and human settlements and facilitating social protection to vulnerable social groups in our society.
6. The ANC has an on-going duty to achieve social cohesion and accelerate the project of nation building. This will help create a just and inclusive society that draws on South Africa's rich heritage.
7. The National Policy Conference, held in July 2022 reaffirmed the correctness and relevance of the Social Transformation Resolutions taken at the 54th National Conference, and resolved to strengthen resolutions focusing on gender-based violence, women, youth, people with disability, the LGBTQIA+, human settlements, water and sanitation, basic income grant, sport, arts and culture. These are the areas on which the 55th National Conference deliberated and took resolutions.
8. Below are the final Social Transformation Resolutions as adopted by the ANC 55th National Conference.

2. SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION RESOLUTIONS

(a) Gender-based Violence and Femicide

Noting,

1. Gender-based violence remains the ugly face of patriarchy, because of patriarchal control over women lives and bodies. GBVF also covers hate crimes. Struggles for women's emancipation have therefore always focused on the fight against rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment, and for breaking the silence around these issues. Moreover, gender-based violence and femicide have become endemic and a global pandemic, affecting 1 out of 3 women during her lifetime. According to the UN Women, *"most violence against women is perpetrated by current or former husbands or intimate partners and of those who have been in a relationship, almost one in four adolescent girls aged 15-19 (24 percent) have experienced physical and and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband"*.
2. Although intimate partner killings and violence against women have always been with us, South Africa over the last couple of years have seen a spike in gruesome killings of women, and hence the characterisation of this a Femicide. Following the 2018 march by women activists against the high levels of gender-based violence and femicide in the country, a Presidential Summit to address the issue raised was held in 2018. The Declaration outlining critical recommendations that emerged was adopted. Consequently, one of the recommendations of developing a National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP: GBVF) was achieved, and the NSP: GBVF was adopted in March 2020. The NSP seeks to provide a multi-sectoral, coherent strategic policy and programming framework to strengthen a coordinated national response to the crisis of GBVF, or what came to be known as the *"Second Scourge in 2020"*. It comprises six main pillars that seek

to address governance and institutional issues: prevention, response and care, improving economic resilience and self-reliance to decrease vulnerability to GBVF, advocacy, awareness raising and communications as well as research and knowledge management.

3. Parliament passed the following laws to combat GBVF:

   - **The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act** – This law seeks to strengthen the regulation of the National Register for Sex Offenders (NRSO) by expanding the scope of (NRSO) to include the particulars of all sex offenders. Not only sex offenders to children and persons with mental disabilities, but also expand to include other vulnerable groups, which are young women, persons with physical, mental sensory or intellectual disabilities and persons over 60.
   - **The Domestic Violence Amendment Act** – It seeks to address practical challenges, gaps and anomalies, which have manifested themselves since the Act was introduced in 1999, and which render all women and children helpless to the violence they experience, often in the confines of their homes.
   - **The Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Act** – It aims to amend four Acts, namely, the Magistrates' Courts Act 32 of 1944, the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, the Criminal Law Amendment Act 85 of 1997 and the Superior Courts Act 7 of 2013. The Act's purpose is to amend the Magistrate's Courts Act to provide for the appointment of intermediaries and the giving of evidence through intermediaries in proceedings other than criminal proceedings. It also seeks to amend the Criminal Procedure Act to regulate the granting and cancellation of bail and the right of a complainant in a domestic-related offence to participate in parole proceedings. It seeks to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act to regulate sentences in respect of offences that have been committed against vulnerable persons; amend the Superior Courts Act to provide for the appointment of intermediaries and the giving of evidence through intermediaries in proceedings other than criminal.

4. Further measures have been taken to combat GBVF including:

   (a) Government in partnership with the UN Women created a multi-sectoral collaborative platform called "END GBVF Collective", which is South Africa's biggest single volunteer network in tackling the scourge of GBVF. It creates space for stakeholders from government, civil society, development agencies and private citizens to think and plan together.

   (b) An Inter-Ministerial Committee against GBVF has been created in Government comprised of the Ministers of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, Social Development, Police, Justice and Correctional Services, Public Service and Administration, and National Treasury. The IMC together with the Parliamentary Oversight Framework aims to ensure a coordinated approach in addressing GBVF in the country.

   (c) Government departments and civil society organisations have developed the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Plan, which is used by departments in reporting progress on their implementation of the NSP: GBVF.

   (d) The Comprehensive National GBVF Prevention Strategy was developed and approved for implementation.

   (e) The Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities is localising the NSP: GBVF by ensuring its integration into local plans of provinces and municipalities.

   (f) Thirteen Rapid Response Teams have been established focusing on GBVF hotspots in the Eastern Cape and Kwazulu-Natal.

   (g) Substantial work has been done in establishing the National Council on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NCGBVF). The draft Bill on the National Council has been developed and widely consulted on. It is currently at NEDLAC for consultation and once finalised, it will be processed through Cabinet for gazetting and tabling in Parliament. A GBVF Secretariat has also been established in the interim.

5. The Department of Social Development implements programmes to support victims and survivors of GBVF, including rolling out Thuthuzela Care Centres and Khuseleka One Stop Centers to provide safety to the victims and survivors in every Province linked to the National Gender Based Command Centre

6. However, despite the above interventions to fight GBVF, the scourge of violence against all women has not abated. Instead, it has degenerated into a crisis of unparalleled proportions. In the months leading to the National Policy Conference our nation was petrified by increasing media headlines of horrible incidents of GBVF. The alleged rape of a group of young female artists by a criminal gang

called "Zama-zamas" made up of foreigners in Krugersdorp on the eve of the Conference clearly demonstrated the need for further stringent measures to contain the scourge.

Believing,

1. All people have the right to live in peace and security.
2. No one has the right to commit acts of violence against other people.
3. Measures are in place to deal with perpetrators of violence against all women and children.
4. Government has an obligation to protect victims and survivors of gender-based violence and to apply strict measures against perpetrators.
5. Government, business, labour and civil society share common interests in ending gender-based violence and femicide.

Resolve to,

1. Enhance the justice system response to GBVF cases:
   (a) Establish special courts for GBVF.
   (b) Establish sexual crimes unit within SAPS
   (c) Rape must be legislated as a capital crime to remove the discretion that judges have in dealing with cases of rape
   (d) Do not provide bail to sex offenders.
   (e) There should be no bail and parole for perpetrators for GBVF.
   (f) Police need to undergo sensitivity training to be able to manage GBVF cases.
   (g) Rape kits must be available in police stations.
   (h) Increase the number of police dealing with sexual crimes in police stations.
   (i) Establish and resource DNA labs in every province to reduce the time taken in releasing these DNA tests.
   (j) Appoint specialist investigators to deal with these cases.
2. The ANC must champion the rollout and implementation of National Strategic Plan on GBVF
3. Continue to support GBVF victims and survivors even in cases where our own members are perpetrators.
4. ANC leaders must be vocal and lead campaigns on GBVF such as "Not in My Name".
5. All ANC structures must have a GBVF sub-committee and must use street committee to fight the scourge.
6. Consider other forms of societal interventions which may include rehabilitation or any other treatment that will prevent perpetrators of GBVF to commit these heinous crimes. This should be accompanied by strengthening the justice system to avoid false rape accusations.
7. Facilitate the provision of housing to victims and survivors of GBVF rather than keeping them in places of safety for six months only to release them back to perpetrators.
8. The ANC through its structures must combat the use of religion by sexual perpetrators.
9. Work with local, provincial and national civil society organisations, community based and faith based organisations including business in propagating against GBVF.
10. Ensure that GBVF is mainstreamed within the District Development Model and ensure the resourcing of safe shelters (Thuthuzela Centres and Khuseleka One Stop Centres).
11. Undertake a study to determine the link between drug abuse and the increase in GBVF.
12. Provide gender transformative training to address toxic masculinity in society to address patriarchy and integrate positive masculinity. Educate young people on Ubuntu, diversity and inclusive society to combat negative aspect of patriarchy.
13. Explore the development of IT applications and systems to assist victims and survivors to call for help.
14. Upscale social behavioural change programmes in dealing with GBVF.
15. Upscale the use of initiation schools as a platform to educate boys about GBVF.
16. Introduce family programmes on GBVF and involve communities in dialogues. Introduce programmes on positive masculinity.
17. Address lack of productive activity as this often leads men to alcohol and drug abuse including aggression against all women.
18. Mental health in situations of broken families also contributes to GBVF and hate crimes. Consider amongst other antidotes, the use of community-based mental health treatment.
19. The Department of Home Affairs and SAPS must collaborate in addressing the issue of high number of illegal migrants to combat their involvement in crime, especially against women.

20. The Social Transformation and Peace and Stability clusters should collaborate in dealing with the challenge of illegal and undocumented migrants. Make or strengthen agreements with the affected neighbouring states to ensure that these countries take responsibility for their nationals.

21. Introduce gender as part of schooling curriculum especially from primary school onwards. (we have Life Skills but it's not broad enough to cover gender stereotypes and toxic masculinity, etc).

(b) Other Issues Affecting Women

Noting,

1. The Strategy and Tactics document of the ANC (2017) recognises that amongst the primary contradictions, which the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) must resolve are the legacies of apartheid colonialism, super-exploitation and patriarchy. Women are therefore counted amongst the motive forces necessary for the advancement of the NDR.

2. Our approach to the national democratic revolution and women's emancipation therefore is anchored on the triple oppression of women, and therefore:

   (a) Acknowledges women's empowerment and gender equality in the context of the history of women, including women's struggles against colonialism, struggles against land dispossession, pass laws and social, economic and political injustices, as reflected in the 1954 Women's Charter and in the Freedom Charter.

   (b) Highlights the emergence of gender inequalities in the context of the evolution of society, especially with regards to the development of capitalism, the industrial revolution and property acquisition.

   (c) Traces the global evolution of gender equality agenda and of the international women's movement.

   (d) Regards the Women's Charter for Effective Equality and the National Gender Policy Framework as pivotal in gender transformation of South Africa; and

   (e) Acknowledges that the 50/50 representation policy of the ANC has permeated throughout government, and is gaining momentum across all sectors.

3. Significant legislative and institutional mechanisms have been introduced to cater for gender equality, women's empowerment and non-sexism. These includes;

   (a) The Founding Provisions and the Bill of Rights, as enshrined in Chapter 1 and 2 of the Constitution of the Republic (Act 108 of 1996), establish the rights of women in South Africa. The Reconstruction and Development Programme mainstreamed non-sexism and women's emancipation, highlighting the need to tackle women's unpaid labour, employment, discrimination; credit constraints for women, inadequate early child care and education; gender discrimination in law enforcement and treatment of offenders; discriminatory treatment on the basis of marital status or pregnancy; and insufficient public health services.

   (b) During the first ten years after 1994 South Africa was at the forefront of some of the most progressive gender equality legislation in the world, including laws and policies on:

      (i) Reproductive rights and on termination of pregnancy, access to free health care for pregnant women, sexual orientation, and the rights of women under customary law;

      (ii) Protection of women workers rights through progressive labour laws including maternity leave, right not to be discriminated on the basis of gender, and affirmative action;

      (iii) Advancing women's economic and social empowerment through legislation and related policies, charters and quotas;

      (iv) Women's access to justice and protection against domestic violence, sexual offences, rape and harassment.

      (v) Laws adopted since 1994 are amended regularly to further entrench women's empowerment and equality. Such amendments include the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and providing workplaces that are free of harassment.

   (c) The national gender machinery evolved from the Office on the Status of Women established in 1997 to a fully-fledged Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, which serves as the nerve centre that promotes and protects the socio-economic rights and empowerment of all women and girls. It also amongst others, implements the NSP: GBVF, the Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as the Gender Auditing Framework. The Commission for Gender Equality has been established as an independent Chapter 9 Institution in terms of the Constitution to promote

respect for gender equality and protect, develop and attain gender equality. A Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Women comprising members of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces has also been created to perform oversight role on gender transformation.

(d) Gender mainstreaming is happening across Government to mitigate potential, unintentional gender bias and helps to produce better gender equality outcomes.

(e) Significant achievements have been made in the representation of women in Government and Parliament although more needs to be done to improve representation within the ANC structures. Women in Cabinet currently constitute 50%.

(f) Government has introduced a range of policies and programmes designed to facilitate women's economic empowerment, to provide business resources, information and opportunities for South African women entrepreneurs, as well as a range of interventions designed to achieve gender equality. Government has also announced that as part of its commitment to gender equality and financial inclusion, it will expand access of women to economic opportunities by setting aside 40% of preferential public procurement for women owned businesses. Gender pay gap however, persists with women continuing to be paid less for similar work done by male counterparts. For example, Banyana Banyana national football team continues to be paid less than Bafana Bafana even though their performance surpasses that of Bafana Bafana.

(g) The private sector, civil society, women's organisations, businesswomen and government have collaborated to form the Women Economic Assembly (WECONA) to address one pillar of the NSP: GBVF focusing on economic empowerment of women to reduce their vulnerability to GBVF.

(h) Government adopted the Sanitary Dignity Implementation Framework in October 2020 to provide for policy with norms and standards with respect to the provision of sanitary dignity products and services to indigent women and girls. The Minister of Finance announced the zero-rated vat on sanitary towels effective April 2019.

4. However, despite these significant achievements made as stated above, women continue to face daunting challenges that hamper their full enjoyment of their rights. Amongst these challenges are:

(a) Continued prevalence of patriarchy

(b) Challenges in meeting gender targets

(c) Inability to outgrow informal sector trading;

(d) Limited access to finance;

(e) Excessive red tape for informal trading which is dominated by women;

(f) Under-representation of women in management in small to big enterprises.

(g) Gender mainstreaming lags behind in the private sector;

(h) Many girls do not have access to sanitary services.

Believing,

1. Gender equality, women empowerment and non-sexism are enshrined in the founding documents of the ANC.
2. The Freedom Charter declares on the issue of gender pay gap that "men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work".
3. The principle of 50/50 representation in all ANC structures is an established policy of the ANC.
4. Sufficient body of laws, policies and programmes are in place to promote gender equality, women empowerment and non-sexism.
5. Women must continue to be at the forefront of their struggles to ensure maximum realisation of their objectives.

Resolve,

1. Promote women's voice and agency and address negative social norms and patriarchal practices, including religious norms and practices.
2. The principle of 50/50 must apply across all the structures of the ANC from top to bottom including the top six.
3. The ANC Government needs to domesticate the SADC protocol it signed in 1997 to ensure that the issue of 50/50 becomes law.
4. The ANC Government should consider legislation to close the pay gap between men and women in both public and private sector
5. Financial sector transformation must factor in gender mainstreaming.
6. Government should engage the private sector to ensure that it also implements gender programmes.

7. Increase support for SMMEs, township and village economies and cooperatives especially those managed by women.
8. Implement mass public employment programmes for women and the youth.
9. The ANC must continue to drive policies that will ensure that land is made available especially to land-hungry black persons, including women and the youth, who genuinely want to engage in productive agricultural activity.
10. Barriers to access to land in rural areas for women should be addressed and land distribution for housing purposes should be prioritised.
11. The Social Housing policy by Government should prioritise women headed households alongside child headed households, people with disability and the elderly.
12. Decriminalise sex work and enable access to justice by sex workers.
13. Deal harshly with people who claim false rape.
14. Provide free menstrual and hygiene products in schools, clinics and community centres.
15. Government should introduce gender biased budgeting to ensure effective implementation of gender-based programmes.
16. The Department of Labour should consider penalising departments that fail to meet employment equity targets for women.
17. The ANC, Government and structures such as traditional authorities, should ensure that their performance reports also reflect performance on meeting gender targets. Portfolio committees in legislatures should also ensure reporting on gender targets.
18. There is need to move from advocacy to action and begin developing programmes that advance women's issues.
19. Women in leadership need to empower other women.
20. ANC caucuses need to deal with women issues.
21. Revise the curriculum to address issues of patriarchy, gender roles, stereotypes, masculinity and femininity constructs.
22. Ensure that gender sensitivity training is made compulsory to all members of the ANC and all employees in government.
23. The OR Tambo School of Leadership should introduce modules that focuses on gender transformation.
24. Implementation of women sport policy to, amongst other things, ensure that women are funded to participate across all the sporting codes, especially those from disadvantaged communities.
25. Consider introducing sports ticketing levy to fund sports development.
26. Disqualify ANC comrades who abuse women and children.

(c) Youth

Noting,

1. Poor economic performance and unemployment is producing a pool of youth most of whom end up exposed to drug abuse, crime and other social ills. This includes students who are academically qualified to enter the job market but cannot find work. In the end, the state is forced to play a bigger role in addressing these social ills.
2. The Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities (DWYPD) has introduced an internship programme which offer valuable exposure for graduates while the Department of Higher Education offers Career Development Services to the youth.
3. The DWYPD and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) have developed a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework as well as an Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS). The M&E Framework would track implementation of the approved National Youth Policy (NYP) 2030 and provide for high-level indicators, whereas the IYDS will provide for integrated actions to give effect to implementation of the youth policy.
4. The NYDA is collaborating with the Presidency on the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYI), which is amongst others, focussed on developing the SAYouth.Mobi – a national network, managed by Harambee and offering young South Africans, free access to learning and earning opportunities. This is a data free platform, which is developed as a partnership between government and civil society organisations.
5. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the NYDA introduced the Youth Micro Enterprise Relief Fund for particularly young entrepreneurs affected by Covid-19. The fund targeted a niche community of youth micro enterprises, which might have been missed by other relief funds.

Believing,

1. The youth are the future.
2. Government must invest in the education of the youth.

3. Government has a responsibility to remove barriers to entry for the youth wishing to pursue higher education and entry into the job market.
4. The panacea to removing youth from alcohol and drugs is the provision of social amenities, education and job creation.
5. Investing in the youth is investing in the leaders of tomorrow. Government has a responsibility to provide support mechanisms to the youth to unlock their potential.

Resolve,

1. The current mandate of the Ministry and the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disability is still relevant in its current form and its mandate must be expanded to include the LGBTQIA+ community. Departments and entities should continue to prioritise youth mainstreaming.
2. Government needs to develop, fund and implement tangible programmes that deal with youth issues such as education, challenges of unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse, availability of sports and recreational facilities as well as economic opportunities
3. Municipalities should ensure the provision of recreational facilities for the youth, explore new funding models including the introduction of public private partnerships for the building and maintenance of youth recreational facilities.
4. Stringent measures should be taken against training coaches who abuse the youth in training facilities.
5. Review policy and legislation to limit access to alcohol to curb underage drinking by youth.
6. Review school curriculum to cover issues of moral decay, socialisation, skills development, discipline, patriotism, inclusivity and diversity.
7. Sports, arts and culture must be compulsory at primary and secondary schools.
8. Government should ensure that youth enjoy access to free higher and tertiary education. Government should avail more TVET and technical high schools in its quest to re-introduce vocational training to schools.
9. Sufficient funding should be made available to fund empowerment and development opportunities for youth.
10. Isolate and find solution to the challenge of teenage pregnancy.
11. Improve the safety and security of young people, many of whom die from unnatural causes.
12. The NYDA working with the Presidency and the Ministry and the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disability has enough capacity to address challenges of the youth and improve their quality of lives. It is for this reason that both the NYDA and the Department should be allocated more funding to ensure that young people are serviced.

(d) Children

Noting,

1. Our focus on children is on the protection, care, support, promotion of rights of children and development.
2. The 16 Days of Activism of No Violence against Women and Children has been extended to make it a 365 days programme noting rising challenges against women and children. This is over and above other programmes on Children that the Department of Social Development and its stakeholders run.
3. Protocols have been developed on Child Abuse that guide social service practitioners on how to deal with Child Abuse, Neglect and Protection.
4. Nationwide campaigns such as Children's Parliament are held annually to allow children to raise concerns through their Ambassadors, which is part of the Child Participation through monitoring the implementation of the Children's Manifesto.
5. The Department of Social Development has developed a Strategy for Street Children and the aim is to make provision for uniform and standard therapeutic interventions for these children.

Believing,

1. Children have rights that are affirmed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
2. Government has an obligation to protect children's rights and to advance their interests.

Resolve,

1. Government needs to relax the requirements for caregivers of orphans in the care of relatives and those orphans in child headed households so that they are not disadvantaged to access services and opportunities.

2. The ANC must champion the rollout and implementation of National Programme of Children : Framework as enacted
3. Stronger enforcement of maintenance for children and teaching men and boys about their responsibilities as fathers.
4. Government should resuscitate early childhood development centres bearing in mind the challenges of households that do not have income. The first two to three years of child's development are most important for development. Government must step in earlier than grade R to provide support to children. From two years children should be able to attend registered crèches and on to nursery school.

(e) People with Disability, the LGBTQIA+ Community and Other Marginalised Groups

Noting,

1. Government has taken measures to address issues of concern to people with disabilities, the LGBTQIA+ community and other marginalised groups. Government departments are required to ensure 2% employment of people with disabilities in the public service with the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation and Parliament playing a monitoring role to ensure that this is implemented.
2. Measures have been taken to ensure that public buildings are user friendly to people with disabilities, including the frequent use of sign language and braille for those affected.
3. The LGBTQIA+ community and other marginalised groups are also recognised and given space to articulate their concerns, although much needs to be done to enable the amplification of their voice. In addition, more needs to be done to address their discrimination and safety including recognition of their special needs.

Believing,

1. All people are born equal and are equal before the law;
2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights enshrined in the Constitution irrespective of race, gender, nationality and religion or cultural believe.
3. The state has a responsibility to be biased towards disadvantaged and marginalised groups and that it has added responsibility to ensure their enjoyment of all their rights including the right to life, choice, privacy and security.
4. Government is obliged to involve these groups on any decisions that affect them.
5. The principle of "nothing about us without us" is an important reminder to Government and other stakeholders about the value of consultation particularly on matters affecting these social groups.

Resolve,

1. The ANC and Government should take measures to ensure that all their buildings are accessible to people with disabilities.
2. Consider sanctioning Government departments and private sector institutions that fail to meet employment targets for people with disability.
3. Establish an ANC LGBTQIA+ committee and ensure adequate representation of LGBTQIA+ members within the structures of the ANC.
4. Issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community should be addressed within the ANC structures and not subsumed within the Department of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities.
5. Include issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community in the curriculum of the OR Tambo School of Leadership.
6. Integrate intersectional language in quota language.
7. Pass legislation that bans conversion practices (harmful practices and efforts that seek to change people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity).
8. ANC to lead in partnership with the LGBTQIA+ community the campaigns to eradicate homophobia and transphobia.
9. Ensure that Government develops and implements minimum standards of services guidelines for LGBTQIA+ people (particularly in health, education, justice and social protections) while effecting a non-discriminative framework within Government.
10. Ensure that the 3rd legal gender recognition policy is passed.
11. Address genital mutilation experienced by intersex children at birth.
12. The SA Government must explore hosting the World Gay Games.
13. Measures should be explored to protect elderly people in the homes who are vulnerable to abuse and rape.

(f) Human Settlements

Noting,

1. Globally 1 billion people live in slums in 161 countries. More than 30% of the urban population live in slums and informal settlements. The number of informal settlements dwellers has been growing on an average of 9 million since 2000. Since the dawn of democracy in 1994, about 4.8 million houses have been delivered in South Africa providing safe shelter to over 25% of South Africa's households.
2. The ANC Government has produced more houses than any other developing country in the world. Hence the UN recognition and award for the delivery of housing.
3. A total of 136 Priority Human Settlements and Development Areas (PHSHDAs) were identified in 2020, which would promote integrated human settlements and spatial restructuring. Twelve social housing projects were gazetted to support the objectives of the priority development areas. Over 80% of the human settlements budget will progressively be invested in these areas. Work is under way to complete the first 41 area-based plans and to implement the related projects.
4. The NHFC distributed FLISP subsidies of R60 million to 1 167 households in the 2019/20 financial year alone. A total of 717 houses for military veterans was delivered between 2018 to 2020 financial year. In 2016/17 a total of 1 700 houses had been delivered.
5. The construction sector contributes 3% to South Africa's Gross Domestic Product and employs around 1.3 million people. Although the sector was brought to a halt by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Human Settlements has been consistently spending its budgets, which stimulate construction activities in the sector. A total of R33.3 billion of the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) housing allocation was spent in 2019/20 alone resulting in the provision of 116 292 housing opportunities. A total of R11.6 billion Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG) was allocated to provinces during the same financial year.
6. On the land release programme, the Department through the Housing Development Agency (HDA) has facilitated the acquisition of several land parcels from state-owned companies such as Transnet, Denel, ESKOM and PRASA. To date a total of 3 089.63 hectares of well-located land targeting poor and middle-income households has been acquired or released for human settlement development. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure agreed to release a total of 1128.5345 hectares of land for human settlement development while 14241.1540 hectares of land have been identified and are currently being processed for release. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has on the other hand released over 13113.1309 hectares of land for human settlement development while 4835.04 hectares are currently being processed for release.
7. On empowerment of women, 23% of both the HSDG and the USDG funding was allocated to women-owned businesses against the set target of 30%. Allocation to youth-owned businesses under the Youth Economic Empowerment Programme reached the set target of 10%.
8. The Department of Human Settlements is reviewing and strengthening the following legislative instruments to strengthen the implementation of its human settlements programmes; Housing Consumer Protection, Human Settlement Development Bank, Property Practitioners, Amendment of Home Loan and Mortgage Disclosure, and Amendment of the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land.
9. Despite the ANC Government's rapid human settlements development programme, we have not been able to arrest the housing backlog.
10. Increased urban migration and the rapid growth in household sizes, has led to increased informal settlements that have affected Government's ability to arrest the housing backlog. This is further complicated by reduced financial resources that continue to limit our efforts to house our people.
11. Lack of suitably located land continues to hamper speedy planning and development of human settlements.
12. Criminal syndicates are hampering implementation of some of our human settlements projects while in some areas these syndicates are hijacking blocks of flats.
13. The lack of security of tenure for people living on communal land areas is a problem that still plague many of our people across the country.
14. Given the reality of Climate Change, which has become a global emergency, the ANC is conscious of the socio-economic challenges that it causes to societies and households and strongly believes that there should be enhanced coordination, education, early warning mechanisms as well as ensure the availability of social relief measures to households to avert the negative impact to society.

Believing,

1. The Freedom Charter declares that "there shall be houses, security and comfort" and that all people

shall have the right to live where they choose, be decently housed and to bring up their families in comfort and security".

2. The Constitution guarantees everyone access to housing and obliges the state to take incremental measures to meet the housing needs of its people.
3. The ANC Government has adequate policies and programmes to meet people's housing needs.
4. Involvement of people in the building of their houses has added advantages.
5. The integrated human settlements approach and the District Development Model are the ideal implementation platforms that can effectively coordinate all stakeholders and resources across the three spheres of Government in realising integrated and functional human settlements.

Resolve,

1. Support the refinement of human settlements policies that strengthens Government's provision of housing to the people and assess the sustainability of the national housing subsidy programme
2. There is a need to continue to implement spatial planning for human settlements to transform our towns and cities.
3. Government should continue to implement integrated human settlements programme wherein housing is delivered together with appropriate socio-economic amenities.
4. Government must use the District Development Model to address the prioritisation of land for human settlements development.
5. Government to avail serviced residential stands for people who are able to build for themselves in order to address the gap in housing need.
6. Government needs to speedily address the root-causes impacting on completion of blocked and unfinished housing projects.
7. Ensure that building contractors are vetted before they begin construction work.
8. Strengthen the oversight role played by construction project managers in supervising housing construction.
9. Implement structured support to black-owned companies in the housing and residential property sector: meaningful participation of SMMEs in the housing unit production value chain must be ensured – this support is to also include capacitation of SMMEs to equip them in delivering quality projects on time, whilst ensuring that local SMMEs benefit from the implementation of preferential procurement.
10. Government should take firm measures to remove illegal occupants of Government funded housing.
11. Government should address the prevalent illegal take-over of towns and the hijacking of buildings by foreign nationals. This includes addressing the stoppage of housing projects by criminal syndicates who demand bribes or shares in the projects.
12. Make use of accredited alternative building technologies in the housing development projects.

(g) Water and Sanitation

Noting,

1. Approximately 2.8 million households in South Africa do not have access to improved sanitation services. The ANC has resolved to eradicate the bucket system in order to improve sanitation services. By December 2020, a total of 41 290 out of 52 249 bucket sanitation systems were eradicated. Furthermore, a total of 14 235 rural households were served to eradicate sanitation backlogs.
2. The DWS has developed the Water and Sanitation Master Plan, which provides a 10-year roadmap for eradicating the bucket system, providing adequate sanitation, innovative solutions and generating economic opportunities.
3. DWS provides the Water Services Infrastructure Grant (WSIG), which is used to assist municipalities to procure intermediate water supply to ensure the provision of service infrastructure (e.g. spring protection, drilling, testing and equipping of boreholes). Through this grant, 802 projects were funded for construction nationally, with 142 of these projects completed.
4. Some of our water resources are plagued by pollution while distribution of water to some communities is hamstrung by corruption at local government level. The use of the tankering system, which is supposed to be an emergency intervention, has become the fodder for corrupt practices in some municipalities.

Believing,

1. Access to clean water and sanitation is an inalienable right to all South Africans.
2. Government has a Constitutional obligation to ensure the delivery of basic services such as water and sanitation to the people.
3. Government also has an obligation to protect, preserve and efficiently manage all water resources of the country for the benefit of its citizens.

4. The Freedom Charter and the Constitution guarantees every person equal access to water.
5. Payment for municipal services is an established economic principle that enables continuous supply for these services, bearing in mind the indigent policy with regard to those who are not able to afford payment.

Resolve,

1. Government should expedite the eradication of the bucket system in informal settlements as a means of restoring the dignity of the majority of the black communities.
2. Ensure the rigours implementation of the National Water Masterplan
3. Government must fast-track the reviewing of water rights and issuing of water license to the benefit of all communities and balance the needs on all sectors.
4. Implement emergency plans during water crises such as droughts as part of rolling out disaster management plans.
5. Government should rollout alternative technology methods on sanitation to respond to environmental and global sustainable development goals.
6. Government should undertake campaigns on the importance of paying for services such as water and its efficient use, including stamping out corruption in the provision of water.
7. Given the reality of climate change, Government at all three spheres should enhance coordination efforts in line with the Disaster Management Act, put in place early warning mechanisms and ensure the availability relief measures to households.

(h) Basic Income Grant

Noting that:

1. Poverty, unemployment and inequality has left many of our people vulnerable to hunger.
2. The provision of social grants reduces poverty and contributes to the reduction of income inequality in the country.
3. Empirical evidence shows, for example, that the Child Support Grant (CSG) has delivered better nutritional outcomes due to increased access to food as well as educational outcomes including improved school attendance and educational attainment.
4. The Department of Social Development pays social grants to eligible South Africans through the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). These social grants reach more than 18 million people at a cost of R220 billion a year.
5. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DSD portfolio in consultation with other relevant stakeholders developed and implemented an additional special social relief package in 2020, consisting of the following:
   - A R250 per month increase to all grants, with the exception of the Child Support Grant (CSG), Grant in Aid and Social Relief of Distress (SRD);
   - A R500 per month caregiver allowance to all CSG caregivers; and
   - COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (cSRD) of R350 per month to adults aged 18-59 with no or low income.
6. Although the bulk of the relief package came to an end in October 2020; the COVID-19 SRD was extended, first to January 2021, then to April 2021 and further to March 2023; and now recently the provision has been extended to March 2024. This is in addition to existing social grants that government provides such as the Older Person's Grant, the Disability Grant, the Care Dependency Grant and the Foster Child Grant.
7. The Covid-19 pandemic has amplified the importance of comprehensive social security as a measure to address poverty, particularly in the context of long-term structural unemployment and inequality, which have plagued the country even before the advent of the pandemic. Since there are social grants in place for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, the focus must be on individuals in the 18-59 age group who are unable to support themselves.
8. The relief measures introduced during Covid-19 should continue to be used to cushion people who have no means of survival to create a permanent support mechanism for them.
9. Numerous research studies that have been conducted since the implementation of the cSRD, which was given to people living below the food poverty line to assist them through the COVID-19 pandemic, provided meaningful relief and it worked.

Believing that:

1. As the movement of the people, the ANC has an obligation to protect the interests of vulnerable people who do not have the means to support themselves.

2. Government already has a number of instruments and measures to address the socio-economic needs of vulnerable people, chief of which is the indigent policy, social protection policies such as grants, and more.
3. The much-discussed Basic Income Grant would be a welcome relief for the unemployed and vulnerable individuals in the country.
4. The BIG would help us to guarantee a minimum (basic income) to ensure that this vulnerable group has access to food and therefore enhance their standard of living which is a key aim of a comprehensive social security.

Therefore resolves that:

1. The ANC supports the introduction of the Basic Income Grant as a means to addressing the challenges of poverty and inequality, and further directs government to speedily work on the policy options and parameters that are acceptable, through broad consultation.
2. Government should continue the extension and improvement of the Social Relief of Distress Grant of R350 until the Basic Income Grant, is both feasible/affordable and sustainable, this should be linked to the food poverty line and progressively improved to the upper bound food poverty line.
3. In developing pathways to a Basic Income Grant the government should consider the detailed proposals on a BIG in the 2022 ANC Policy Conference Resolutions as a reference point.
4. Government should develop a strategy including through using the data registry system to promote access by working age unemployed grant recipients to some form of economic and development activity.

(i) Sport, Arts and Culture

Noting,

1. Sport in South Africa has become the defining characteristic of our nation building. Apart from this, there is absence of visibility of races other than Africans in major national events. Efforts should be made to make every South African feel proud to be South African, to be patriotic, and to love the country, its history and the diversity of its cultures and traditions. Sport has the capacity to transform society and a great deal of attention should be paid to this.
2. Community art showcases our cultural inheritance. It plays an important role in our tourism ecosystem especially in the rural areas. We commend the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture for funding community Arts Centres and urge more support to those who are not getting financial assistance.

Further noting:

3. The 2023 Netball World Cup (NWC) will be hosted for the first time on the African content. We note that the Local Organising Committee (LOC) chaired by Ms Patience Shikwambana, assisted by Ms. Cecilia Molokwane, the President of Netball South Africa, is fully supported by all three spheres of Government - the Cape Metro which is the host city, the Western Cape Province and led by the Inter-Ministerial Committee convened by the Ministry of Sport, Arts and Culture at national level.
4. The ANC calls on all South Africans to support the LOC Netball Fridays campaign by, amongst others, wearing netball t-shirts.

Believing,

1. Sport is an important instrument for driving social cohesion and nation building.
2. South Africa is a home to a number of sport stars and has the potential to continue producing excellent sport stars.
3. Much more work needs to be done to build social cohesion and nation building through sport.
4. The country already have adequate sport infrastructure to host international sporting events.
5. Work of art conveys stories of the history of our diverse people and serve to present a unique identity of the country, while also stimulating local economic development.

Resolve,

1. Resuscitate ANC Branch Sub-Committees to guide Government intervention in sport, arts and culture as a means of building social cohesion in communities.
2. Advance the National Charter for Women and Sports South Africa (WASSA) to ensure sports stakeholders mainstream gender in their programmes and support for the sector to develop women sports and to strengthen its ecosystem from grassroots level to mainstream sports.
3. Strengthen school sport program, especially in the townships and rural schools. To this extent, we support the mechanism of complementing school

sport system through the recently launched Sport Ambassadors program. All these effort will assist in cultivating healthy lifestyles and social cohesion.

4. The cultural and creative economy should integrate SMMEs and Cooperatives especially in rural areas, and particularly, women, youth, and persons with disabilities led enterprises to expose them to local and international market access opportunities.

5. Establish social cohesion advocate structures in all communities working with non-profit organisations and other sectors of society.

   Financial and administrative support of the Moral Regeneration Movement must be availed to ensure that the Movement's configuration is responsive to an array of social ills.

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE:

For Building of a Democratic and Non-Racial Society, United in its Diversity Anchored on African values of Ubuntu/Botho

1. Introduction

We reaffirm the policy recommendations taken by the 6th National Policy Conference and therefore bring them to the 55th National Conference to consider for adoption and resolution. This includes some of the recommended resolutions that were taken in the commission on the 18 December 2022.

In dealing with issues confronting arts, culture, heritage and archiving, the commission took into account the history of the liberation movement, the constitution of the African National Congress (ANC), Freedom Charter, the South African Constitution and the conditions facing our people, among other things.

The Aims and Objectives of the Constitution of the African National Congress (ANC) implores us "to unite all the people of South Africa for the complete liberation of the country from all forms of discrimination and national oppression" and *"to end apartheid in all its forms and transform South Africa rapidly as possible into a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic country based on the principles of the Freedom Charter and in pursuit of the National Democratic Revolution".* Wherein the Freedom Charter declares that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, Black and White" in pursuit of the National Democratic Society.

The vision is to build a South African nation with a common patriotism and loyalty in which cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of the people is recognised. Wherein the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa states that, "*we, the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of our past, Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country, and Believe that South Africa Belongs to All Who Live in it; United in Our Diversity".*

2. Background

The ANC's vision for the South African arts and culture is guided by the **Freedom Charter** that the *"Doors of Learning and Culture Shall Be Opened where the government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life".* Within the broader liberation movement context, the ANC viewed arts and culture as a tool for the mobilization of society. President Oliver Reginald Tambo succinctly stated this understanding when he proclaimed that *"let the arts be one of the many means by which …we inspire the millions of our people to fight for the South Africa we envisage".*

In the **Ready to Govern** on the Arts and Culture, the ANC envisioned *"a flourishing cultural life that is vital to the well-being of South Africa. On the eve of the democratic breakthrough the ANC envisioned a government that will strive to facilitate and celebrate cultural production that captures the diversity, complexity and vibrancy of all South Africans in which the ANC recognizes that through arts and culture a sense of national identity and pride can be cultivated."*

On Social Cohesion, Patriotism and Moral Regeneration

We note that:

- In the post-apartheid South Africa, there is an increasing necessity to again use the arts, culture and heritage as a mobilising tool to aspire for democratic non-racialism, non-sexist and prosperous society coming from over 350 years of colonialism and apartheid, which was oppressive, discriminatory and suppressive.
- There continues to be many incidences of racialism in our country since the 1994 democratic breakthrough where arts and culture, including heritage has narrowed the bases over a period of time. However, recently there have been a significant number of racially motivated incidences reported in various parts of the country, this requires the arts and culture including heritage to intensify their education role to deal with the recent emergence of racism in the country.
- By reviving arts and culture as a tool of mobilisation, using music, poetry, theatre and other forms of artistic expressions, these can unite the nation with our common programme of Nation Building Project with the aim to transform the heritage sites to include all history of South Africa or link to it. The emphasis here is the project of Nation

Building which is a Constitutional imperative as espoused by the state and championed by government.

- The Nation Building Project cannot be separated from the project of promoting a cohesive society. Social Cohesion Project should be based on the promotion of dialogues on matters that divides the nation and finding solutions, including dealing with contemporary agendas such as patriarchy in society, national identity where we define ourselves as who we are. The dialogues need to unravel what does it mean when our Constitution declared that, *"South Africa belongs to all who live in it, United in Our diversity"*. Based on our own understandings and research, a theoretical understanding must be developed and fused into the national agenda. The programme will include our uniting on the flag, the national anthem, the elevation and use of all official languages to be spoken and used in private, public and in business as part of enriching our diversity.

Believing that:

- To achieve these noble goals, there is a need to focus on programmes of moral regeneration which will include ethical conduct that is informed by African values of Ubuntu/Botho of "you are because we are" that promoted family and community values of all national groups towards building a solid nation United in its diversity.
- Culture should take its hegemonic role to glue all national groupings towards one common nationality and South African citizenship.

Understanding that:

- Globally, most nations are using culture to define themselves and their sense of responsibilities towards the nation. In the first 5 years of the democratic rule, we recognised the importance of nation building and reconstruction when we included as part of the Reconstruction and Development Plan, the Reconstruction and Development Plan of the Soul as part of rebuilding of the new Nation.

Therefore, resolve that:

- The ANC to deepen an understanding through political education, on the National Question and the resolution thereof; and to develop theoretical documents, seminal papers, political theories, and thesis on non-racialism within its membership, cadre-ship and leadership.
- The ANC must in its strategy be deliberate in recruiting minority groups in the renewal agenda as part of ensuring the character of the ANC remains relevant and becomes the home of the people of South Africa; from branch level to high organs of the organisation.
- The government must intensify its programmes on Social Cohesion, Nation Building using dialogues, special programmes towards entrenchment of Patriotism in schools, communities, in sport, using music and other genres to unite South Africans.
- The government must intensify on popularisation and embracement of the Flag, National Anthem, the Country's Constitution and other national symbols.
- The government must distribute copies of the Constitution in all South African Official Languages and ensure that the Flag is hoisted and displayed in all government buildings and institutions, in schools and other public places to promote national pride and national identity.
- The National Anthem and the African Anthem must be sung in all state events and the government to encourage that the two anthems are also sung in sport occasions and other major events.
- The government must support all cultural arts and heritage that are building towards a common objective of building a United, Non-Racial and Non-Sexist and Democratic society.
- The ANC as a whole must have a strong focused campaign that is aimed at fighting the stubborn and persistent demon of tribalism, ethnicity and racism in our country.
- The ANC in partnership with relevant government institutions, Non-Governmental Organisation, Non-Profit Organisations, Religious Groups, and Civil Society Groupings, traditional leadership institutions, local government organised groups such as SALGA. should revive the programme on Nation Building.
- The ANC must consult with diverse structures of society on the arts, culture, heritage and archiving, and government led by the Department of Sport Arts and Culture should lead debates and dialogue, discussions through seminars, colloquiums and conferences on social cohesion on all pertinent matters that seems to divide us as a people from the past to the present. The Department of Sport Arts and Culture and its entities should focus their research agendas in the achievement of these noble goals.
- In dealing with these issues, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture should work very closely with other stakeholders including the Department

of Defence and Military Veterans, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of Social Development, Department of Tourism and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

Arts, Culture, Heritage and Archiving

On Organisational matters:

Noting that:

- The Archives Committee has been seized with various heritage projects such as exhumation, repatriation and reburial, liberation archives (in various institutions) plus the restoration of our historical sites.
- That for the first time since the early 1990s the ANC has a Commission dedicated to Arts, Culture and Heritage in its conferences;
- The establishment of the Commission was in line with the long standing tradition of the ANC to use arts, culture and heritage as a site of struggle for a non-racial society and for the restoration of the African value system of Ubuntu/Botho;
- The ANC's vision on arts, culture and heritage is guided by the Freedom Charter, "The Doors of Learning and Culture shall be opened to all".
- In the 'Ready to Govern' document, the ANC envisioned a flourishing cultural life that is vital to the well-being of South Africa in which arts, culture and heritage is used for national identity and nation building.
- The Policy Conference discussed at length and agreed on the following as its primary mandate:

Believing that:

- There is a need to strengthen the ANC's overall position on arts, culture and heritage;
- There is a need for the ANC to reclaim the space of arts, culture and heritage;
- There is a strong need to redefine the role of arts, culture and heritage in the transformation of society;
- There is a strong need for the ANC to coordinate and promote a common understanding, on all matters of arts, culture and heritage between the different spheres of government.

Understanding that:

- The ANC did not have a dedicated structure that focuses on arts, culture and heritage as it used to have during the period of liberation struggle;
- In the period of Government of National Unity (GNU), the ANC allocated the portfolio for arts, culture, heritage to other parties and this had the negative effect on the ANC policy position of using arts, culture and heritage as a pillar for the mobilisation of society and nation building.
- The ANC has used to its advantage and very effectively the arts, culture and heritage as part of cultural diplomacy in mobilising the international community to support the liberation struggle in South Africa;
- Based on some observation is that countries use effectively the art, culture and heritage to promote their values and people to people relations including the thinking and the direction of a society desired;
- The government, for strategic reasons, merged the Department of Sport and Recreation with the Department of Arts and Culture and thus creating competing competencies that led to the weakening of the management (e.g. having one Director-General), overloading with such a broad agenda and thus missing out on the objective of their mandates.

We therefore resolve that:

- The incoming NEC must establish a dedicated NEC Sub-Committee on Arts, Culture, Heritage, Archiving and Nation Building.
- That the current Archives programme will now be incorporated into the proposed Arts Culture and Heritage Committee.
- All subsequent ANC National Conferences must continue to have a dedicated Commission on Arts, Culture, Heritage and Archiving with the aim of consolidating and broadening of arts, culture and heritage as the pillar for the achievement of the National Democratic Struggle (NDS) and the restoration of the African value system of Ubuntu/Botho.

On Government matters

Noting that:

- Government is doing some work on the decolonisation of colonial and apartheid spaces; including, the South African chapter of the African Liberation Heritage Programme (ALHP) and named the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route (RLHR);
- The African Liberation Heritage Programme (ALHP) was adopted at the 33rd General Conference of the United Nations Education Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) recognising

the liberation struggle heritage as important and having a universal value and significance (33 C/ DR.29). This programme was also endorsed by the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the African Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.357 (XVI)) in 2011.

- An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was formed with 10 (ten) government departments, to plan and deliver on the RLHR programme in South Africa including Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries who supported South African Liberation Struggle.
- Cabinet approved the White Paper on Arts and Culture, however there is slow progress in implementation.
- The ANC need to recall the 1991 Policy Document with the view to assess the current conjuncture and to update it.
- The matter of the current statues that are in all our cities of the former colonial and apartheid leaders should be considered to be removed or replaced based on the proposals that may be proposed by members of society. For example, the statue of Hertzog in Bloemfontein and that of Smuts in front of parliament.

Understanding that:

- The decolonisation project is a critical element for heritage transformation,
- The government is tasked to review all laws that deal with racism in general and practices (including utterances and incidents) that entrench racism. If in the final analysis, measures that discourage racism are found to be inadequate, a review should introduce stiffer sanctions against perpetrators of racism.
- The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has developed a policy on Copyrights and the Performance Protection Bill to which the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture gave input.
- There is serious under funding of the arts, culture and heritage in South Africa due to the many competing priorities arising from the neglect created by colonial apartheid.
- Also an observation is made that each time there are fiscal challenges, the arts, culture and heritage are the first to be targeted for budget cuts.

We therefore resolve that:

- The White Paper on Arts and Culture which was recently approved by cabinet must be aligned to the ANC Policy Document through a process of continuous policy revisions;
- The ANC must strengthen, deepen and further develop its programme of decolonisation and decoloniality;
- Apartheid and colonial statues should be removed or replaced with a proposal that has be reached through a consultative process;
- The Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route must be expedited sequentially completed and promoted;
- ANC research Unit must be re-established to also focus on heritage, museums, heritage sites and archives for purposes of policy development and guidelines; and must also partner with other institutions of higher learning and like-minded institutions, nationally and internationally) The relevant government departments that deal with arts, culture and heritage must continue to collaborate, support heritage education in communities and schools;
- Funding for arts, culture and heritage should also be prioritised to augment the programme on healing and nation building;
- The leveraging of arts and culture's role in building patriotism, sense of nationalism and new national identity which transcends race, religion, tribalism and other identities must be consolidated to be able to assist in the achievement of the objectives of building a national democratic society.

Sectoral Resolutions

■ On Arts

Noting that:

- The arts are a mirror of society and interpreter of societal values. This because they have an ability to promote the African values of Ubuntu/Botho and our diverse arts imperatives.
- The Creative Industries in the arts have a great potential of contributing to tourism and employment possibilities for small scale entrepreneurs, alleviating unemployment and contributing to the fiscus.
- The exploitation of artists by private companies and their creative products resulting in artist and art practitioners dying as paupers is of great concern.
- The public broadcaster continues to prioritise artistic form such as music, drama, films etc. from other countries and at the expense of local content.

- The Councils/ Boards of art institutions does not have representation from the Youth, Women and the People living with Disabilities is a matter which needs attention.

Understanding that:

- The new technological developments as a result of the 4th Industrial Revolution which cannot be avoided because of the advancement of society has made access to replication of other peoples work very easy.
- The youth of our country is deprived of the new forms of knowledge because the school curriculum in particular the non-paying public schools which does not teach this knowledge in the schools as subjects denies them a growth potential in the arts knowledge system.
- The artists and some art practitioners die poor because they do not have control of ownership of their intellectual property and copyrights due to the laws that do not fully cover them.
- The use of service providers in most cases deny the content originators full rights over ownership of their intellectual property through
- Digital Rights Management. Various tools or technological protection can restrict the use of the proprietary hardware copyright and copyrighted work.
- The publishing of books that are specifically in indigenous languages are continually declining because of lack of appetite by publishing companies.

We therefor resolve that:

- The promotion of fine art, drama, dance, theatre, films etc. must be introduced in historically disadvantaged schools for children interested in this curriculum.
- A policy on 'basic salary' and compensation of artists in South Africa must be investigated and legislated as a matter of priority like in the self-determination of the labour segment that government has considered and continues to consider in the labour market.
- Part of promoting indigenous languages, like our Governing Printing Works, the state must establish a publishing company that will publish books and stories written in local languages and about South African experiences and these be prescribed and promoted as part of the Constitutional mandate of equally promoting all languages.
- The state must also establish a Heritage Education Institute similar to the School of Government that will train new cadres as change agents using the arts, culture and heritage.
- Art centres such as Maboneng must be strategically positioned to cater for young people from the immediate communities.
- The Public Broadcaster must increase the airing of the local content in all Television and Radio stations as seen in USA/Western, Asia and other parts of the African content
- The use of the SA flag in all state funded projects, such as schools, public universities, municipalities, traditional leadership institutions sites, provincial and national institutions, including the hospitality industry must be prioritised. An investigation should be done like other countries of the world where vehicle registration has flag of the country to promote national identity.
- The strategic funding for local artists and projects which transcends social national boundaries must be established by the government, e.g. funding of songs that are aimed at dealing with national agendas should be encouraged, such as songs that deal with grief, social cohesion etc.
- Government must ensure equitable representation so that designated groups would be able to push for the agendas that affect their constituencies in these Councils/Boards in order to have proper representation of Youth, Women and People living with Disabilities,
- Government must encourage and support the craft industry, including the art practitioners that are dedicated to the arts and such school need to be extended to support skills that are so needed in the Golden Economy and SMME markets.
- Municipalities must make space in the civic centres where artists can display their work and make it accessible to members of the public and tourists to see and to buy as to support the locally produced products as part of contributing to the economy.

■ On culture

Noting that:

- There is a lack of a comprehensive policy that foregrounds African systems of Ubuntu that can assist in the mainstreaming of indigenous knowledge systems and the mainstreaming of culture and heritage which can assist in the decolonisation of public social spaces and the education system.
- There is an increase in the culture of discrimination, patriarchy and lack of proper socialization of boy and girl children.

- There is an increasing moral decay in our society that is evident in the statistics on crime and other societal ills.

Understanding that:

- Language is the most important tool in the socialisation of individuals and communities and that it is also used to transmit and preserve culture.
- There is a concern about the continued use of racial classifications that were developed by the colonial and apartheid states to divided people based on the complexion of their skins.
- Race classification of the historically oppressed groups and divisions by the apartheid state, if they still are applicable in a post-apartheid society, has an adverse potential that will promote racialism.
- The full use of South African languages (regionally applicable) in all aspects of government must be mandatory, to reflect the letter and spirit of the Constitution and fulfilment of the RSA Constitutional imperative as outlined in the Preamble that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore resolve that:

- A review of the Schools Act to reinforce the introduction of at least two indigenous regional languages in schools.
- There be an alignment in language promotion with the Promotion/Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities Rights Commission Bill.
- The development of a policy to infuse indigenous knowledge systems and craft, including indigenous medicines into the mainstream.
- The use of 'wars of resistance' and 'banishment areas' to profile the role of traditional leadership and traditional institutions in resistance struggle and resistance by African communities towards colonialism.
- Culture be used to as an instrument for cultural diversity, cultural tolerance and social inclusion.
- Strong efforts must be made to protect, preserve, develop, codify and promote the Khoi and San languages for use before they go extinct.
- The mass digitization of South Africa's cultural treasures and heritage and its protection using the intellectual property and the copyright where the state could be the holder of such rights if such rights are part of the heritage of the people. These treasures would be owned by the state on behalf of the people. Such should be identified and recorded as one of the ways of safeguarding and preserving them.

Imperatives on Policy Perspectives:

■ On heritage

Noting that:

- The Cabinet approved the Policy on Exhumation, Repatriation and Reburials.
- A policy on the distribution of Lottery funds where a percentage of the lottery fund is disbursed for heritage projects. The funds must be contributed to the responsible department which will distribute to relevant agencies and institutions based on government priorities.
- There is a need for a review of the National Lottery Commission that exclude government funded institutions.
- A policy of identifying ICONS whose contribution in society has achieved higher status and should become national assets that go beyond family, relatives and party. Such a policy is urgently needed to guide the nation to honour these icons properly and appropriately.
- Memorialisation and honouring of ALL liberation struggle heroes and heroines be prioritised to heal the nation as the Constitution dictates in the Preamble says, *"to be honour those who fought for Justice and Freedom as part of healing of the nation"*.
- Liberation struggle graves, mandated as state assets to be preserved, protected and maintained. The mandated government institutions must ensure that graves which are memorial sites of heroes, heroines and victims of massacres and other state killings must be fenced and maintained and not desecrated.
- Has sacred places, municipalities must also ensure that graves in their jurisdiction are fenced and maintained as part of their mandate but the maintenance of the grave itself remains the responsibility of the family.
- There are a number of independent heritage sites and in particular museums started by NGOs and NPOs whose focus is the liberation history and heritage such as the Mandela House in Soweto, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, the Liliesleaf Farm Museum in Rivonia must become agencies of the state.
- That South Africans tend to promote and cele-

brate their heritage only on heritage day where people retrieve their ethic attire from their closets for purposes of showcasing them.

- The government has neglected liberation history and those of the armies of the liberation movement with no exhibitions or museums commemorating the gallant fighters of these armies, whereas the armies of colonialism and apartheid are glorified in a state funded museum in Johannesburg and other small museums.

Understanding that:

- The ANC and other liberation movements has many of their members and heroes that fell and were buried in other countries.
- The ANC when it comes to arts, culture and heritage has some policy gaps that it needs to address.
- The cultural and heritage artefacts that were taken from us during the conquerors during the colonial era that are now treasures of the colonial states remains in the hands of the colonial governments and have not been returned.
- The remains of the body parts of our heroic kings that remains as trophies in the museums of the colonial states must be returned so that their spirits can rests, e.g. Inkosi Bambata of the Bambata rebellion heads remains buried in Britain or stored in their museums. The speedy repatriation of the remains of the Khoi Chief Stuurman must be finalised with the Austrian government. All possible efforts to be done to research and locate the head of King Hintsa so that it is repatriated back to South Africa.

Resolve that:

- The ANC and government using all existing platforms of communications should popularise the existing policy on repatriation of human remains, outlining the process that families, communities and institutions need to follow in order to have a successful process. When repatriation takes place, a tomb must be left in the country of origin where comrades were initially buried. There is a need to engage with such and find a formula that will resolve any country specific requirements, understanding that some countries such as Uganda would not allow repatriation.
- The SANDF also have a programme of the repatriation of the remains of the Military Soldiers in various countries back to South Africa. The intension is to have one trip that will collect and bring all the remains back home, the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee must engage with the responsible government departments so that guidelines are developed that will take into account the cultural aspects such as the performance of rituals by families of those that fell in foreign lands. The ANC must take lead in guiding this exercise.
- The ANC should develop a guiding resolution arising from the 55th National Conference to guide its members, structures, families in line with the policy adopted by government on exhumations, repatriation and reburials itself subject to further reviews. This guiding resolution must also take into account that many countries which sacrificed for our liberation are very proud to host the graves of our fallen heroines and heroes. Accordingly, exhumations and care for the graves of our leaders and cadres should be discussed with the countries concerned.
- The ANC to ensure is tougher on racial incidents and attacks by those who continue to perpetuate the racism. The ANC must ensure the laws are meted out to those perpetrators, to reach all that demon of racism as scourge will never be tolerated in South Africa.
- We are all equal and should strive to build a United, Non-Racial, Non-Sexist and Democratic society as our revolutionary objective, guided by our Republic of South Africa Constitution, the Freedom Charter and the ANC Character and objectives as enshrined in the ANC Constitution.
- The ANC to review all the laws aimed at stemming out racism to ensure they are enabling to mete out tougher sentences to the racist perpetrators. Should it be found that the laws are not adequate enough, the ANC should call for the review of the laws to strengthen them to stem out racism.
- The ANC should embark in its programmes, a Campaign Against Racism, ensure its members are mobilised to expose racism and those who continue to derail our resolve to end racism.
- A policy on the classification of heroes and heroines by the ANC and other liberation movements to guide the status of leaders whether they are local, regional, and national leaders. This should include former comrades that were given initial official burial status and that status should not be downgraded.
- The ANC should give guidance on the criteria of naming and renaming place names and other features in memory of liberation struggle heroes and military veterans and events, taking into account the and international character of liberation through the Geographical Names Change Council Act. To further strengthen this process and to inculcate the spirit of social cohesion and standardisation of geographical place names and features,

the Department of Sport Arts and Culture must review the South African Geographical Names Council Act of 1998 to give effect to the new imperatives since the Act was passed.

- The government must pass legislation that would allow that different spheres of government should develop museums, archives and memorial sites and proposes that this should be addressed by relevant authorities. These assets should be unlocked for social, economic and tourism development.
- The memorial sites and graveyards that are in townships and other areas must be maintained by relevant authorities.
- These assets should be unlocked for social, economic and tourism development.
- These sites be considered for grading in terms of the Cultural Institutions Act No 119 of 1998 and the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999.
- A criterion for funding for heritage sites and institutions must be developed by government.
- The ANC must resolve and guide on local, provincial and national heroes and burial sites and the establishment of heroes' acres.
- Graves in rural and urban spaces must be looked after and must not be left to decay, the relevant departments must assist municipalities with the maintenance of liberation heroes' graves.
- Municipalities must take the lead in the management of burial sites-fencing and providing security at cemeteries be prioritised and budgeted for. In the gravesites, there must be a section dedicated to heroes and heroines and prominent members of the community.
- The government should establish heroes' acres for National and Provincial Leaders in South Africa's Capital and in all provincial capitals. t must be a focused and dedicated programme.
- Sites that have national significance, the state must have a right to expropriate such sites to be the asset of the nation (e.g., the Sanlam Centre where Steve Biko was tortured in Qeberha). If similar buildings exist, the state must also expropriate them based on the criteria set on a case-by-case basis.
- That a campaign that promotes the diversity of South African cultures must be instituted whereby monthly a different South African heritage will be promoted.
- The promotion of visits to museums and heritage sites by learners, students and parents as part of engaging with the heritage of all South Africans and that museums must be reflective of the diversity of the South African experience.
- That where necessary and where the names are offensive to the community, members of the community must be assisted to propose to the Geographical Names Change the change of streets or towns and features like mountains and rivers to names that the community would feel comfortable with.
- The local heroes must be commemorated in their localities through different mediums and that the local government must support such initiatives.
- The number of statues that were erected and are not yet unveiled must be unveiled as a matter of urgency and any impediments to their unveiling be resolved.
- The government should partner with communities and schools on the development of the National Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route.
- A dedicated museum to the armies of liberation and the wars of resistance in South Africa must be established.
- The history and heritage of the liberation struggle and resistance should be promoted from local government, provincial government and national government.
- The National Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route must be fully supported and well-funded by government.

Specific Resolutions

We further Resolve that:

- The Conference discussed the need to organize the colloquium on arts culture and heritage to make an honest assessment of where the ANC is since its last conference on arts and culture in the 1980s.
- The ANC needs to urgently mobilize voices for the accelerated implementation of the Revised White Paper that is unfolding.
- Revival of 'cultural attaché' to be established in selected embassies across the world.
- There is a need to broaden the scope that focuses on nation building and national reconciliation to meet current challenges through arts, culture and heritage.

General Resolutions

Noting that:

- The records of the liberation struggle and the

liberation movements is scattered throughout the world.

- The destruction caused by the fires at the University of Cape Town Archives, the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa and other institutions with significant archives and heritage of the people is at risk of being lost for ever through unsafe buildings.
- South African heroes are buried all over the world are some of the families desire the repatriation of the children and relatives.

Understanding that:

- The documents of the liberation struggle which are scattered all over the world belongs to the ANC.
- The memory that is stored in various archives and institutions belongs to South Africa and future generations.
- The South African heroes buried all over the world belonged equally belonged to their individual families and the ANC.

We therefore resolve that:

- The government must support the establishment of an independent memory bank based on non-partisan basis to house the history of all the South African Liberation Movements.
- The government must urgently develop a policy and programme of digitisation of significant collections across the board to save the memory of South Africa scattered in different institutions.
- Government must establish a 'heroes' acre' in line with international standards and also make sure that all graves in South Africa are taken care of and respected.
- Where government has successfully approved the renaming of spaces, for purposes of education, a narrative of the name must be clearly worded and exhibited in those places and buildings, and this can be done by using modern technologies.
- All municipalities must review all by laws that are not friendly to the culture of the majority of the people of South Africa, United in our diversity.
- That the government must have a series of public gatherings on arts, culture and heritage to make an honest assessment of the road travelled in the arts, culture and heritage since the democratic breakthrough.
- The ANC must submit its inputs to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Revised White Paper on Arts Culture and Heritage.
- The Department of International Relations must revive and re-stablish cultural attaches in selected embassies across the world.
- The project and scope of nation building, national reconciliation and safer communities must be broadened to meet current challenges through the arts, culture and heritage
- The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture must be split into two departments with focus on Sport and the other on Arts, Culture and Heritage under one Ministry but with two separate Director-Generals;
- The government develops a policy and sustain a programme to digitize collections for access and to avoid memory losses that can be caused by disasters (such as fires and floods);
- Honour veterans who are still alive and establish heroes' acres for those who have passed on in line with international standards to memorialise the contribution of liberation struggle activists. In establishing the hero's acres at local, provincial and national level, the government must respect the will of families;
- The government should transform, decolonise and diversify the heritage space and establish new sites of memory;
- Where renaming of sites has been approved, a narrative of the name must be clearly worded and exhibited in those places and buildings including the use of modern technology. A discussion document must be developed that will guide the engagements to find common understanding among South Africans that will lead to a policy that must be developed. This must also examine how other countries have treated similar situations.
- Municipalities must fuse in the culture of all South African life and review all by laws that are not friendly to the culture of the majority of the people of South Africa united in their diversity.
- The ANC must be central in the development of government policies and the review of such policies so that they have clear ANC perspectives;
- The Copyright Bill and Performance Protection Bill for the arts and culture industry as a whole should urgently be passed by parliament; only after further engagement, including public hearings with the sectors and industry has been satisfactory concluded.
- The arts, culture and heritage should be positioned as a centre of social transformation and regarded as national priority;

- The ANC must promote intergovernmental cooperation of departments that have a bearing on arts, culture and heritage and interprovincial cooperation;
- The ANC must use arts, culture and heritage as a tool for mobilisation to build a non-racial, non-sexist, united, democratic and prosperous society.

Outstanding challenges:

We therefore resolve that:

- The below 11 Outstanding challenges identified, require in-depth research, further investigations to be fully comprehended into ANC policies.
- The incoming National Executive Committee (NEC) and its sub-committee to be seized with research and development on policies working with Higher Education Institutions, Research Bodies and doing international benchmarking towards the 2025 Policy Conference.
- Those programmes that do not need policies to fuse them into the current agenda of the ANC and the relevant departments on Government.
- The incoming NEC Sub-Committee on Arts, Culture and heritage must be ceased with the issue of ensuring that the ANC Digital Archive is live and the matter must be resolved with the service provider who digitised the ANC Archives. The ANC must also develop a clear policy on the management of the ANC digital archive material. Further to this, the government must also pass legislation on Digital Archiving and the protection of the archive owners to benefit from their own material.

1. What more should we do at local and national level to support art, culture and heritage?
2. How can we celebrate our diversity and our heritage at local level?
3. How do we guarantee sustainable funding for our programs?
4. How do we ensure the continuation of transformation of memory spaces?
5. How do we diversify and create new sites of memory?
6. How do we continuously transform public spaces, geographical names and features?
7. How should we use digital mechanisms to promote the arts, culture and heritage?
8. How do we convert analogue into digital format?
9. How do we leverage arts, culture and heritage to benefit commercially?
10. How do we assist artists with protection and retention of their copyrights and digital rights?
11. How do we preserve and promote liberation heritage sites from the advent of colonialism?

COMMUNICATIONS AND THE BATTLE OF IDEAS

INTRODUCTION

The 55th National Conference deliberated on the recommendations of the 6th National Policy Conference on Digital Communication and the Battle of Ideas. The Conference focused on policy issues in broadcasting and media transformation, Information Communication Technology, Postal Services, and the Post Bank, digitizing government, including economic transformation across all sectors of the ICT industry. The national conference reaffirms the resolutions of the 54th and the past national conferences on the matters under discussion. Having considered the recommendations of the national policy conference, the 55th the 55th National Conference adopts the following policies.

BATTLE OF IDEAS

1. Noting

1.1 The ANC is a broad movement of the people with the historic mission to build a united, non-racial, non-sexist, and a democratic and prosperous South Africa. The ANC, in its advance to transform society and redress the legacy of apartheid colonialism, continues to provide leadership in government and the advance the ideals of the Constitution.

1.2 The ANC is guided by its founding Constitution, the Freedom Charter, and the Strategic and Tactics, amongst others, as it engages on its popular task of organizational renewal including the work on Vision 2032 championed by the Renewal Commission.

1.3 The ANC emerged from the 54th national conference with a renewed sense of purpose invigorated by the adoption of the resolutions relating to organizational renewal. Society's acceptance of this renewed sense of purpose is reflected in the positive voter sentiment in the last national general elections.

1.4 However, the national mood changed during the recent local government elections. There is a notable anti-ANC sentiment in the media and national discourse. Largely this arises out of non-transformation of the economy exacerbated by the low levels of economic growth. Inevitably, this has resulted in high levels of youth unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

1.5 Public concerns on poor service delivery of basic services at local government level, coupled with a lack of effective communication on key government interventions has resulted in negative public sentiment towards the ANC government.

1.6 The negative public sentiment occurs in the context of the rising global and domestic dominance of a conservative narrative relentlessly seeking to undermine progressive politics. In South Africa, conservative narrative is disguised as efforts to guard the sanctity of the Constitution and the rule of law. A closer scrutiny reveals that in essence, these efforts, are an antithesis to the transformation of society to reflect the values enshrined in the Constitution. The ANC has not been as forceful as is required by the prevailing conditions to champion a positive narrative based its progressive policies and ideological foundations.

1.7 While the ANC remains the dominant force in public discourse in society, its hegemony has declined, when measured through various election performances including the 2019 elections, and the local government elections in 2021, requiring a new sense of renewal in line with vision 2032, and progressive leadership in pursuing its historic mission of establishing a non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic society, and redress of the apartheid legacy. The ANC has retreated to a reactive information and publicity strategy

1.8 Further noting

1.8.1 the increasingly rapid uptake of social media by many of our citizens, especially the youth, and its increased primacy as a platform of choice for accessing and disseminating information. Social media use is fast surpassing traditional media consumption in some countries around the world. Public discourse largely takes place through this medium yet, in South Africa, it is not

subject to any ethical norms, standards or regulation like other media. This results in unmitigated dissemination of fake news and the manipulation of national discourse.

ANC infighting, disunity, and use of media to engage in battles of ANC has undermined public trust, portraying an image of organizational paralysis. Challenges and divisions within the ANC and the broader mass democratic movement have created an opportunity for exploitation by opponents of the ANC.

1.8.2 ANC must hold government and its represented / deployees to account for the public service delivery in the government.

2. Therefore, it is resolved, that

2.1 The ANC recommits to itself to pursue its historical mission to transform South African society into a democratic, non-racial, non-sexist society based on the values that are enshrined in the Constitution. The ANC must lead national discourse on transformation.

2.2 ANC leadership deployment in the state must be progressively enhanced and implemented to serve the interest of the country, and governing party to instead of individual interests.

2.3 The NEC has an immediate responsibility to augment the research and policy capacity of the ANC to guide both the general membership and leadership to provide necessary leadership in public discourse, gauge public sentiment, and provide the requisite response.

2.4 The NEC should consider regular policy briefs to the public on topical matters to ensure coherent messaging on the implementation of ANC policies.

2.5 ANC leaders, public representatives and members should be continuously informed on prevailing ANC policies, ethos, principles, and conventions to ensure that in the battle of ideas, every comrade plays a part of influencing public discourse.

2.6 The NEC must capacitate and resource, the Department of Information Publicity ("the DIP"). The DIP must be calibrated into a world class communication instrument to advance ANC policy positions and programmes. In turn, the DIP must strengthen the communications machinery of the ANC across all structures including at branch level. The NEC must lead the Communication machine across the provinces and regions of of the organization, to consolidate the organisational hegemony in the battle of ideas.

2.7 The recalibrated DIP must be the custodian of communicating all ANC official positions. The communication must be coherent, centralized and validated against the established policies, principles, ethos, and conventions. At all times, leadership must uphold ANC communications protocol on ANC official positions and the NEC must lead by example

2.8 ANC must improve its communication machinery on the achievements of the ANC-led government, particularly the improvements of the lives of and access to service by South Africans who were previously excluded, based on the Manifestos of the organisation.

2.9 GCIS must be strengthened to coordinate the government communication machinery to support government departments in communicating ANC-led government/ departmental achievements based on the ANC Conference Resolutions and ANC Campaign Manifestos.

2.10 Furthermore, the NEC must take proactive steps to protect the ANC historic image and deliberately building the brand to appeal to all segments of society including young people.

2.11 The ANC should continuously review the organisation's positioning in the public discourse to ensure that corrective measures are taken timeously.

BROADCASTING

3. Noting

3.1 Broadcasting services remains the most powerful method of imparting and receiving information. For any democracy to achieve the objectives of freedom and access to uncensored information, broadcasting policies need to be progressive and considering the evolution of technology, innovation, and the need to broaden access.

3.2 The progress made in the migration from analogue transmission to digital broadcasting as previously resolved by the past national conferences as the country has achieved national digital coverage to enable further release of spectrum

3.3 There is a need for a national discourse on the policy mandate and the sustainability of the public broadcaster to enable it to play its role in advancing the ideals of our democracy. The financial sustainability of the public broadcaster is important to promote social cohesion, educating, informing, and entertaining the nation.

3.4 The public broadcaster, the SABC, needs to be competitive to remain relevant, achieve world class news and entertainment broadcasting.

3.5 Over the past decade, the ownership of critical media assets in South Africa by historically disadvantaged persons or Black people has regressed. Furthermore, the policy environment, COVID pandemic and economic challenges has hamstrung the growth of community media thus undermining the objective of driving media diversity and facilitating participation of blacks, women, youth within the broadcasting sector. Community media remains a relevant bedrock for local content development The evolution of broadcasting from traditional means of transmission to technologically advanced converged forms, i.e., digital broadcasting and new online platforms

3.6 Therefore, it is resolved that,

3.6.1 The government must urgently embark on public consultation to review and define the public broadcasting mandate, framework, and funding model. In the interim, the government should take such legislative or policy measures necessary to stabilize the public broadcaster.

3.6.2 In line with the previous resolution, government must find mechanisms to fund the public/ developmental mandate of the SABC, in addition to the commercial-wing of the SABC cross-subsidizing the developmental mandate. The household broadcasting levy must be considered to subsidize the SABC and replace the TV-license fees which is proving non-viable.

3.6.3 The public broadcasting must be regulated in the public interest to enable access to digital broadcasting service by all South Africans.

3.6.4 The SABC Bill/ Act must enable the exemption of the SABC from the PFMA, to enhance the corporation's ability to be competitive and survive amidst fierce competition including international.

3.6.5 The public mandate of the SABC must include the setting up of the Education, Health, Children and History, and others.

3.6.6 By 2023, government must finalize the audio-visual strategy to deal with the promotion of local content, local language, cultural diversity, and heritage and protect local media against unfair competition by international emerging media (streaming and social media).

3.6.7 By 2023, Government must table legislation to protect the sustainability of community media including progression to commercial media for media diversity instead of proliferation and promotion of new entrants in broadcasting.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

4. Recognizing that

4.1 The ICT industry has technological capability for the enablement of other sectors of the economy including Agriculture, Energy, Education, Health, and Financial services amongst others.

Further noting that:

4.2 In the next 5-years, Information and Communications Technology program will include amongst others, South Africa's participation fully in the Digital economy, and make South Africa competitive, through reliable, affordable, and ubiquitous ICT infrastructure.

4.3 High speed broadband access currently excludes rural areas and in urban areas, high speed broadband access and pricing remains exclusively for the rich.

4.4 Fibre connectivity and backhaul remains critical for the roll out of universal access to connectivity to all communities. There is a need to extend fibre to rural communities and townships to ensure attainment of the Fibre-To-The- Home (FTTH) policy goal.

4.5 ICASA has concluded the licensing of high demand spectrum. This enables the operators to invest in networks for the benefit of the economy, introduce new technologies and services.

4.6 Radio frequency spectrum is a limited scarce national resource. Its assignment must be informed by the need to broaden ownership to historically disadvantaged groups and its use to be extended to a variety of services including education, health, mining and manufacturing, and others.

4.7 Data prices remain excessively high hindering access to broadband for online services, e.g., government information, education and SMME opportunities.

4.8 Noting that the topographical lay and the population distribution of South Africa demands a mix of technologies to meet varying demands of our citizens. Meaningful impact and access to ICT services continue to thrive on the back of strong telecommunications infrastructure.

4.9 South Africa currently insources satellite capacity. Launching SA based Satellite should be explored to improve access to media and broadband services,

enhance technological and state sovereignty, enhance information security, and create research and development and satellite management capacity.

4.10 Progress has been made on the rationalization of State-Owned ICT Companies towards the State Digital Infrastructure company that will lead the government's intervention in the roll-out of digital infrastructure including the consolidation of government's fibre assets and municipal-owned fibre. Consolidation of state infrastructure is critical to remove investment duplication and to promote shared access to Government owned telecommunications assets.

4.11 There is need for a review of the Integrated ICT Policy to align it with technological developments, sectoral, and economic development. New and innovative services have emerged from the intersection of ICTs and other economic sectors such financial services.

4.12 Human and society development is directly link to access to technology and economic opportunities. The ownership of the ICT sector must be inclusive and reflect more participation by historically disadvantaged groups, particularly Black people, women, and youth.

4.13 The country has a long way to go in addressing the economic transformation gap and creating space for new entrants in the Telecommunications sector as part of dealing with sector Monopolies and redressing historic exclusion.

4.14 Digital economy is a reality and has a direct bearing on South Africa's competitiveness as an investment destination.

4.15 South Africa has capability and capacity for high-speed data centre and cloud technology hosting but has not leverage on her capabilities.

4.16 Despite South Africa's resource base of rare minerals responsible for production of smart devices, import of electronic and digital ICT products remain high.

4.17 It is therefore resolved that,

4.17.1 The government should review the ICT policy environment, laws, and regulations to address transformation, technological, global developments, evolving regulatory environment.

4.17.2 Government must facilitate a conducive environment for data centre and cloud technology investment in the country

4.17.3 Data and cloud management capability is critical for protection of personal information and national sovereignty.

4.17.4 Spectrum assignment must be informed by the need transform the ownership and control in the sector to include wider participation, especially for Blacks, women, youth and people with disability. The use of spectrum should extent beyond exclusive holding by electronic communications licensees, to this extent, consideration should include the use of spectrum by education and health sectors, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and new industries.

4.17.5 The Spectrum policy should improve regulatory regime to promote efficient use of spectrum including spectrum trading.

4.18 The new round of spectrum licensing process must address the key empowerment imperatives to ensure that economic transformation and participation of new entrants is achieved.

4.18.1 A consideration of measures to accelerate the rollout of world class mobile infrastructure and fibre in rural areas and townships. These should include a combination of trade incentives, tax rebates, and agreed compact between the government and the sector.

4.18.2 The government must develop a roadmap for the decommissioning of 2G and 3G mobile network infrastructure and services and the roll-out of 4G and 5G mobile network including to rural areas in preparation for the advent of 6G technologies and services.

4.18.3 Finalize the establishment of the State Digital Infrastructure Company (SDIC) and ensure that it adequately capitalized and assigned sufficient spectrum to carry-out its public mandate.

4.18.4 The SDIC must facilitate an integrated approach to serving and developing the sector through SMME participation in the telecommunications sector on more favourable terms and assist municipalities to utilize the fibre infrastructure as new revenue stream.

4.18.5 Government must create an enabling environment for investment in data centers and cloud technology to improve the competitiveness of South Africa to exploit opportunities offered by the digital economy. State Digital Infrastructure Company to build, enhance, secure, and operate government data centers and South African cloud capacity.

4.18.6 South Africa to take measures to realize its potential in satellite technology to increase access to communication, enhance technological and national sovereignty, and create R&D and satellite management capacity. This is also essential to improve the countries R&D index globally and positive impact the R&D aspect of our GDP positively.

4.18.7 Pragmatic measures, policy, and regulatory interventions to be considered to promote the intersection between ICT and other sectors and any other innovative solutions arising out convergence of technologies.

4.18.8 South Africa to develop a national digital economy blueprint by 2023. South Africa should accelerate the digitization or government and society and ensure that at least 50%of South Africa is digitized.

4.18.9 Government should ensure that it has world class capacity, capabilities and systems enable internet access and to curb cybersecurity attacks on government information and databases and prosecute cyber-related crimes.

4.18.10 ANC and Govt must support the transformation of SAPO to be competitive and viable in digital economy including the funding of the mandate of the Post Office.

4.18.11 Finalize the corporatization of the Post Bank and transform it into a state bank by the end of 2023.

4.18.12 Investigate the framework for governance and operation of online platforms in South Africa.

4.18.13 ANC-led government, through the DPME must develop a template for government to regularly report on implementation of applicable ANC Conference resolutions. The party must hold govt accountable.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

5. Recognizing that,

5.1 To make South Africa competitive, government and industry must invest in new technologies, ensure affordable devices and services, fibre connectivity, and focus on critical components of digital economy.

Further noting that,

5.2 There is need to develop and manage digital government, to ensure that as the government adjusts to this new digital world.

5.3 To develop and manage emerging technologies and applications for enablement policies for other sectors (tourism, banking, agriculture, creative industries etc.)

5.4 To manage the roll-out of digital empowerment programs (capacity development, digital entrepreneurship, and digital skills, data analytics and artificial intelligence skills) to foster digital economy empowerment (through localization including manufacturing of devices).

5.5 Data centre and cloud infrastructure is emerging as new area of international investment, with limited government and public data / cloud infrastructure

5.6 It is therefore resolved that,

5.7 Government must develop a framework with clear and coherent targets for harnessing the immense potential of digital economy, generate economic opportunities at scale and make these opportunities more open to broader South Africans.

5.8 The Government should develop an enabling policy and regulatory environment for digital, cloud and data services that ensures appropriate management of data and operations of cloud technologies to make South Africa competitive and secure in the management and flow of data.

5.9 The Government needs to develop a digital government strategy that spur innovation in the country so to improve the quality of services and promote generation and consumption of local content.

5.10 South Africa must build manufacturing capacity in the semi-conductor industry, taking advantage of the natural mineral resources as well as the skills capacity, entrepreneurial capability to produce digital products.

5.11 Government must create a conducive environment to promote the building of local chip manufacturing plants and infrastructure necessary to support the semi-conductor industry.

SECTOR TRANSFORMATION

6.1 Recognizing that:

6.2 The economic transformation remains a strategic policy as espoused in the strategy and tactics document, for addressing the imbalances of the past, ensuring economic emancipation of the historical disadvantaged groups.

7. Noting

7.1 The responsibility to transform the sector to be inclusive and address historical imbalances of the past, is not the exclusive domain of government, but must be jointly carried with the private sector.

It is therefore resolved that

7.2 Government must be deliberate in transformation of ICT and broadcasting industries by ensuring that all operators have 40% minimum ownership threshold, without equity equivalent, targeting designated groups, within the next 3-5 years.

7.3 On procurement, government must ensure a 40% minimum spend by and within the ICT sector benefits blacks, women, youth, and people with disability.

LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. INTRODUCTION

Our approach to governance and transformation is based on the following:

- ANC's approach to state power is informed by the Freedom Charter and the principle that "The People Shall Govern".
- Main goal of state transformation is *"building a developmental state that provides effective basic services and with capabilities to take forward a far-reaching agenda of national economic development, whilst at the same time placing people and their involvement at the centre of this process"*.
- The building of a capable and developmental state at all three spheres of government must be achieved through the following measures:
    - Strengthening political institutions to deliver on their mandate.
    - Ensuring that the state plays an important role in driving the economy and society, particularly through directing the effective deployment of state capital.
    - Building effective integrated planning and service delivery systems.
    - Ensuring ANC works with communities and civil society in achieving these goals.
    - Strengthening and professionalizing the Public Administration, particularly top management and the delivery sectors.
    - Building the educational and skills feeder system to produce developmental skills, technical and professional personnel.

Taking the aforesaid into account, it is the ANC's firm view that year 2023 will be the year to mount election campaigns focusing on fast tracking service delivery. This is important so as to ensure that the ANC campaign is not adversely affected by poor service delivery.

Conference noted that the commission reflected on the discussion and proposals of the National Policy Conference with specific reference to public services, challenges caused by COVID 19, 2021 social unrest and recent floods, service delivery and local government financing, policy and planning, cooperative governance, electoral system, capability of the State, issues of corruption, local government funding model, issues of demarcation, declining support for the ANC in the recent national, provincial and local government elections.

As part of way forward definition, the focus was how best we can turnaround the current situation to improve service delivery and better the lives of South Africans, whilst ensuring that the ANC remains the leader of society and driver of development in pursuit of the NDR. The Commission further emphasised long term planning in the short, medium to long term.

It was further stressed that there is the need to focus on the Macro-Organisation of the State which should not just be about a rearrangement of departments but ought to inculcate the spirit of performance and delivery. It should reflect on resilience and capacity of the state to deliver. The accountability of government should be linked to the capacity and capability of the deployees.

The following table summarises issues raised at the National Policy Conference and in the National Conference and following that are resolutions endorsed by the Commission. It should also be noted that each resolution must have time frames and there must be regular reporting on the implementation of such resolutions..

AREA	COMMISSION INPUTS
ANC's Deployees Including Selection Process	• Poor political will and leadership, and failure to implement the ANC's policies and programmes. • Lack of accountability and transparency by ANC deployees. • Troikas often don't work or are in conflict with each other. • Many municipalities faced with ongoing infighting and factionalism resulting in dysfunctionality of council and administrations. • Arrogance must be curtailed particularly now that office-bearers are interviewed some feel they are "special".
Improving Accountability and Address Corruption	• There should be accountability due to lack of oversight and consequence management. • There is also lack of leadership, crime & fraud prevailing. • All deployees must champion all ANC resolutions. • Must vet new members to ensure those with ulterior motives and criminal intent do not capture our structures. • Must have education qualifications as a criterion, with a minimum of a matric certificate. • Must promote non-racialism. • Payments for councillors must come from the fiscus. • PR councillors do not work as hard as Ward councillors who should all be full-time. • Strengthen consequence action against those who err and go against ANC policy and decisions. • Interview of office bearers is good but should focus on track records and not as much on education. • PECs cannot override interviews done by national structures. • Code of ethical government needed. • Councillors should not interfere with CWP and EPWP processes. • Whilst must address all issues, some go against constitution, such as that committees should be chaired by opposition parties.
Addressing Gender and Youth Representation and Mainstreaming	• The ANC must build future leadership by preparing young people in order to occupy the leadership in the future. • Need youth directorates and set aside resources. • Decline in women's representation worrying and need to elect more. • Should be replacing all councillors in by elections with ANC women candidates.

AREA	COMMISSION INPUTS
Improving relationship with traditional leadership and councils	• Need consistency and uniformity in remuneration and benefits. • Issue of representation in councils needs urgent review. • Representation in ward committee should also happen.
Macro configuration of the state	• Executives are too large and there is a need to rationalise departments. • Need cost-benefit analysis of spheres of government and revisit Powers and Functions.
Reviewing and revising the model of developmental local governance	• Need to review White Paper on Local Government. • Each province should have metros. • Ineffective ward committees. • May need to regulate coalitions and also prepare policy on how ANC operates in opposition. • Need to have more Executive Committees as that would improve stability compared with Mayoral Executives which enhance weak coalitions particularly in large Category A and B municipalities. • The coalition governments are ill suited to drive development and solve problems facing our people. • Security of deployed officials a major challenge. • Review ward boundary delimitation and other technical changes.

AREA	COMMISSION INPUTS
Cooperative Governance and the District Development Model	• The establishment of a strong, ethical, and capable state is necessary to grow economy. • The government will be finalising the framework on the professionalisation of the state which include integrity testing, meritocracy etc. • 33 municipalities under administration owing to poor management of political-administration nexus. • The DDM is part of building a capable state, it helps to obviate the duplication of state assets with a specific focus on single budgeting. • SALGA should be represented in provincial legislatures. • Provinces and national departments should be sanctioned if they do not participate in IDP hearings. • S139 not working and wrong people appointed as administrators. • All deployees must be conversant with what all spheres are doing. • DDM not working and should be reviewed as One Plans are somewhat weak and not strategic action plans. • DDMs must not promote a hierarchy of spheres. • National departments must have a presence in provinces and DDM spaces. • Roles of COGTA vis a vis SALGA must be resolved.
Strengthening ward committees as part of community participation and engagement	• A loss of confidence in the ANC as a leader of society to mobilise all forces to ensure effective service delivery. • Failure to respect the values of serving the community, with factional interests. • Declining support for the ANC. • Violent protests and assassinations, fueled by rival factions. • There is poor communication with communities; and • Need annual accountability reviews.

AREA	COMMISSION INPUTS
Addressing financial resources and management	• Poor municipal financial management, including poor audit outcomes. • Too much regulation and compliance orientation. • All budgets must be spatialised. • Fiscal split problematic, particularly as municipalities undertake 45% of municipal functions. • MPACs need to meet more regularly than 4 times a year. • Must regulate business forums. • Need to separate financial audits from performance audits.
Enhancing Human resources	• Some efforts are being made towards establishment of the so-called "Single Public Service/Integrated Public Service" through the enactment of the PAMA, however the process to achieve this objective has been rather slow. Consequently, the State is not able to operate in a well- coordinated matter in pursuit of seamless service delivery to the populace. • Need for the professionalisation of public services. • Need for intensive capacitation of administrations and political deployees. • Use abandoned schools as skills centres. • Get active partnerships in professionalisation with professional organizations like ECSA, etc. • CFOs, Head of technical divisions should possess requisite educational qualifications and possess registration with a professional body. • Must regularise roles of Chief Whips in particular. • Need particularly research resources in the office of the bearer offices. • Synchronise and share constituency offices/resources.

2. BROAD RESOLUTIONS

- That a report be developed on outstanding policy proposals from previous conferences, including any proposed amendments, as indicated in the discussion document and this should be for submission to the National Conference.

- That in future clear time frames should be set for the implementation of resolutions;

- That a review of the progress on the Local Government White Paper should be provided and that such should indicate any further modifications that may be needed.

- That the **ANC's Local Government Forum should be re-established at a National and Provincial level** consisting of ANC Presidency (Monitoring and Evaluation) and SGO (particularly Elections and Political Education), Alliance, Cabinet members, MECs and SALGA. This should also ensure PECs and RECs do not micro manage municipalities but ensure that they are monitored and corrective action taken where necessary.

- **Coalition Agreements Formalization**: The introduction of guiding policy in the formation of coalitions which outlines the guiding principles and approach to coalitions. Consider whether there is a need for coalitions to be regulated through legislation to enhance stability in Councils, including the introduction of electoral thresholds? Conference should resolve that the provisions of rule 25 of the amended ANC constitution should be invoked to restore discipline in the Municipal, Provincial and National Caucuses, to expel defiant councillors such as who are working with the opposition, and also to ensure clear accountability frameworks are established.

- **Role of ANC in opposition**: A clear strategy on the role of the ANC in opposition in Legislatures and Municipalities must be formulated, including effectively utilizing oversight and public participation mechanisms to regain confidence of voters.

- Consideration of incentive system for Municipalities that are performing well.

- **Building of a capable and developmental state**: All three spheres of government must ensure that the State plays an important role in driving the economy and society, including through:
  - government focusing on the building of an ethical and capable developmental democratic state; and
  - the effective deployment of the State capital as opposed to private capital.

3. SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

3.1. ANC's revised electoral system

- That the ANC's revised Electoral System was successfully implemented in the November 2021 local elections and must be evaluated and rolled out to all spheres of government.

Addressing The Electoral Legislation Including Independents To Stand For National/Provincial Legislatures

- The ANC has driven changes to the electoral legislation to address the ANC's 2007 resolution that independent candidates should be allowed to participate in province and national elections. This is with NCOP and should be finalised in the first quarter of 2023.
- A key outstanding issue is whether or not the ANC commits itself to a Standing Committee to deal with electoral reform looking at the constituency model. In principle, this should be rejected by Conference as it cannot be done unless the ANC has developed a policy framework on the macro configuration of the state.
- It is recommended that a technical committee of L and G review this and report to the NEC Lekgotla in January 2023 to inform the Parliamentary process.

Addressing The Instability Created Where There Is No Majority Party In A Legislature

- The serious instability found in some of the hung/coalition councils is impacting on service delivery and it was resolved that:
  - MECs introduce changes to Section 12 notices to make such municipalities Executive Committee systems as opposed to their current status as Mayoral Executive systems;
  - Amendments to the Electoral Act be considered such as introducing thresholds requiring parties to have a base level of support before being awarded seats in legislatures or improving formula for PR seats to only go to those that win the full quota of votes for one seat, etc.

Improving Accountability

- The focus of all ANC deployees must be on Championing the needs of the people; and building the trust and confidence in the ANC led Democratic State.

Addressing Corruption

ANC must be mobilizing communities and society around issues of corruption and position itself in a leadership role with respect to a culture of exposing corruption and rewarding whistle blowers.

Addressing State Capture

- The Legislature and Governance noted the findings and recommendations of the Zondo Commission on state capture and corruption; and
- Further noteed that there are issues emanating from the report that require the urgent attention of the Legislature & Governance Subcommittee.
- Some of the issues contained therein include, inter alia, direct election of the President, chairing of portfolio committees by the opposition, and amendment to electoral Act etc. The Subcommittee looked into the issues contained therein and developed draft response for further interrogation and comments by the provinces. In depth analysis and implications of the recommendations was undertaken by the Subcommittee prior dissemination of same to the provinces for sign off. The work of the subcommittee was concluded by end of August 2022 as directed by the National Conference. The final report was presented on 22 June 2022 and the President to report back on 20 October 2022.

Addressing Gender and Youth

- Issues of representation and mainstreaming were dealt with and it was resolved that gender mainstreaming and budgeting must be found in all spheres of government.
- Concern was expressed that the proportion of women councillors and senior administrations is declining and is well below 50%. In the premises, ways must urgently be found to ensure that our male dominated Ward committees include women at least as co-chairs.
- In the case of youth, a it was resolved that a dedicated capacity should be established in all spheres, including training and succession planning.

Legislatures

- Parliament must clarify roles of particularly Speakers and Chief Whips.
- Steps should be taken to improve the lack of research and other resources in legislatures as that inhibits effective governance, including service benefits.

Macro Configuration of the State

- Role of Parliament was considered and issues around role clarification of particularly Speakers and Chief Whips was raised sharply for further consideration by the Subcommittee.
- The lack of research and other resources was noted as inhibiting effective governance, including service benefits.

Differentiated Local Government Model

- The Commission resolved that an urgent attention must be given to recognizing the highly differentiated nature of local government so that less capacitated municipalities are not expected to perform as if they are well capacitated. In this regard the classification and grading of municipalities must be given urgent attention.
- Ways must be found to incentivize municipalities doing well and consolidated support given to underperforming municipalities, including through intra-municipal support programmes where good practices are shared across municipalities.

Demarcation

- The Commission further resolved that urgent steps should be taken to develop strategies to stabilize the changing ward boundaries.
- **Previous resolutions calling for movement towards single tier government, particularly with the increase in Category A municipalities must be enacted** in time for the 2026 municipal elections.
- By the end of 2023, all departments of government must **ensure their functional services delivery boundaries are aligned to municipal boundaries, such as wards, locals/district/ Category A**.

Cooperative Governance and District Development Model

- There is an urgent need for much stronger Integrated Cooperative Governance, particularly on Local Economic Development, and the focus must be firmly on service delivery.
- The District Development Model (DDM) requires all spheres of government to be actively involved in integrated planning, budgeting, implementation and M and E in each of the 52 spaces (Metro's and Districts).
- DDMs must assume all of government and society approach, and must include how Powers and

Functions are assigned, devolved and/or decentralised.

- DDM processes must ensure that each of these 52 spaces have an integrated approach to address climate change, including short-, medium- and long-terms strategies to build resilience.

Traditional Leadership and Councils

- Recognition was made that the Presidency is co-ordinating the process of addressing issues raised around Traditional Leadership, through a Ten-a-side Task Team chaired by the Deputy President.
- **The Commission resolved that there is a need to Formalize agreements of the ten-a-side Task Team** process chaired by the Deputy President in driving particularly the Invest Rural Master Plan and other areas the institution of Traditional Leadership. This should include increasing resources of the state to manage these processes.
- These initiatives could easily urgently deal with representation in councils and also ensuring that in all ward committees which straddle a traditional area, that Traditional Councils provide at least one representative onto the ward committees; and
- A framework to address the non-uniform provision of benefits must be urgently addressed, including the development of a national set of norms and standards on benefit.
- The Commission noted that there should be consideration of the reconfiguration of the department of Traditional Affairs to incorporate areas of Culture and Land Reform to strengthen its capacity.

On Community Engagement

The Commission resolved that:

- elected ANC deployees from all legislative spheres must actively hold community engagements to build trust. These engagements should be formalized in every ward and quarterly monitoring reports be issued publically by the ANC.
- Ward Committees must focus on community engagements, with door-to-door campaigns, report backs and the like; and
- Follow-ups to all community engagements must be timeously made.

On Reviewing State Policies

The Commission resolved that:

- There must be clear policy that standardizes the application of Sections 139 of the Constitution (amongst others).
- Teams of administrators must have the requisite competencies and have no record of poor performance; and
- Teams of administrators should work together and should have clear ToRs and reporting lines.

On Addressing Apartheid Planning.

The Commission resolved that:

- Specific strategies to improve the implementation of the DDM and in particular reduce apartheid spatial inequalities must be developed.
- Developmental planning such as IDPs, SDFs, SPLUMA should be located in COGTA to ensure there is an integrated approach.
- Joined-up planning ensures at an economic level at least, the productive, distributive, and consumptive spaces are linked properly through effective long-term planning.

On Improving Human Resources

The Commission resolved that:

- The National School of Government, DCoG, NT, SALGA, and relevant SETAs need to be improved coordination and strengthened to improve competency levels.
- Skills audit should be rolled out (phased and targeted approached) to ensure that placement and skills are aligned.
- Registration of professionals with registration with relevant professional bodies be supported, not only technical roles.
- Ongoing monitoring of councillor skills development programmes be undertaken.
- The political-administrative interface be stabilized and ensure longer tenure for accounting officers, subject to performance and exit clauses, including:
    - Professionalization of public service.
    - Municipal Capacity Interventions and stabilizing Local Government.
    - Institutionalizing Ethics and integrity.
    - Rolling out E-Government and use of ICT.
- Steps must be taken to increase the human, financial and technical resources available to local government whilst ensuring delivery on financial compliance and developmental outputs.

- All members of legislatures must annually undertake a programme of building an ethical culture of performance as elected representatives of communities.

On Service Delivery

The Commission resolved that:

- The establishment of the ANC Local Government Forums must clearly develop clear strategies to improve cross-sphere and cross-sectoral delivery programmes.
- The Presidency Monitoring and Evaluation must provide quarterly reports on the State of Service delivery across all municipalities and consequence action must be taken where municipalities fail to perform; and
- The competency levels of built environment professionals in organs of the state must be improved, with only professionals being appointed to head key posts like technical/engineering, planning and finance.

On Financial Resources and Management

The Commission resolved that:

- The Equitable share formula must be modified to address the inequalities in funding across spheres, particularly given that over 45% of all developmental functions are supposed to be delivered by municipalities. In addition, rural municipalities with low tax bases must receive additional support.
- Municipalities must ensure that funded budgets are in place, including to maintain and rehabilitate existing infrastructure.
- The municipal debt relief proposals need to be urgently finalized to assist municipalities in improving their balance sheets; and
- We ensure effective collaboration between civil society and organs of state in delivering on the whole value chain of infrastructure projects, whilst ensuring prescribed maintenance and renewal schedules are implemented.

On Developmental Local Governance

The Commission resolved that:

- An evidence-based approach to local development needs must be developed to ensure there are clear intergovernmental plans to address the changing social, economic and environmental realities and reduce the apartheid spatial inequalities.
- All DDMs must have a clear social, economic and environmental strategy in which partnerships are clearly defined to retain and expand local economies, whilst also redressing the apartheid spatial inequalities; and
- All municipalities must ensure effective collaboration between civil society and organs of state in delivering on the whole value chain of infrastructure projects, whilst ensuring prescribed maintenance and renewal schedules are implemented.

3.18. Environmental Sustainability and Climate change:

The Commission resolved that:

- DDM processes must ensure that each of these 52 spaces have an integrated approach to address climate change, including short-, medium- and long-terms strategies to build resilience.
- In addition, Disaster Management and Emergency strategies action plans must be coordinated as part of the DDM processes.

4. WE MUST BE FORWARD LOOKING

Finally, in everything we must have a long-term perspective:

- The ANC's reconfiguration of the state going forward needs to be urgently finalised.
- This requires an evidence-based assessment of the role of the state in building developmental local governance.
- Within this, the macro forms of legislatures and governance needs to be articulated.
- Here, the form best suited for the roles played by the State, including at least the following need to be articulated:
    - Economic, social, environmental and other strategies and transformations.
    - The need for a provincial sphere.
    - Distribution of powers and functions; and
    - The role of legislatures.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

PREAMBLE

- The Conference reflected on and confirmed the resolutions on economic transformation of the ANC's 6th National Policy Conference (NPC) held in July 2022. It also considered discussions of the Women's Workshop on the Economy, inputs from the ANC Veteran's League and deliberations from various provinces.
- The Conference reaffirmed and builds upon previous National Conference resolutions on Economic Transformation but noted the need to ensure implementation.

Noting that:

- The 55th National Conference coincides with the 25th anniversary of the coming into effect of our democratic Constitution, which, among others enjoins us to improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.
- The values and norms enshrined in our Constitution are derived from the Freedom Charter, which remains our lodestar to the kind of economy and society we seek to build. Among others the Freedom Charter directs that: **"The people shall share in the country's wealth."**
- Since the 1994 democratic breakthrough, signif icant progress has been made in expanding access to employment, empowerment, and other economic opportunities.
- Social protection has also expanded and the number of people with access to basic services has increased. We have also seen a massive growth in the size of the black sections of the middle strata and the number of black students in institutions of higher learning.
- However, the task of ensuring that all South Africans share in the country's wealth is far from complete. The country's unequal distribution of wealth and income is still largely characterised by the racial and gender demographics of our colonial past.
- Climate change and climate vulnerability poses a threat not only to human life but also to livelihoods. However, our response to climate change also presents opportunities to introduce a new more inclusive growth path for South Africa.
- Coupled with all of this are the lingering effects of COVID-19 and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, which are contributing to rising food prices, rising energy prices, rising interest rates, rising inflation, the disruption of established trade patterns and the reconfiguration along geopolitical lines of global supply and value chains.
- The continued energy challenge, in particular the lack of consistent supply of electricity by Eskom, poses a major risk to our development path and the quality of life of all South Africans.

Further noting that:

- As a movement we face a domestic and international balance of forces that is hostile to our programme of thoroughgoing social and economic transformation.
- This is exacerbated by a widening social distance between our movement and the people, the steady erosion of the ANC's electoral majority, challenges to the ANC's legacy and leadership role in society, threats of counter-revolution, the rise of populism and lack of coherence in the tripartite alliance.
- State capacity is weak, fiscal space is constrained and key infrastructure is failing.

Believing that:

- Thoroughgoing social and economic transformation requires an economy that is growing, creating employment, reducing poverty and closing the inequality gap.
- It also requires an economy which is inclusive and in which new businesses are able to emerge and flourish; where black people, women and young South Africans are able to advance at all levels and in all areas of the economy; and where township and rural economies are able to grow.
- Despite challenges, the ANC remains the leading force for change in the country, and carries the hopes and aspirations of our people to realise the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution.

Reaffirming:

- The 53rd National Conference in Mangaung characterisation of the current phase of the National

Democratic Revolution as the second phase of our ongoing transition from colonialism and apartheid to a National Democratic Society.

- That economic transformation stands at the centre of the second more radical phase of our transition from colonialism and apartheid to a National Democratic Society that is truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous.

The Conference endorsed the **key pillars** on which all our economic interventions must be anchored as proposed by the National Policy Conference.

These pillars are:

- Accelerating the implementation of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan to advance, amongst other objectives, increased infrastructure investment, improved energy security, and wider access to improved data services.
- Expanding investment in infrastructure to improve community access to basic services, increase the overall efficiency and competitiveness of the economy.
- Structural reforms of network industries, including electricity, telecoms, water, rail, aviation, and road infrastructure to improve performance
- Building an ethical and capable state, which enjoys popular support, is essential for economic transformation.
- Strengthening industrial policy interventions to support the growth and expansion of the manufacturing and services sectors.
- Prioritising youth employment across all areas of intervention so that we can ensure productive opportunities for black people, women and young people in particular.
- Using policy frameworks, such as, competition policy, procurement policies and other instruments to challenge highly concentrated ownership patterns.
- Providing access to land with aim of unlocking farming and agro-processing opportunities and employment in rural areas. and transforming apartheid's spatial geography in urban centers.
- Expanding trade with other countries on the African continent and the rest of the world.
- Maintaining macroeconomic stability, in a manner that supports inclusive growth and enables the acceleration of social and economic transformation.
- Improving safety and security measures to better protect economic infrastructure, including stopping cable theft and the destruction of the country's rail system.
- Rooting out corruption at all levels of government, as our people are the main victims of corrupt activities.
- Prioritising closer coordination between government and social partners, including through deepened processes of social compacting.
- Consistent with these pillars, the Conference resolved that the ANC vision must be to build an economy that:
    - Creates decent, productive employment and thereby fights poverty, inequality and exclusion.
    - Ensures increased ownership and participation by black people in the economy, through Black Economic Empowerment.
    - Promotes a complementary relationship between social forms of ownership, such as co-operatives and public ownership, and the private sector, geared towards the attainment of our economic transformation objectives.
    - Develops an integrated industrial base that is labour intensive, overcomes balance of payments problems and helps prevent boom-bust cycles.
    - Eliminates the spatial disparities within our country and integrates our communities in the mainstream of the economic activity.
    - Provides critical inputs which are required to initiate a process of integrated regional industrial development in the African Continent and positions our economy to play its part in building strong South-South economic relations.
    - Progressively moves towards a low-carbon development path, is environmentally sustainable and contributes towards mitigating the effects of climate change.

On Land, Agriculture and Food Security

Noting that:

- Agriculture provides significant employment opportunities
- Accelerated access to urban land is vital for transforming apartheid's spatial geography.
- Access to the land to unlock employment, farming and agro-processing opportunities must be accelerated.
- A number of interventions are being undertaken to accelerate land reform and to provide support for black farmers in particular.

- A constitutional amendment to allow for expropriation without compensation in certain circumstances, was not passed due to insufficient parliamentary support.

Resolved that:

- The capacity of the Land Bank should be strengthened to deliver on its mandate.
- Government should maximize the implementation of the new Expropriation Act which is at an advanced stage in the legislative process.
- The process of bringing underutilised land into production should be accelerated, and that the new Land Reform and Agricultural Development Agency should be speedily implemented.
- Address the problems of access to water rights as it relates to rural communities.
- Rural development must not only focus on agriculture, but also on other sector of the economy.
- Strategies must also be put in place to increase the productivity of land in communal areas.

To further accelerate the process of land redistribution, a Land Redistribution Bill should be initiated to:

- Facilitate equitable access to land, based on the needs of people of South Africa.
- Enable the state to acquire agricultural land for purposes of distribution to previously disadvantaged persons, based on the Constitutional principle of just and equitable access to land.
- Set out clear legislative criteria for beneficiaries of land distributed by the state, which shall include all persons working on the land, such as farm workers, farm dwellers, aspirant small-scale and commercial farmers.
- Enable the state to apply the principle of just and equitable compensation when acquiring land for the benefit of persons and entities who meet the criteria for land allocation.
- Give effect to the Constitutional principle in section 25(5) that the state must ensure equitable access to land by everyone.

On Energy Security and Just Energy Transition

Noting that:

- Load shedding is crippling South Africa, both from an economic and social stability perspective, and represents a threat to our national security.
- Restoring energy security will be critical for lifting confidence, investment, and job creation.
- The transition from a high-carbon to low-carbon economy will require the development of a just energy transition path that focuses on communities and minimises disruption in the economy.

Reaffirming that:

- In the implementation of Just Energy Transition Eskom as a state-owned company should continue to play a key strategic role in implementing energy policies.

  Our approach to energy security is guided by the Integrated Resource Plan which envisages the usage of an optimal mix of energy sources such as coal, solar, wind, gas, nuclear, hydro and energy storage to maintain security of supply of electricity at the lowest cost to the South African economy.
- Besides the focus on Eskom generation improvement, rapid deployment of other electricity generation capacity alternatives need to be provided, and these should include fast-tracking other short-term energy supply solutions.

Resolved that:

- The ANC must provide a unified message and clear leadership in taking forward the just energy transition and must work to deepen society's understanding of the goals and challenges of this programme.
- Just transition plans must be developed for all sectors of the economy and regions of the country, particularly for affected regions like Mpumalanga.
- Urgent decisions are needed on upgrading the transmission infrastructure to connect renewable and other new generation projects.
- There should be a renewed focus on demand side management as a short to medium term intervention to achieve demand reduction as well as interventions to assist and incentivise small businesses, households and communities to invest in solar, gas and battery systems to provide for some of their own electricity needs as well as to feed electricity back into the grid..
- Given the extent and impact of the crisis we face, the use of emergency provisions should be considered.
- The restructuring of Eskom's unsustainable debt must be undertaken as a matter of priority, so as to strengthen the entity's ability to overcome loadshedding and play a key role in South Africa's just energy transition.

- Energy security must be addressed urgently because load shedding is negatively impacting the economy.
- Adequate coal plants maintenance coupled with development of the skills base, including sourcing external skills needed, is required to bring power stations into operation.
- The investment plans of the Just Energy Transition Partnership should be effectively implemented and further resources must be mobilised to fund electricity generation and transmission investments in a manner that includes both grants and highly concessional finance. Such finance should be structured in a manner that avoids worsening the country's sovereign debt position.
- There should be prioritization of the protection of poor and vulnerable communities in the roll out of climate resilient infrastructure and finance solutions.

The following critical interventions are needed in the energy value chain:

- Immediate actions are required to bring power stations into efficient operation and improve the skills base, including sourcing external skills needed.
- Update the IRP, through a process that also includes transparency on the models used to create the key options.
- Regulations should be put in place to enable municipalities to partner with independent power producers so that they increase the generation capacity to meet the demand of local communities, as well as serving as a source of revenue for municipalities.
- Noting that some of our major trading partners have classified gas and nuclear as green in the energy transition, ensure that our climate adaptation policies do not place the country in a less competitive position and limit our ability to utilise these energy sources can have a positive impact on overall energy pricing.
- Fast track the implementation of oil and gas exploration, with the aim of developing domestic resources. Exploration and extraction of oil and gas has the potential to increase South Africa's energy security and assist the transition from coal dependency.
- Put in place supportive policy measures to enable South Africa to become a green hydrogen centre

On the recent hydrocarbon discoveries on South Africa's south-eastern coast, it was resolved that:

- The development of these fields should be geared towards creating options for related power plants based in these gas resources.
- Investigate, conduct feasibility studies and make decisions on new domestic refinery capacity, noting the closure of existing refineries.
- Leverage the BRICS relationships, in addition to relationships in the wider international community, to develop partnerships for SOEs to enable the necessary capability and resources to implement catalytic energy projects.

On the Green Economy

Noting that:

- The climate crisis has also emerged as a central challenge for the South African economy, with rising risks of both droughts and floods in different parts of the country.
- Important work is underway to respond to the climate crisis emergency to protect South Africans lives and livelihoods.

Resolved that:

- Government should mobilise support for the Climate Change Bill, which aims to help South Africa respond to the realities of climate change – including the increased risk of droughts and floods - and guide the country onto a more sustainable and climate resilient path.
- There should be prioritization of the protection of poor and vulnerable communities in the roll out of climate resilient infrastructure and finance solutions.
- Strategies need to be developed to enable the development of production capacity which will allow South Africa to participate in the global green energy value chains.
- There should be a clear mapping of strategic minerals for green manufacturing and ensuring that South Africa does not repeat mistakes of the past, as to date has been the case with other minerals.
- Policy and legislation around minerals for green manufacturing should be developed and development of regional and continental agreements around these minerals should be pursued.

On Electric Vehicles

Noting that:

- The transition in the automotive sector will entail the shift from manufacturing of internal combustion engine cars to other alternatives such as battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles.

Resolved that:

- With the growth of the global Electric Vehicle market, South Africa should explore opportunities to expand the automotive industry and create more jobs.
- Incentives should be expanded to EV manufacturing industry to accelerate the transition from internal combustion to EV and entrench this industry in the country.
- There must be preparations for the roll-out of electric vehicles immediately, and the impact on households and various sectors must be established.

MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY

On Fiscal policy

It was resolved that:

- Ongoing measures to avoid rising national debt and related fiscal crises must continue to guide our approach to fiscal policy.
- Government must use fiscal policy effectively to intensify its fight against poverty and inequality, prioritise infrastructure maintenance and investment, as well as advancing the country's overall industrialisation and employment creation objectives.
- Explore the introduction of a wealth tax to minimize income and wealth inequality.

On monetary policy:

The Conference reaffirmed that:

- Price stability is vital for sustainable economic growth.
- The historic anomaly of the private ownership of the South African Reserve Bank must be corrected, and this must be undertaken in a manner that does not enrich speculators or overburden the fiscus.

The Conference resolved that:

- The constitutional independence of the South African Reserve Bank must be reaffirmed.
- The South African Reserve Bank should implement monetary policy in a balanced manner, taking into account growth, employment, and exchange rate factors.

On Creating an Equitable Labour Market

Noting that:

- Unemployment is increasing and has surpassed national crisis levels;
- The face of unemployment remains overwhelmingly black in general, particularly African and young;
- Many of those that are unemployed do not have means of survival;
- South Africa has the highest income inequality in the world;
- The apartheid wage gap continues unabated almost 30 years into the democratic period;
- The gap between the salaries of executives at the top and the lowest paid workers is rising;
- There is very slow progress in the demographic transformation of management of companies;

Believing that:

- Employment creation should be the overriding priority for an effective programme of economic transformation aimed at uplifting the lives of the majority of people in South Africa;
- Men and women of all races should receive equal pay for equal work;
- One of the key tasks of the NDR is to progressively reduce income inequality in order to create an equitable society;
- Management and control of South African companies should reflect the race and gender profile of the country;

Therefore, resolved that:

- The state, working together with trade unions, improves working conditions in the Expanded Public Works Programme so that it becomes one of the instruments to guarantee decent work for all;
- The Expanded Works Public Works Programme must be re-conceptualized and extended so that it also offers training opportunities to a large number of participants;
- The state should fill all vacant posts in order to deal with, among others, the challenge of unemployed graduates;
- As per the 54th Conference resolution on the executive pay gap, the state should design a framework to put a limit on the gap between top executives and the lowest paid workers in the companies.

Financial sector transformation

Noting that:

- The financial services sector has an important role to play in creating and ensuring deep, inclusive, functional and efficient financial markets in the South African economy.
- The sector also enables the South African economy, companies and households to participate in the global financial system.
- Access to finance continues to be a challenge, particularly for Black-owned businesses and SMME's. The requirements are often onerous and make it difficult to access funding.

Reaffirmed:

- Previous resolutions on the fundamental imperative and urgency of the establishment of a State Bank.

Resolved that:

- Solutions are needed to address the unjust lack of access to capital, particularly by SMME's, women and youth owned enterprises.
- The transformation of the financial sector should include gender and race of the ownership of financial institutions and must also include the transformative and diverse allocation of capital from banks along race, gender and geo-spatial lines. Employment equity targets need to be achieved in this sector at all levels..
- Realizing the importance of institutional investors in the allocation of capital, institutional investors such as the PIC must take on a more activist shareholder role in ensuring transformation in the financial services sector.
- Government should move with speed in implementing the resolution on the State Bank including finding a way to capitalise the bank.
- The state must help the Fintech start-up sector by providing new business with access to capital, access to market and a supportive regulatory environment that protects users and also rewards innovation.

Social Grants and Public Employment

Noting that:

- Millions of South Africans continue to live in poverty, which has been worsened by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rising cost of living.

Reaffirming that:

- The state has a particular responsibility to improve social protections and provide income support for vulnerable individuals and households.

Resolve that:

- South Africa's systems of social grants and welfare payments should be expanded to provide for basic incomes as fiscal space allows.
- Similarly, public employment programmes should be expanded to provide increased work opportunities particularly for young people.

On SMMEs, Cooperatives, Township and Rural Economies and the informal sector

Noting that:

- Small, micro, and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, as well as township and villages economies have a role to play as a means of fostering economic development, inclusive growth and employment creation.

Resolved:

- To remove Micro-enterprises, which operate best in the informal sector, out of the Small Business regime to eliminate red tape.
- Develop a National Strategy for Micro-enterprise which will include the development of a Microfinance Act.
- The District Development Model should be employed to empower communities through cooperative-based community economic development.
- Government must support and facilitate the participation of communities in the township and rural economies.
- A conducive environment must be created for small businesses to thrive, including through the provision of reliable electricity supply, roads and other economic infrastructure including digital infrastructure.

On skills for the economy

Noting that:

- South Africa's growth ambitions will require a clear skills development plan focused on supporting the country's strategic economic transformation goals.

Resolved that:

- Interventions to boost skills must be based on the principles of lifelong learning, keep pace with technological advances and respond adequately to ongoing changes in work, production, and industrial organisation.
- The skills revolution requires support for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Community Education and Training colleges, and a radical reduction of the school dropout rate.
- Measures should be implemented to address the rural brain drain.
- Skills programme of Institutions of Higher Learning must be better integrated into the country's developmental agenda and other needs of the economy.

On innovation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Noting that:

- The necessary and timely innovation is necessary for our goods and services to be internationally competitive.
- The fourth industrial technologies, which include artificial intelligence, internet of things, virtual reality, and robotics, have permeated every sphere of our lives.
- These technologies will have an impact on the labour market, industrial productivity and efficiency, social interactions and political systems.
- Greater usage of automation technology in industries will result in efficiency and increased economic competitiveness which leads to higher economic growth levels.
- Although on the downside, automation will also result in job losses the overall, 4IR technologies will lead to the creation of new industries and new type of jobs.

Resolved that:

- Government must conduct an audit of all research and development as might be taking place in both the public and private sectors, focused on economic goods and services and monitor progress with regard to the entirety of this research.
- Working with the private sector, the Government should identify gaps, if any, in the body of current research with a view to ensuring that the required research and development takes place with regard to identified areas.
- Facilitate the creation of an innovation ecosystem that brings together entrepreneurs, investors and funding institutions, research institutions, community and government so that new start-ups can emerge with solutions (e.g., apps, tools, gaming etc) for societal problems.
- Government working together with the private sector should accelerate the implementation of the report of the Presidential Commission on Fourth Industrial Revolution.

On infrastructure, (investment, maintenance and security)

Noting that:

- Expanded infrastructure investment can play a critical role in providing basic services to our urban and rural communities and improving South Africa's overall economic performance and job creation.
- The extreme weather pattens currently being experienced have a devastating impact on critical infrastructure.
- Over time critical infrastructure has not been properly maintained, suffered from deterioration and is in a state of disrepair.
- There has been underinvestment on new critical economic infrastructure which has constrained economic growth and hampered service delivery.

Resolved that:

- Budgeting at all levels of government need to reverse the trend whereby infrastructure investment is being crowded-out by other expenditure items.
- There should be integration of climate resilient methods in infrastructure planning and development.

On security for the economy and infrastructure

Noting that:

- South Africa's economic growth has been experiencing several constraints which include damage to critical economic infrastructure.
- The "construction mafia" not only impacts negatively on the implementation of projects by legitimate businesses but also has a negative impact on business confidence.

Resolved that:

- Improved safety and security to protect the country's economic infrastructure should be a priority.
- Authorities must deal decisively with those who are corrupt, those who break the law, and those who are engaged in activities that damage the country's growth potential.

On Transformation, Empowerment (BBBEE), and Preferential Procurement

Noting that:

- South Africa's fault lines have a distinct class, racial, gender, geographic and age dimension – they disproportionately affect black people, women, rural communities, youth and persons with disabilities.
- Despite certain undeniable progress, for the majority of our people the economy has not yet been fully transformed, and transformation has regressed, to an extent, over the past decade.
- In rural areas, the government has not adequately facilitated participation in the economy.
- Our policy interventions have created significant economic opportunities for the black middle class.
- Inefficiencies in the implementation of the BBBEE policy by both private and public sector entities casts doubt on the policy.

Reaffirmed:

- The 54th National Conference's assertion that state procurement is an important lever for empowerment and industrial development.
- The imperative of ensuring transformation in the ownership, control and management of the economy must be intensified.

Resolved that:

- The task of empowerment should be undertaken with greater intensity and purpose.
- Government together with all its entities must continue to implement preferential procurement policy that advances people who have been disadvantaged by unfair discrimination, while ensuring that public bodies contract for goods and services in a manner that is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective.
- The implementation of procurement targets for women-owned, youth managed businesses, businesses owned by people living with disabilities and businesses owned by military veterans should be accelerated.
- For the Military Veterans, the ANC should support the creation of relevant institutions for military veterans, including SMME's and Cooperatives that enable the military veterans to have sustainable incomes and livelihoods. This should also include empowerment programmes to facilitate access to land and other economic enablers for military veterans.
- Government should give new direction for the implementation and extension of Bus Rapid Transport systems around the country, in order to ensure that the empowerment aspects of the programmes continue to be effective.
- The land transport act should be reviewed to strengthen the empowerment aspects of the act especially on BRT systems business model

On Market concentration

Noting that:

- The structure of the economy, barriers to entry and growth are important areas of focus in addressing inequality.
- The growth process must not just ensure that the poor benefit from growth, but also that there is increased participation of the poor and historically disenfranchised individuals in the process of growth.
- The need for building shared productive capabilities, development finance, and innovation can open up the economy and build greater inclusion.
- Further noting that even though the competition authorities have penalised cartels and prosecuted abuse of dominance, this has not necessarily led to increased participation or more effective competition.

Resolved that:

- Government should make use of various policy frameworks to challenge highly concentrated ownership patterns and open new economic opportunities for black South Africans in particular.
- Interventions to reduce barriers to entry and transform the highly concentrated nature of many economic sectors in South Africa should include those guided by competition policy, industrial policy master plans, and procurement policies.
- Interventions to cut red tape and reduce licensing requirements for small business and for those operating in the informal sector should also be undertaken as a matter of priority.

- Complementary measures are required at local government level to configure space and open-up critical infrastructure for new entrants.
- Better coordination and integration of roles is needed around policies that relate to innovation, technology, industry, trade, development finance, and regulation. This needs to be accompanied by improved institutional capacity to promote competition by public institutions.

On the retail sector

Noting that:

- There has been an increased expansion of corporate retailers which has displaced many small and independent retail businesses.
- In many instances, this has led to the displacement of small, independent retailers, which were primarily family operated and mainly serviced rural and non-urban communities.

Resolved that:

- Government should facilitate access to the value-chains for small and independent retailers and wholesalers.
- Access to finance for small and medium independent retailers should be improved.
- Malls located in townships and rural areas should procure some of their goods from the local community.
- There must be policies at local government level to configure space and open-up critical infrastructure for retail activity to facilitate the inclusion of small and independent retailers

On Social compacting

Noting that:

- Social compacts are critical in driving increased investment and accelerating the rate of economic growth and job creation.
- Consolidating and advancing progress in implementing the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, and social compacts have an important role in this regard.
- Some progress has been made in NEDLAC, such as on the minimum wage, competition act, and progressive labour legislation, in a number of other instances there has been notable delays in processing critical matters.

Resolved that:

- The ANC must play a leading role in deepening the processes of social compacting around economic policy interventions for long term and sustainable growth and job creation.
- The process of social compacting should be more explicit about the trade-offs, timeframes, contributions, and sacrifices to be made by specific constituencies towards rebuilding the economy.
- Mechanisms to ensure accountability for non-delivery on the commitments made must be established.
- The broad social compact framework should be anchored on more elaborate and detailed sectoral social compacts that outline timeframes and investment quantities.
- There is a need to review whether NEDLAC is currently configured in manner that would yield the desired results in relation to building the new consensus which will make the social compacts possible.
- An Economic and Energy Alliance Summit should be convened to strengthen the Alliance's programme for economic transformation.

On trade and industry

Noting that:

- South Africa needs to arrest the decline in its manufacturing base, rejuvenate more inclusive industrialisation through better-coordinated industrial policies, focusing more on labour-intensive industries.
- South Africa's livelihoods crisis and unemployment can be solved when we expand the South African economy.
- Manufacturing Industry with focus on the automotive, light manufacturing and components sectors as well as the Textiles & Clothing sector among others, has a capacity to reduce the livelihoods crisis through expanding employment opportunities.

Resolved that:

- There is a need to improve South Africa's skills base and leverage its localisation and procurement instruments to boost domestic manufacturing.
- Provision of better and more efficient infrastructure and improved integration with the rest of the African Continent and the world, and greater investment in innovation.
- To further advance industrialisation government should ensure coordination of fiscal, monetary, industrial, energy and trade policies.

- Use localisation of the South African economy to further strengthen the resilience of the economy in the context of increasing supply chain disruptions, including through facilitating investments in expanded fertiliser and pharmaceutical capabilities..
- Reindustrialisation should, where appropriate, include import substitution together with policies to promote exports in key sectors.
- Provision of incentives to support manufacturing should continue, including other incentives to promote emerging high-growth sectors.
- CSIR, MINTEK and other state research facilities which must align with the intentions of the country to expand its capabilities in manufacturing
- Anti-dumping measures should be implemented and we should seek to limit the export of raw materials, especially strategic minerals, once energy security has been restored, to facilitate beneficiation activities.
- A ban on the export of scrap metal is required as part of our interventions to protect the country's economic infrastructure.

On Mining

Noting that

- Mining sector remains critical sector which during the recent economic recession, precipitated by the Civid-19 pandemic, was a major source revenue for the country.
- Mining sector continues to be major contributor to employment.
- The transition to a low-carbon economy will be at the back of mining commodities.

Resolve that

- Legislation and regulation for the sector should remain predictable, stable and allow for the country to remain competitive globally.
- Government should deepen the linkages between mining and other sectors including upstream and downstream producers.
- Ensure that South Africa develops and enhances legislation and regulatory environment so that mining attracts investment and remains a pillar of the economy
- An intensive programme of minerals exploration should be undertaken so that new mines can be opened and new minerals, some of which are critical minerals for the energy transition underway globally, can be discovered.

On the digital economy

Noting that:

- South Africa's recent release of the spectrum is an essential foundation for a digital revolution.
- The spectrum allocation must also support universal access to affordable and high-speed broadband services.

Resolved that:

- Additional measures, including strengthening regulatory bodies to be more agile in a fast-changing environment are needed to reap the full rewards of the digital economy.
- Broadband infrastructure should be used to connect schools, clinics and other social amenities, while South Africa must move towards providing greater access to free basic data.
- Cybersecurity must also be strengthened for the protection of personal data, government databases and state-owned entities.
- Government should progress work on the Wireless Open Access Network.

On the Developmental State

Noting that:

- The ANC has an established policy to build a developmental state;
- South Africa has inherited an economy with entrenched features of structural fragmentation and inequality resulting from the colonial and apartheid periods;
- It will be impossible to transform the economy so that it serves the interests of the people as a whole without the leadership and intervention of an ethical and capable developmental democratic state.

Therefore resolves that:

- Government should work urgently to transform the South African state into an ethical and capable developmental democratic state;
- This state should play a critical role in the socio-economic transformation of South Africa, including through achieving a social compact involving all social partners; and,

- The developmental state must ensure that it deploys the totality of state capital to contributes effectively to the national socio-economic transformation process.

On SOEs

Noting that:

- SOEs are critical in providing economic infrastructure that facilitates private sector economic activity but the business models of many SOCs are increasingly challenged.
- Many SOEs are experiencing financial and operational challenges.
- SOEs have an important role to play in expanding access to services.

Resolved that:

- The comprehensive review of South Africa's SOE portfolio to determine on the balance of evidence which should be retained, consolidated, or repositioned should continue.
- The principle of balance of the evidence must guide our structuring and restructuring of state owned enterprises and our decisions to increase or reduce public ownership in order to advance our economic programme.
- A process of reconfiguration of SOEs should place SOE's that operate in specific sectors of the economy under the relevant government departments.

On Logistics

Noting that:

- South Africa's economy remains an open economy connected to global value-chains, which requires a well-functioning logistics sector across the whole value chain of road, aviation, rail, and port infrastructure networks.
- Transnet continues to experience financial and operational challenges that impacts its ability to service various critical sectors.
- Poor logistics capacity not only impacts on the economy but also on the fiscus.
- South Africa has significant efficient capabilities in its aviation sector that could be leveraged upon to improve logistical performance.

Resolved that:

- Government must ensure that the rail and port infrastructure efficiency is improved to enable it to handle the export volumes, especially from the mining and agricultural sectors, which are largely geared for export markets.
- This to include the logistics infrastructure and services to support communal transportation, with PRASA playing a leading role.

On the Aviation Sector

Noting that:

- The role of the aviation sector remains critical to the South African economy. Although decimated by Covid -19 with lockdowns and travel restriction, this sector witnessed resounding growth in air cargo which proved to be more resilient than passenger transport.
- The sector is poised to provide solutions to facilitate intra-African trade as part of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement – particularly for the agricultural, pharmaceutical, clothing, textiles, aerospace, automotive parts, high value coin and jewellery sectors.
- The Aviation sector is a key driver and enabler for tourism and trade facilitation.

Resolved that:

- The Department of Transport and ACSA Air Freight strategies must urgently be finalised and implemented.
- In the medium to long term, airport infrastructure across the country including rural areas must be modernised to be more efficient and reliable.
- A review of network infrastructure ownership, management and responsibility should be undertaken.

On the Maritime Sector

Noting that:

- South Africa has a history of successful involvement in international shipping and of having a thriving national ship register, seafarer population and maritime heritage.

Resolve that:

- Government must enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of all ports to support import and export markets.
- The regulatory environment for ship register should be reviewed with the aim of supporting growth and transformation of the sector

On Tourism

Noting That:

- The tourism industry is a growth focal point, able to absorb varying skills levels through employment and that the sector was one of the hardest hit by the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.
- The linkages of the tourism sector have important implications for the general stimulation of South Africa's economy through the multiplier effect from the expenditure side.
- Tourism has an extensive value chain and labour absorption capacity that places it at the centre of the economy's growth and employment creation strategies.

Resolve That:

- The visa regime should be reviewed to open up new markets and enhance the potential of tourism sector.
- Government must remove regulatory and administrative barriers in tour operator licencing system and consider moving the responsibility from transport to the tourism portfolio.
- Tourism enabling infrastructure should enhanced as part of the development of the supply side capabilities to accelerate sector transformation and diversification of product offerings.
- Aspects of the tourism mandate, which are spread across different portfolios in government, should be better coordinated and centralised, including the regulation and licensing of various travel, tourism, and hospitality operations, as well as, tour operators, time shares, gaming and liquor licenses. In certain instances, licensing should be used as a lever to drive investment, development and transformation of the tourism sector.
- Where appropriate there should be state ownership of key tourism products and services, such as, tourism accommodation establishments.
- There should be supporting for the implementation of the Tourism Equity Fund and other transformation initiatives.
- There should be improved support for SMME's and co-operatives in the tourism sector.

On Creative Industries

Noting That:

- Creative industries play a key role in the incubation and the transfer of technology.
- Creative industries can foster income generation while promoting social inclusion.

Resolve That:

- South Africa needs an integrated and co-ordinated system based on the need to extend infrastructure and facilities beyond urban centres, forming professional associations and networks, providing education and training in traditional and new creative methods and technologies.
- Expanding access to markets will be facilitated by improved levels of intergovernmental co-ordination aimed at supporting the country's artists and creative industries.

On the African Continental Free Trade Area and Global Trade

Noting that:

- The African market includes 1.3 billion people, with a combined Gross Domestic Product valued of over US$3 trillion.
- Increased intra-African trade will boost economic activity further and as will Africa's integration into regional and global value and supply chains

Resolved that:

- South Africa's efforts in deepening intra-African trade need to be encouraged.
- South Africa should maximize opportunities presented by the AfCFTA including infrastructure development, global value chains initiatives, and skills development.
- Policy mechanisms to protect or insulate vulnerable communities and economies that are likely to

be negatively impacted by the operationalisation of AfCFTA in the short to medium term should be developed.

- There should be increased co-ordination within Government, including the role of relevant DFI's and SOEs, to support the achievement of integration envisaged by AfCFTA, in partnership with the private sector.
- Government working together with business should take advantage of available opportunities to join in the global value chains especially in the mining, construction and manufacturing sectors

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Opening remarks and welcome:

1.1 This is a report of conference with resolutions of the Education, Health, Science and Technology sector.

1.2 The commission noted important points from the Political Report, the Organisational Report and the Strategy and Tactics of the ANC, matters related to the Balance of Forces, Organisational Renewal and Organisational Design, Constitutional Implications, Gender Equity and Emancipation of Women, Combating State Capture and Corruption, as it embarked on the business of the national conference.

1.3 The commission noted the assessment of the work performed during the period of 2017 to 2022 and ensured that new policy proposals are not a repetition of resolutions and programmes of past conferences and directives of past NEC meetings.

1.4 Members of commissions noted and endorsed recommendations of the 6th ANC National Policy Conference.

1.5 Proposed policy and programme changes focused mainly on injecting more energy into implementation in the ANC and in government, where government serves as the ANC delivery tool or mechanism

1.6 These resolutions are the final product of discussions of recommendations extracted from the 2022 Special Edition of Umrabulo on the Policy Conference, the Report of the 6th National Policy Conference and additions from inputs submitted by provinces, discussions of Commissions 11 and 12 of the 55th ANC National Conference and discussions in the plenary at conference.

2. Important cross-cutting matters drawn to the attention of conference by Commission 11 and 12:

2.1 Challenges of service delivery, contributions of the ANC NEC and PEC Subcommittees on Education, Health, Science and Technology to the leadership of the sectors in the ANC and in government, the evaluation of performance of the four sectors against targets set by past conferences, the address by the President of the ANC to conference, a call for constructive contributions to discussions in the national conference, a request for delegates to avoid repeating existing ANC resolutions; and recommendation to conference.

2.2 That the national Cabinet has recently adopted the Science, Technology and Innovation Decadal Plan 2021-2031, which will be shared with all interested parties post this conference.

2.3 That the Universities of Pretoria and Mpumalanga are the only two that teach IsiNdebele; and that this is the reality of the teaching of indigenous Africa languages in South Africa. This leads to the problem of low production of foundation phase educators who are qualified to teach indigenous languages. The lack of keenness by many children to study indigenous African languages adds to this challenge.

2.4 That nursing education is being integrated into the national qualification framework.

2.5 That matters that affect military veterans, particularly former combatants of the People's Army, Umkhonto we Sizwe. For example, the demand that the remains of those who fell in battle in foreign lands must be repatriated. These matters are intersectoral and cut through various departments of government such as sports, arts and culture, higher education and training and health.

2.6 Resolutions of previous conferences that must be carried over to the period beyond the 55th ANC National Conference must be clearly identified, amended and presented.

2.7 Black Women representation, for example in the appointment of Black Women Vice Chancellors, must be increased.

2.8 Education and training in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) must continue to be prioritised.

2.9 Government must seriously consider centralising funds for health infrastructure, especially money for clinics, community health centres and hospitals maintenance.

2.10 Note must be taken of provinces that are falling behind in terms of quality and standards, and the fact that this deterioration reflects badly on the leadership of the ANC.

2.11 The existence of discrimination or apartheid in the Western Cape was raised as a matter of concern. The Western Cape must not be regarded by the ANC as untouchable. The ANC must be proactive and urgently act to eradicate discrimination or apartheid. It must also assist residents of the Western Cape to deal with these concerns. Members of Parliament (MPs) must engage the people of the Western Cape when they are in Cape Town, for example, be active in programmes of placing children in schools towards the end of the year and when schools reopen in the beginning of the year.

2.12 The ANC must ensure that education, health, science, and technology programmes incorporate relevant aspects of the District Development Model (DDM).

2.13 The ANC must ensure that the social determinants of health are addressed in line with the District Development Model.

2.14 Serious consideration must be given by the ANC to re-stablishing ANC-led policy research units in the ANC and in various public and private institutions.

3. New resolutions of the ANC as adopted by the 55th ANC National Conference:

3.1 Cross-cutting issues:

3.1.1 The 2020 COVID-19 local epidemic and associated global pandemic:

1. Noting that:

   There are many important lessons that we learnt from the COVID-19 local epidemic and the COVID-19 global pandemic.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

   1. All sectors, especially the Basic Education sector, build on the curriculum and assessment tools and practices utilized during the pandemic.
   2. The school curriculum must be reformed to avail mandatory programmes on mental health.
   3. Sectors must strengthen their forced leap into the digital space and acknowledge that, as much as classrooms and working spaces remain important, the digital and technological space is very important.
   4. Continue to work towards increasing access to the digital space, digitized learning materials, assistive technologies, and other resources.
   5. Build a resilient system ready to face future disasters such as deadly epidemics and crises caused by the damage to the environment.

3.1.2 Women's health:

1 Noting that:

1. The health of mothers and their children is the key to achieving development and equity.
2. South Africa is said not to be on track to meet the three (3) inter-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concerning women, as set out by members of the United Nations.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. Women's health, including universal access to reproductive health services, health as a human right and the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy, must be prioritized in all public and private health facilities.
2. Focus on women's health must include the psychological effects of miscarriage.
3. A research group must be established to investigate women's health services and rights.
4. The 15th of October, the World Pregnancy, and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, must be officially incorporated into the country's calendar.

3.1.3 Women's Emancipation:

1. Noting that:

1. The recommendations made in the approved paper on Women's Emancipation presented to the 2022 ANC National Policy Conference.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

    1. Conference endorses the said recommendations.

    2. The ANC design and adopt sector-specific programmes that flow from these recommendations for implementation and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

3.1.4 Gender-Based Violence and Femicide:

1 Noting that:

1. South Africa has a very high rate of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

2. The ANC and government have taken resolutions and has policies on GBVF.

3. There are serious concerns about the DNA backlog at Forensic Laboratory Services.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The ANC reviews and re-endorse its resolutions on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

2. The education sector considers the introduction of Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer-Intersex (LGBTQI) awareness in schools, the training of teachers in LGBTQI education and the introduction of health care gender-affirming programmes such as access to hormonal therapy in health facilities, where clinically appropriate.

3. Conference directs the Cabinet to ensure that relevant departments collaborate and presents a costed plan and programme that will ensure that the country standard for processing forensic pathology specimens especially DNA tests is within three months of receipt.

4. Conference directs the ANC NEC Subcommittee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to lead a process of creating a victim-friendly criminal justice system through a constitutional amendment, that must consider the rights of victims of crimes to balance the rights of the accused, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic to make the system victim-centric.

5. Thuthuzela Centres must be established in every district.

6. A specific office be established to deal with cases of gender-based violence.

3.1.5 The District Development Model:

1. Noting that:

1. The District Development Model (DDM) aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery around the country.

2. Under the District Development Model all three spheres of government coordinate and integrate development plans and budgets and mobilise the capacity and resources of government and civil society in pursuit of inclusive growth.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The ANC must ensure that education, health, science, and technology programmes, including those that address the social determinants of health, incorporate relevant aspects of the District Development Model (DDM).

3.1.6 Generating and harvesting Intellectual Property:

1. Noting that:

1. South Africa needs to generate and accumulate its own Intellectual Property (IP) necessary for the development of technology and the growth of various industries.

2. State Owned Entities are well-placed to protect and control strategic sectors of the economy whilst promoting skills development and the employment of South Africans, thereby contributing to economic growth.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The ANC study, adopt and use the structure of ownership of State-

Owned Entities (SOEs), that mirrors e.g., the Chinese way, to generate and harvest Intellectual Property (IP) in all industries such as the automotive, pharmaceutical and space technology, as one of the contributions by the Higher Education and Science and Technology sectors.

3.1.7 A better synergy between the Higher Education and Training or PSET sector and the Science and Innovation (SI) sector:

1 Noting that:

1. The Higher Education, Training, Science and Innovation System for higher socioeconomic impact is successfully upscaling innovations such as the development of the Hydrogen Society Roadmap and the vaccine manufacturing strategy.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The Higher Education and Training sector and the Science and Innovation sector pursue programmes that strengthen further a better synergy between them.

3.1.8 On matters environment in the context of education, health, science, and technology.

1. Noting that:

1. In South Africa environmental education is poor.

2. Matters environment include, amongst others, protection of the environment from damage, environmental sustainability, reforestation, pollution, greenhouse effect and global warming, climate change and waste disposal.

3. There is a needed to integrate in all sectors environmental policy and decision making to position the workforce as an important stakeholder in matters environment.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The ANC prioritises and strengthens the capacity of education and health systems to engage in environmental action.

2. The ANC environmental education, health, science, and technology strategy be based on science and orientated to environmental activism and not only on climate change.

3. The ANC adopts programmes to get South Africa and the African continent taking a lead in matters of the environment such as preservation and protection of fauna and flora, reforestation and climate change through science, technology, and innovation.

4. The ANC adopts programmes to promote the development of appropriate technology for the safe use of coal, one of the three forms of fossil fuels, for energy generation.

5. Environmental education and actions take an intersectional approach.

6. The programmes on matters environment also focus on environmental justice.

3.2 The ANC NEC Subcommittee on Education, Health, Science and Technology, and equivalent ANC PEC Subcommittees Science and Technology: There were no new resolutions pertaining to the Subcommittee that were proposed for adoption by conference. Previous resolutions are hereby endorsed.

3.3 Science and Technology:

3.3.1 Recognising the need for integrated technology planning to support national economic development:

1. Noting that:

1. The finalisation of the STI Decadal Plan.

2. Technology is a strategic national capability and asset that can define the progress or regression of a nation, and not just a mere enabler.

3. Science, technology, and innovation is a political matter that remains central to the advancement of our National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

4. Science, technology, and innovation is as an important factor that can be used to promote and achieve employment, take South Africans out of poverty, and reduce inequality.
5. Technology Exercises for STI or Long-Term Sustainable Planning on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) is important.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
   1. There be a deliberate plan for a science-technology-innovation-led industrial and socio-economic development.
   2. An inclusive national system of innovation be established and funded to contribute to transformation and inclusive development.
   3. Cabinet must consider ring-fencing of the STI budget across the three (3) spheres of government.
   4. The ANC establish a competitive strategy that has science, technology, and innovation as its critical components.
   5. The ANC drive programmes to achieve through science, technology and innovation the eradication of unemployment and inequality, economic development, sustainable growth, poverty eradication, unlock and propel beneficiation of strategic minerals and other raw commodities such as agricultural produce through agro processing.

3. Further resolve to:
   1. Promote the acquisition of and continue to prioritise science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) skills.
   2. To conduct business through structured and systematic international cooperation.
   3. Make e-government an imperative; and
   4 Ensure that the country's military and the military industry contribute to the country's technological advancement through research, technology, and innovation.
4. Direct the sector to submit progress report regularly to the ANC NEC through the Subcommittee.

3.4 The education sector:

3.4.1 The funding of education:

1. Noting that:
   1. There are challenges including budgetary constraints in the funding of education.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
   1. The education sector urgently studies the funding of education, including early childhood development (ECD), basic education, higher education and training and relevant state academic institutions, and report to the ANC.
   2. The provision of Learning Resources must be from ECD level.
   3. Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) provision must cover all learning areas without creating platforms for budget cuts.
   4. The ANC revisit or re-discuss the principles of universal access to education for all, as expressed in the ideals of the 1943 African Claims, the 1955 Freedom Charter, the 1963 South African Communist Party Programme: Road to South African Freedom and the 1994 Reconstruction and Development Programme in the context of today's realities.

3.4.2 On the commitment to integrate alternative forms of education into the South African education system:

1. Noting that:
   1. The imperative for South Africa to include in its approach the increased use of on-line and web-based education and training.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
   1. Access and use of knowledge and information that is available in abundance through digital means

be integrated into the method and practice of teaching and subjects of our education system.

2. Digitisation using the most advanced of tools, be compulsory at all levels of education, with special focus on rural as well as all disadvantaged communities.

3.4.3 Upscaling training in hard artisanal skills:

1. Noting that:
    1. The acquisition of artisanal skills is critical to economic development.
    2. South Africa is severely lacking in artisanal skills and is estimated to be having a shortage of about 40 000 artisans.
    3. South Africa must produce at least 30 000 qualified artisans to meet labour demands.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The South Africans education and training sector must upscale training in hard artisanal skills such as carpenters, painters, plasterers, tilers, jewellers, metalworkers, and weavers to increase the chances of skilled personnel being employed.

3.4.4 Promotion of technical and vocational education and training as the first career choice:

1. Noting that:
    1. The education sector has adopted the national and provincial Master Skills Plans.
    2. Poor progress has been made towards the making vocational and technical training the most attractive career option for most learners in our country.
    3. Career Guidance must be linked with the matching of skills and interests from foundation levels.
    4. Most learners at schools aspire to enrol at universities by obtaining a bachelor's pass in their National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.
    5. The general approach of the DHET, the South African academia and many government departments such as the Department of Health is to eradicate technical and artisanal skills, to do away with diplomas as acceptable qualifications and to promote university degrees as the only indicator of professional qualifications in most disciplines.
    6. Industry contributes through its employment practices to the everted triangle of skills provision where the norm for engineers: technicians and artisans is no longer 1:4:16 on the average.
    7. A considerable number of college-educated graduates are unemployed because having not received Work Integrated Learning (WIL) during their years of education and training and thereafter because of lack of opportunities to do practical training post-qualification.
    8. The challenge that remains is how to eradicate the national myth that promotes university education as the first and best choice.
    9. Making vocational and technical training attractive would be possible if the ANC HET and BE sectors could review and confirm the correctness of the scale of achievement for the National Curriculum Statement Grades 10-12 in line with the approved Policy for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and together work out solutions.

2 Therefore, resolve that:

1. The BE sector in collaboration with the HET sector seriously consider the nomenclature it uses to describe its passes at NSC.
2. The HET sector uses Work Integrated Learning (WIL) to improve the collaboration between colleges and various industries plus improve the employability of learners throughout their years of training.
3. The sector embarks on programmes that promote the active collaboration between the PSET sector, industry, schools and communities to

realise the value of technicians, artisans and tradesmen-tradeswomen in production and manufacturing.

4. Exchange programmes must be embarked upon with Germany and BRICS countries to bring back lessons on skills planning and development and to drive the skills revolution in South Africa.

3.4.5 Promoting teaching as a profession:

1. Noting that:

1. Teaching is a profession that lies at the heart of both the teaching and learning of children and youth and their social, cultural, and economic development.

2. The term professional must be understood to relate to a specified paid occupation and not a qualification obtained only from a university.

3. The attractiveness of the teaching profession needs to be urgently improved.

4. The current generation of teachers is ageing, and alarming numbers of new teachers are leaving the profession within the first years of employment.

5. The professional commitment of teachers and academics to the education and welfare of their students should be recognized and respected.

6. The status of young teachers, academic staff, researchers, and education employees deserves particular attention.

2 Therefore, resolve that:

1. The past resolutions of the ANC on teacher training and the re-establishment of teacher training colleges are reaffirmed.

2. Teacher education must be offered in teacher training colleges and universities up to the highest post-graduate levels of study.

3. The state and teachers' unions collaborate in the development of strategies, plans and programmes for the development of the teaching profession.

3.4.6 Deepened monitoring and enhanced partnership with private education:

1. Noting that:

1. There is a need for systematic monitoring of the private education sector.

2. There is a need for enhanced partnership between government and private education institutions.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. Government review in line with ANC policy all its policies, laws and regulations that pertain to private education to ensure maximum gains for the entire citizenry.

2. A broadened consultative platform be established between government, private education practitioners as well as all education stakeholders such as organised civil society to maintain good country standards and promote synergy.

3.5 Basic Education:

3.5.1 The Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill:

1. Noting that:

1. The Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill is currently being processed in Parliament.

2. The Bela Bill is a transformative draft law aimed at, amongst others, to amend various laws to align them with developments in the education landscape to ensure that systems of learning are put in place in a manner that gives effect to the right to basic education.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill be supported to ensure ongoing mobilisation of communities.

3.5.2 Overcrowding in Schools:

1. Noting that:
    1. There are many areas in our country where schools have overcrowded classrooms because of a variety of factors.
    2. Overcrowding ultimately leads to poor educational outcomes because of the inability of learners to learn, difficulties of educators to teach and compromised learners where they are unable to receive quality education.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The ANC and government address overcrowding in schools as a matter of urgency with the aim of delivering on this item by December 2023.
    2. The Ministry of Basic Education and PEC Subcommittees on Education, Health, Science and Technology submit quarterly progress reports on the implementation of this resolution, including the implementation of the Special Intervention Programme on Overcrowding in Schools (SIPOS), to the ANC NEC through the Subcommittee.

3.5.3 Oversight of schools:

1. Noting that:
    1. Effective oversight of schools is critical for effective teaching and learning.
    2. Oversight of schools protects learners, parents and teachers and promotes active participation of stakeholders in constantly identifying areas of that need improvement even in the best performing schools.
    3. There are serious concerns that have been raised about corruption in schools and the involvement of members of the SGBs in some of these incidents.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. Local ANC structures working with and through School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and communities perform effective oversight of schools.
    2. ANC structures adopt and encourage the adoption of schools for ease of oversight, regular monitoring and support.
    3. School Governing Bodies (SGBs) must not be part of the employment and procurement processes in schools to reduce and eradicate incidents of involvement of SGB members in corruption in schools.

3.5.4 Migration patterns of families and learners accessing education in South Africa:

1. Noting that:
    1. Uncontrolled internal migration and immigration affect the access of schools and schooling adversely.
    2. Lack of data on migration results in inequitable provision of educational resources such as teachers and infrastructure in many areas.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. Migration patterns of families and learners accessing education in South Africa must be monitored and be reported upon regularly to the ANC NEC through the Subcommittee to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not result in leaving newly built schools as white elephants.

3.5.5 Additional resolutions considered by and recommended for adoption by conference:

1. Noting that:
    1. Noting that the following serious concerns have been raised by the membership of the ANC and society about these matters.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. Compulsory driver training: All students go through compulsory drivers training by the time they complete their National Senior Certificate (NSC).

2. Home Schooling: Home schooling must be reviewed.
3. Bullying in schools: Bullying in schools must be constantly addressed.

3.6 Higher Education and Training:

3.6.1 Review and intensification of transformation of tertiary education:

1. Noting that:
    1. The South African colleges and universities continue to struggle with matters of transformation.
    2. The Africa Wealth Report 2022 states that the top universities for producing High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs) are the University of Cape Town, the University of Witwatersrand, Rhodes University, the University of South Africa, Stellenbosch University and the University of Pretoria.
    3. Medical specialist training is not transformative but is discriminatory against indigenous South Africans.
    4. A similar picture of lack of transformation from apartheid to democracy exists in the college sector.

2 Therefore, resolve that:

1. The national transformation programme focusing on colleges and universities, including the transformation of medical specialist training, be reviewed and intensified.
2. Such effort includes unequivocal resonance with overall transformation agenda of our country.
3. The concept and practice of "academic independence" must be reviewed and refined to ensure that government is able to productively invest in and facilitate the transformation of tertiary education or the higher education and training sector which are South Africa's Post-School Education and Training Sector.
4. Tri-annual assessment summits must be held by stakeholders to ensure consistency in progress without fail.

3.6.2 The vision of the Higher Education and Training and the Post-School Education and Training Sector:

1. Noting that:
    1. The vision of the Higher Education and Training (HET) sector in South Africa in which we have a differentiated and fully inclusive post-school system that allows South Africans to access relevant Post-School Education and Training (PSET), to fulfil the economic and social goals of participation in an inclusive economy and society, is noted and endorsed.
    2. There is a need for all South Africans to have a clear understanding of the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The sector be considered as and be referred to as the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector, which includes higher education and training, vocational education, community education and various skills initiatives.

3.6.3 A seamless PSET System articulated well to Basic Education:

1. Noting that:
    1. It is necessary to have a seamless education system that is responsive to the needs of communities and the economy.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. A better coordinated and seamless PSET System well-articulated to Basic Education be strengthened and focussed to deal with the scourge of unemployment at 34.5% with 4 million young people (15-24yrs) not in employment or any education and training opportunities.

3.6.4 Progress in the Higher Education and Innovation system:

1 Noting that:
    1. A lot of progress has been achieved in the Higher Education and Innovation system.

2 Therefore, resolve that:

1. More intensive work must be performed in the following key areas:

1.1 Strengthening the Higher Education, training and Innovation system.

1.2 Expanded access to PSET opportunities: a highly articulated PSET system with a focus on massive expansion of the college system.

1.3 Improved efficiency and success of the of the PSET System: improved quality of programmes, teaching and research; improved business processes at all institutions including public entities and curriculum transformation and programme revision to ensure alignment the Three Stream Curriculum Model of Basic Education with relevance to the workplace and to ensure portability of acquired qualifications.

1.4 Alignment of the skills development system to improve employment of graduates: strengthening partnerships and forging meaningful collaboration between the Higher Education, Science and Innovation (HESI) system and organised employers, labour and business.

1.5 Immediate attention be paid to shortages in engineering skills and middle level skills.

1.6 The establishment of a new Veterinary School, Policing, and Science and Innovation Universities.

3.6.5 Expansion of digital programmes:

1. Noting that:

1. The increased use of technology has enabled learning experience to be people centred.

2. Technology enhanced learning gives educators and students the opportunity to increase their knowledge and advance their skills in novel ways.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The provision of digital programmes must be expanded.

2. The PSET sector must put greater focus on improving its offering of digital programmes by colleges, universities, other academic institutions, and various industries.

3.7 Health:

3.7.1 Declaring health, a priority:

1. Noting that:

1. Health is and remains a priority for the ANC, government and country.

2. There is a need to intensify programmes to ensure ongoing improvement in the quality of health care and health services.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolutions of conference that declared health a priority of the African National Congress and of the government are reaffirmed.

3.7.2 Reviewing the nature of the South African health system and the appropriateness of its front-line care providers:

1. Noting that:

1. The South African health system has evolved in response of material conditions which shaped its structure and function of its human resources over the years.

2. There is a dire need to constantly review its nature and appropriateness of its human capital.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The ANC health sector must review the South African health system and recommend whether South Africa should return or not return to the situation where the first tier in the health system is the front-line care provided by family doctors.

3.8 Military veterans:

3.8.1 Directing Cabinet and government to prioritise and provide finance and other resources such as pathology services to provide appropriate assistance to anti-apartheid military veterans and their families:

1. Noting that:

1. Military veterans, especially former liberation war veterans, have served South Africa with distinction and that many paid the supreme sacrifice for our freedom.

2. Former combatants of the South African liberation movement have challenges that cut across all sectors of our society and all services.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. Government must prioritise and provide finance and other resources such as pathology services to assist and enable families of military veterans to get closure by repatriating the remains of all those who passed away in foreign lands because of combat or battles, diseases and various causes during the struggle against apartheid.

4. Resolutions from the 54th ANC National Conference and previous conferences which were re-affirmed, amended, rescinded, and adopted by the 55th ANC National Conference in 2022.

4.1 Cross-cutting issues:

4.1.1 The ANC Policy cycle: Increasing the ANC policy review cycle to ten (10) years:

1. Noting that:

1. The resolution directing that the ANC policy review cycle be increased from five (5) years to at least ten (10) years with a five-yearly review was not processed and therefore not implemented by the ANC NEC.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution is reaffirmed.

2. The ANC policy system must be strengthened and its policy, monitoring and evaluation capacity increased.

3. A move be taken towards transforming the policy system to work continuously and sustainably and not just before policy conferences.

4.2 The ANC NEC Subcommittee on Education, Health, Science and Technology, and equivalent ANC PEC Subcommittees Science and Technology:

4.2.1 Audit of mobile schools and clinics by ANC branches:

1. Noting that:

1. No progress has been made in the audit of mobile schools and clinics by branches of the ANC.

2. The DBE has the lists of mobile schools.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. That the resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The Subcommittee receive the list of mobile schools from the DBE and prioritise the implementation of this resolution by ANC BECs, RECs and PECs and report to the NEC.

4.3 Science, Technology and Innovation:

4.3.1 The following resolutions of past conferences, which were fully implemented by the ANC and the ANC-led government, are hereby submitted to conference for re-endorsement and for directives for their further implementation:

1. Policies be adopted to promote the recognition of the prevalence of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in daily life and that these serve to encourage learners in schools, students at colleges and universities and workers in every sector to invent new technologies and products by analysing and learning from those imported and used daily in their lives.

2. Public engagement on and promotion

of science, technology and innovation be intensified.

3. The ANC leads society to think more positively about ourselves and our innovation capabilities and publicises advances that have been made by South African scientists and innovators.
4. On the promotion of new innovations and invention of new technologies.

4.3.2 To increase investment in Research and Development and attract adequate funding of R&D across all sectors and throughout the country:

1. Noting that:
    1. The Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) has persisted in its decline over the years.
    2. It has been worsened by the persistent decline in business investment and inadequate government investment in R&D, especially at provincial and local government level.
    3. The decrease in R&D expenditure by state-owned enterprises (SOEs) added to this.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. That the resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. A new target must be set on the funding for country research and development.
    3. The ANC cultivates the culture of research, development, innovation, the increased use of technology in provincial governments, the business sector especially the SMMEs, the financial sector and the manufacturing sector.
    4. South Africans must be convinced that research and development linked to manufacturing for self-sufficiency through local consumption first and later for export, is a good norm especially if facilitated through collaboration in R&D by every business with local colleges, universities and other academic institutions such as the CSIR and relevant industries.
    5. Budget coordination must be implemented by setting aside or ring-fencing R&D funding at local and provincial government level.
    6. All stakeholders must be urged to significantly increase their contribution to the development and employment of R&D personnel.
    7. Stakeholders must be urged to contribute positively to an increase in R&D in medical and health sciences and engineering.

4.3.3 On the use and increase of uptake of locally produced technologies:

1. Noting that:
    1. The resolution of conference was not implemented in the public and private sector.
    2. Despite good progress that is being made in implementing this resolution, government, labour and business are not demonstrating any material increase in their uptake of locally produced technologies.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. A law be drafted to compel government and private companies to use and increase their uptake of locally produced technologies.
    2. The ANC and government encourage students, youth and workers to copy and make new equipment to meet local societal needs.
    3. The ANC and government embark on a campaign of *"Made in South Africa! Buy South African! Local is lekker! Local is best!"*.

4.3.4 On the coordination and harmonisation of policies and incentives related to STI.

1. Noting that:

    4.3.4.1.1 The coordination and harmonisation of policies and incentives related to science, technology and innovation in across all sectors of society and the economy is still far from ideal.

2. The implementation of this resolution is achieving less impact than desired.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. A focused process, namely Budget Coordination, be set up between government departments to coordinate and harmonise policies and incentives, especially those related to STI.

3. The same must be set up between the Subcommittee and the ANC Economic Transformation Committee (ETC) to ensure that this resolution is implemented in the government and in the private sector.

4.3.5 On the use of STI within and across the public sector as an enabler of service delivery:

1. Noting that:

1. The resolution of conference was not implemented in the public sector across national departments, statutory bodies, SOEs, provinces and local government institutions.

2. The take up and utilisation of STI by the public sector is not always recognised as providing possible solutions to improved delivery of services to communities by potential users in provinces and local government.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. A coordinating mechanism, namely the STI Presidential Plenary and Inter-Ministerial Committee and the New Management Model, be considered and implemented to improve the use of STI within and across the public sector and as an enabler of service delivery.

4.3.6 On the promotion of new innovations and invention of new technologies:

1. Noting that:

1. The resolution of conference was not implemented widely.

2. Insufficient progress has been made to cultivate a culture of inventing new technologies and products amongst learners in schools, students at colleges and universities and workers in every sector, viz. growing the Made in South Africa movement.

3. The type of entrepreneurship that is being promoted across society is not consciously linked to value-add to tradeable commodities, research and development, innovation, and technology.

2 Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference be reaffirmed.

2. The science and technology sector report to the Subcommittee quarterly on the implementation of this resolution.

4.3.7 Programmes that are designed for farms, villages, townships and poor towns and cities:

1. Noting that:

1. Good progress has been made, but that reports of such progress have not been submitted to the Subcommittee and the ANC NEC.

2. The ST sector has not tabled in this reporting period the addition of similar programmes to promote science literacy and the creation of Wi-Fi spots, as directed by conference.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The Science, Technology and Innovation sector must urgently present to the ANC NEC through the Subcommittee a funded and implementable plan and programmes that are designed for rural areas, townships and poor towns and cities to promote science literacy programmes and the creation of Wi-Fi spots to attain the objectives of this resolution.

4.3.8 State pharmaceutical company:

1. Noting that:
    1. Ketlaphela Pharmaceutical State-Owned Company Limited was established in response to the directive of the Cabinet of the Republic of South Africa.
    2. One of the challenges facing this programme is that some stakeholders and government officials regard Ketlaphela as a threat to the private pharmaceutical sector, particularly manufacturers of generic pharmaceutical products.
    3. This project is not implemented by the health sector, but by the Department of Science and Innovation.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. Conference re-affirms its previous resolutions on the establishment of a state-owned pharmaceutical company.
    2. The ANC, particularly the Subcommittee, review the conduct and performance of and benefits of the state from all state-owned pharmaceutical companies.
    3. The ANC develop a policy that ensure majority share ownership of these companies by the state to guarantee that the Intellectual Property (IP) that accrues from these companies and Public-Private Partnerships belong to the state.
    4. The Health, Higher Education and Training, Science and Innovation implement this resolution urgently in collaboration with relevant department of government.
    5. The Ketlaphela, the project on the state pharmaceutical company, be accelerated and that the local production of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and medical devices should be prioritized.

4.4 The education sector:

4.4.1 Declaring education an apex priority:

1. Noting that:
    1. Education and health are priorities for the ANC and the country.
    2. There are aspects of education that have room for improvement.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference that declared education an apex priority of the African National Congress and the government is reaffirmed.

4.4.2 A comprehensive review of the education and training system:

1. Noting that:
    1. The resolution has not been implemented.
    2. The Basic Education sector working with the Higher Education and Training sector and the National Treasury have not submitted a comprehensive review of the education and training system to the ANC by April 2019, as directed by resolutions of conferences.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The BE sector must urgently convene a meeting with the Higher Education and Training sector and the National Treasury and start with a comprehensive review of the education and training system as directed by conference.
    3. The Subcommittee must submit quarterly reports to the ANC NEC on this matter.

4.5 **Basic Education:** These draft resolutions include those whose purpose is to increase the safety net of learners through pro-poor policies to cover learners who are deserving such as ECD, and learners with special education needs.

4.5.1 The Three-Stream Curriculum Model of Basic Education:

1. Noting that:
    1. The strategic objective of the Three-Stream Curriculum Model of Basic Education is to increase

learner access to academic, technical-vocational and technical-occupational streams of education and training at school level to meet the needs of society and the economy.

2. The challenge lack of understanding and uniformity of implementation are some of the factors faced by the sector and society.
3. The sector is making good progress in the implementation of the Three-Stream Curriculum Model of Basic Education.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The Three-Stream Curriculum Model of Basic Education is supported, and its implementation must be accelerated.

4.5.2 Strategic alignment and repositioning of the basic education sector:

1. Noting that:
    1. Good progress is being made in the implementation of policies and programmes that are relevant to this resolution towards achieving good quality teaching and learning outcomes.
    2. The sector identified the need for policy change to promote the recognition of teachers as professionals.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The subcommittee discuss and recommend to the NEC the requested policy change to promote the professional recognition of teachers.
    2. The sector establishes and maintain a common alignment and approach to basic education throughout the sector and provinces.
    3. The sector to continue guaranteeing the consistency of approach in the implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS).

4.5.3 Operation Phakisa in education:

1. Noting that:
    1. Good progress is being made in the speeding up implementation of this Presidential Programme on ICT in schools.
    2. Partnerships contributed to the progress made.
    3. The greatest challenges are in rural areas where many areas do not have connectivity because of lack of ICT infrastructure and systems.
    4. Educators could link remotely to learners in several schools and then move around these schools whenever necessary.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The sector work through the Cabinet to secure adequate funding for this priority project.
    2. The sector continues to explore alternative technologies.
    3. The sector advocates for a review of regulations plus pursue the zero-rating of data to ensure that the e-rate policy is implemented.
    4. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other technologies must be used to improve access to education, especially in schools with few learners.
    5. The rollout by government of Broad Band Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to all areas and provision of connectivity in all schools for the purpose of teaching and learning and the provision of additional and continuous support for children with special needs be expedited.

4.5.4 Protecting public facilities:

1. Noting that:
    1. The resolution has been implemented, but not fully.
    2. There are persistent acts of vandalism and destruction of schools and other public facilities throughout the country.

3. The ANC and its Subcommittees have not implemented plans or programmes systematically to lead society to take ownership of all public facilities and properties.
4. The BE sector in government is dealing systematically and regularly with acts of vandalism and disruptions, but that the ANC does not have a formal national plan to protect these from damage and destruction, especially in times of social upheavals.

2. And believing that:
   1. It is the duty of the ANC to lead communities and society to take ownership of all public facilities and properties, and to always protect these from deliberate damage or destruction.

3. Therefore, resolve that:
   1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
   2. The ANC considers it as its duty to lead society to take ownership of all public facilities and properties and to always protect these from deliberate damage or destruction.
   3. The ANC seriously considers the possibility of declaring all public education institutions, including schools and Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres, as national key-points for the purpose of their security.

4.5.5 Skilling and educating the youth who are neither in employment nor in education and training:

1. Noting that:
   1. Progress is being made in the creation of employment opportunities for the youth that are neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET).
   2. The skilling and education of these youth must be prioritised as the main goal.
   3. Collaboration with other sectors on this matter is weak.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
   1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
   2. The Basic Education sector must focus more on skills development, education and training of the youth that are neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET).

4.5.6 Relocation of Early Childhood Development to the Department of Basic Education:

1. Noting that:
   1. A lot of work was done, including putting systems in place to ensure that policies, laws and regulations are in place.
   2. The transfer of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education took place on 01 April 2022.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
   1. ECD be recognised as a national priority.
   2. The resolution of conference be considered as fully implemented.
   3. The ANC Basic Education and Social Development sectors submit a combined report and activity plan to a joint sitting of relevant ANC NEC Subcommittees led by the Education, Health, Science and Technology (EHSTC) and the Social Transformation Committee (STC) for processing and forward submission to the ANC NEC with a view to urgent implementation and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

4.5.7 Optimisation of Early Childhood Development for all children, with special emphasis on children with special needs:

1. Noting that:
   1. Poor progress has been made by Basic Education, Departments of Social Development and Health to optimise Early Childhood Development with great emphasis on children with special needs.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is re-affirmed.
    2. A combined programme must be agreed upon by the ANC Basic Education, Health and Social Development sectors of the EHST Subcommittee and the STC for processing and forward submission to the ANC NEC.
    3. The BE sector presents to a joint sitting of relevant ANC NEC Subcommittees led by the EHST and STC the said combined plan, programme with special focus on the coordination and integration of services focusing on children with special needs such as autism and other disabilities.

4.5.8 Dealing with inequities that exist between rural and urban education and the resourcing of village and township schools:

1. Noting that:
    1. Poor progress has been made to comprehensively eradicate inequities that exist between rural and urban communities in the education sector.
    2. Focus is mainly on providing teachers or educators to rural schools.
    3. Resources that must be prioritised include infrastructure, which is made up of physical infrastructure, education-specific technologies including those used in laboratories and libraries, ICT and furniture, organisational development and human resources and quality assurance bodies.
    4. The provision of services such as school transport; and basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and ICT connectivity remains a challenge in rural areas.
    5. The sector has not submitted to the ANC comprehensive plans and a detailed report on current deficits and required resources by schools in disadvantaged areas.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is re-affirmed.
    2. The sector deals with this matter beyond the provision and retention of educators in rural communities.
    3. The sector makes a deeper analysis of inequities between rural and urban education and review its plans and resources.
    4. Teachers and learners in rural communities especially those using Multi Grade Teaching must be supported.
    5. The sector submits to the ANC its plans, programmes, and progress reports on the accelerated resourcing of schools, with special focus on village and township schools to deal comprehensively with inequities in the education sector.
    6. The programme includes greater focus on using various technologies, namely the 4IR and beyond, to bridge the urban-rural divide without moving or recruiting teachers from urban areas to work in rural communities.

4.5.9 Setting aside the resolution of the 52nd conference on making education an essential service:

1. Noting that:
    1. The resolution has not been implemented.
    2. The ANC has set aside its resolution of the 52nd ANC National Conference on making education an essential service.
    3. The Subcommittee has not convened meeting of the ANC and its alliance partners to pursue a sustainable programme aimed at maintaining and sustaining good labour relations and reducing conflicts within the Basic Education sector.
    4. The COVID-19 local epidemic has thrown back the challenge of "education as an essential service to all South Africans', as teachers are amongst essential services workers that were prioritized during the 2020-2022 epidemic.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The Subcommittee convene meetings urgently and lead the process of working with the ANC's Alliance Partners to ensure that there is labour peace in the education sector.
    2. This matter be revisited and/or clarified objectively by the ANC and all stakeholders; and that a report on this matter be submitted to the ANC NEC on or before 31 July 2023.

4.5.10 Adoption of the legislative framework to guide in addressing administrative lapses that result in interventions in terms of section 100 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996:

1. Noting that:
    1. The resolution has not been fully implemented.
    2. No progress has been made by the sector to put in place the legislative framework to guide in addressing administrative lapses in the basic education sector that result in interventions in terms of section 100 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Earlier reports from the said sector indicate that it believes that this is the mandate of COGTA.
    3. The ANC has not received a formal report on this matter.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference be reaffirmed.
    2. The sector urgently commences with the legislative process directed by the resolution of conference.
    3. A report on progress made be submitted to the ANC before 15 July 2023.

4.5.11 Implementation of sport, arts and culture programmes:

1. Noting that:
    1. Good progress is being made in the implementation of programmes.
    2. Various local, regional, provincial, national programmes are being implemented in sport, arts and culture.
    3. There are no reports on programmes designed to institutionalise indigenous and traditional African music to promote Afrocentric values, culture and tradition.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference be reaffirmed.
    2. School Sport must be enhanced through identification of talent and channelling that through relevant sporting codes.
    3. The sector resolves the impasse between Athletics South Africa (ASA) and South African Schools Athletics (SASA).
    4. The sector establishes school-based or local research groups to involve learners and teachers in the documentation, preservation and promotion of local arts and cultural history, goods and services in school libraries and museums.
    5. The BE-DSAC submit to the ANC joint plans on its work to establish systems aimed at the promotion and institutionalisation of indigenous African values, Ubuntu-Botho, music, culture, tradition and social cohesion.

4.5.12 The Presidential Remuneration Review Commission on remuneration and conditions of service for all employees in the Public Service and Public Entities:

1. Noting that:
    1. No progress was made as the report of the Commission was not released in the first half of 2018, as directed by conference.
    2. Problems that are related to the remuneration and conditions of service in government remain.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is rescinded, as it is not implementable.

2. The Subcommittee follow up this matter and table a report to the ANC NEC with recommendations of what is to be done to resolve problems related to remuneration and conditions of service.
3. Cabinet be directed to hold to account relevant government departments that were responsible for overseeing the work of the Commission which was not completed.

4.5.13 Improving literacy and numeracy:

1. Noting that:
    1. A lot of progress has been made in literacy and numeracy since 1994.
    2. The ANC has not received during this reporting period the account with data that indicates progress made to improve literacy and numeracy amongst learners.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. Numeracy and literacy amongst learners and communities must be translated into a Ministerial Priority Programme.
    3. The Minister of Basic Education must ensure that government officials who are responsible for implementation of programmes designed to improve literacy and numeracy across the country implement the sector's short-term and long-term plans with a greater sense of urgency to improve the literacy and numeracy levels of all learners using all resources including ICT and other education-specific technologies.
    4. The sector improves teacher capacity and the resourcing of the programme with relevant Learner Teacher Support Material (LTSM).
    5. The capacity of the School Management Team and District Curriculum Leadership to intensify this programme.
    6. The Subcommittee submits a report to the ANC NEC urgently on progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

4.5.14 Boarding schools, technical schools, academies, and Schools of Excellence:

1. Noting that:
    1. Twelve (12) out of twenty-four (24) boarding schools were completed thus far in the expansion of numbers of boarding schools.
    2. The sector has not submitted a detailed report to the ANC on progress made in the establishment of technical schools, academies and Schools of Excellence.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The Subcommittee facilitates a study and interaction with fraternal political parties and governments to learn and compare the structures, roles and functions of academies and Schools of Excellence for our country's benefit.
    3. The ANC notes with appreciation the introduction in 2019 of Marine Sciences as one of the subjects offered by the sector, ongoing work on the draft Aviation Curriculum and the framework for Vocational and Occupational disciplines.
    4. The sector is directed to present to the ANC plans and programmes with cost estimates for the establishment of public schools for talented and specially gifted learners and technical high schools in every district.
    5. The BE sector builds more boarding schools.
    6. The BE sector urgently establishes academies and Schools of Excellence as directed.
    7. There be adequate provision of boarding facilities and proper transport for learners with special educational needs.
    8. Learners in boarding schools receive psycho-social support, where necessary.

4.5.15 Languages in the school curriculum:

1. Noting that:
    1. The ANC has not received any progress report from the BE sector on the introduction in all schools, public and private, of a minimum of 3 languages into the curriculum wherein one is the indigenous African language of South Africa.
    2. Good progress is being made by implementing the Incremental Introduction to African Languages (IIAL) programme.
    3. The challenges of teacher capacity and the provision of LTSM for the project need to be resolved urgently.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The implementation of Mother Tongue Bilingual Education up to Grade 12 is supported
    3. The BE sector submits to the ANC plans and progress reports on the introduction in all schools, public and private, of a minimum of 3 languages into the curriculum wherein one is the indigenous African language of South Africa.

4.5.16 The establishment of a single and inclusive examination board for the NSC examinations:

1. Noting that:
    1. Plans have been made and a draft concept document is being worked on, but the Board has not been established yet.
    2. Challenges faced by the sector include the absence of the supporting legal framework and an integrated framework for assessments.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The sector puts in place the necessary supporting legal framework and an integrated framework for assessments.
    3. The Subcommittee follow up on the commitment made by the sector to urgently resume its work of establishing a single and all-inclusive examination board for the entire school system spanning the public and private sector.
    4. The ANC NEC receive progress reports urgently.

4.5.17 Second chance opportunity programme for matriculants:

1. Noting that:
    1. Good progress has been made in the implementation of this programme.
    2. Learners who were upgrading their matric qualification have received good support.
    3. The Framework for the Second Chance Matric Programme (SCMP) was finalised and the SCMP is being offered.
    4. Provincial coordinators were appointed in all the nine (9) provinces, face-to-face centres were established, online and paper-based learner materials were distributed, and top-performing teachers have been appointed to teach after hours and over weekends.
    5. The DBE is reconfiguring SCMP to cater for the NEET Group.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. That the resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The sector continues to manage, monitor, and evaluate this project regularly and report to the ANC.

4.5.18 Strengthening of school health services:

1. Noting that:
    1. Good progress has been made in strengthening school health services.
    2. Nurses have not been deployed to

schools to implement health plans as directed by conference.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. That the resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The sector submits to the ANC NEC plans with cost estimates and a progress report on the provision of necessary human and other resources to strengthen school health services.
    3. The report includes a reviewed service delivery model, funding, and mechanisms to track outcomes of referrals.
    4. The ANC receives a detailed progress report from the ANC BE sector on the implementation by the DBE, DoH and DSD of the recommendations of the 2009 Teenage pregnancy in South Africa, with a specific focus on school-going learners and current interventions in the context of COVID-19.
    5. The ANC supports government programs on care and support for teachers and learners, such as school patrols, to protect children going to and from school.
    6. Comprehensive Sexuality Education in partnership with the Department of Health be strengthened.
    7. Health screening programmes with special focus on eye health and hearing barriers be expanded and sustained.

4.5.19 School infrastructure:

1. Noting that:
    1. The Basic Education infrastructure programme is not performing at its best.
    2. The BE sector has not provided the ANC with details of delivery of infrastructure against targets.
    3. The poor performance of infrastructure programmes and recurrent low expenditure have led to the decrease in budgetary allocations to provinces.

4.5.19.1.4 At the current pace of infrastructure delivery maintenance, the current backlog of school infrastructure will not be eradicated.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The BE sector deals with all infrastructure delivery and maintenance backlogs swiftly and urgently.
    3. The Subcommittee submit recommendations to the ANC NEC about building the capacity of the state and that of the DPWI to plan, deliver and maintain schools and other public infrastructure.
    4. There must be effective and efficient use of infrastructure budgets and other resources with special focus on eradicating infrastructure backlogs.
    5. The provision of funding for infrastructure for the promotion of school sports be prioritised.
    6. Government ensures that rural roads and bridges that provides access to schools are repaired and maintained.
    7. Where possible, preferential allocation of infrastructure maintenance contracts to local contractors and Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) be promoted.

4.5.20 Learner transport provided to all learners who qualify:

1. Noting that:
    1. The sector has not submitted to the ANC a detailed account on the state of learner transport including data on whether all qualifying learners are provided with reliable learner transport.
    2. The Subcommittee noted the report of 2021 where it was stated that 616 726 out of 749 478 learners were transported to schools in the 3rd Quarter of 2020/21.
    3. The sector prioritises learners with special education needs.

2 Therefore, resolve that:

1 That the resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The ANC continue prioritizing scholar transport in its deliberations and actions to ensure that the service is improved continuously.

3. The BE sector submits regular reports to the NEC on this matter.

4.5.21 National School Nutrition Programme:

1. Noting that:

1. Progress is being made in providing nutritious meals to all learners in targeted schools.

2. The Department of Basic Education provides meals to 9 675 366 learners through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP).

3. Improved menu options on the NSNP include a breakfast for learners in targeted priority districts in poor and disadvantaged communities.

4. Cabinet has extended breakfast to a further 32 identified priority areas.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The ANC Subcommittee and BE sector monitor the implementation and review of the National Food and Security Plan 2017–2022.

4.5.22 Schools for learners with special educational to be declared "No-Fee Schools":

1. Noting that:

1. All schools for learners with special educational needs have been declared No-Fee Schools.

2. The challenge of inequity is expressed in the funding of No-Fee Schools below the nationally determined target amount, as is the case with Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and the Northern Cape.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The ANC regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this resolution and research results on the study of current funding models to determine financial implications.

4.6 **Higher Education and Training**:

4.6.1 The funding of higher education:

1. Noting that:

1. There are at times problems of delays in the payment of funds to students.

2. The is widespread abuse of the National Students Financial Assistance Scheme (NSFAS) money.

3. The student funding model is recognised as a burning platform.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The Subcommittee on EHST studies the cost-effectiveness of the NSFAS and reports to the ANC NEC urgently.

3. The Subcommittee reviews and clarifies the meaning of "a comprehensive student funding model".

4. A comprehensive student funding model must be developed, adopted, and implemented.

5. The Subcommittee reviews the appropriateness of giving financial assistance to students beyond their first undergraduate qualification, namely the first diploma or degree and reports to the ANC NEC.

6. The problem of delays in the payment of funds to students must be resolved urgently whenever that occurs.

7. The capacity of ANC branches must be increased to be able to participate in the monitoring of the abuse of financial assistance given

to students in colleges and universities. The capacity of ANC branches must be increased to be able to participate in the monitoring of this abuse.

8. The Subcommittee reviews the current policy of "Free higher education for the poor and the 'missing middle'!" in the context of the ideal of "Free education for all!" as enshrined in the 1943 African Claims, the 1955 Freedom Charter and the 1962 SACP Programme of Action: The Road to South African Freedom and the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

4.6.2 The provision of additional academic and psycho-social support to bursary holders and recipients of financial assistance from the state to increase their chances of success:

1. Noting that:
    1. Good progress has been made with implementation.
    2. In 2019, Higher Health was established to implement a comprehensive and integrated programme to students across all colleges and universities.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. All bursary holders and recipients of financial assistance from the state for tertiary education undergo a compulsory needs analysis to identify those who need support.
    3. Additional academic ad psycho-social support is given to only those who need it.

4.6.3 Adoption of a framework for regulating higher education fees in colleges and universities:

1. Noting that:
    1. The higher education and training sector has not adopted the framework for regulating higher education fees in colleges and universities as directed by the 2015 ANC National General Council (NGC), despite the intense contestations by stakeholders and the need for meaningful consultations.
    2. A draft Regulation Framework has been developed, but it has not been distributed for comments and consultation.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The framework for regulating higher education fees in colleges and universities must be finalised, adopted and implemented as a matter of urgency before 31 December 2023.

4.6.4 The redesign of the funding formula for colleges and universities:

1. Noting that:
    1. The resolution of conference has not been fully implemented.
    2. The revised National Norms and Standards for Funding Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges (NNSF-TVET), which includes changes in new programme types and changes the funding mechanism for TVET college, has been published in the Government Gazette with effective retrospective implementation date of 1 April 2021.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference be reaffirmed.
    2. The funding formula for the college sector, including the Community Education and Training Colleges (CETCs), TVETs, Nursing Colleges, Agricultural Colleges and similar colleges must be finalised urgently on or before 31 December 2023.
    3. The redesign of the funding formula for universities must be reviewed urgently and be presented to the ANC NEC for consideration, decision and resolution.

4.6.5 Support for increased student accommodation:

1. Noting that:
    1. The Higher Education and Training sector reported that Department of Human Settlements has allocated funds for student accommodation.
    2. The sector is collaborating with the National Treasury, the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and other state agencies on the Student Housing Infrastructure Programme (SHIP) to fast-track issues of student accommodation.
    3. The ANC NEC has not received a report on the above.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference be reaffirmed.
    2. The HET urgently submit to the Subcommittee a report on the support for increased student accommodation for consideration and forward submission to the ANC NEC.
    3. The DHET and DHS ensure that student villages are integrated into sustainable human settlements in villages, towns, and cities.

4.6.6 Fast tracking the implementation of the Central Application Service:

1. Noting that:
    1. The HET sector has not implemented the CAS in universities by March 2018 and the full implementation across the PSET system by 2022 as directed by conference.
    2. The CAS pilot was launched on 1 March 2022.
    3. The urgent need for the CAS remains.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution on the Central Application Service (CAS) be reaffirmed.
    2. The ANC HET sector must ensure that this project is prioritised for completion in colleges and universities by 31 December 2023.

4.6.7 Sector Education and Training Authorities:

1. Noting that:
    1. The main purpose of the SETAs is not to train students, but to facilitate training through the funding of training programmes run by training institutions and various industries.
    2. Progress was made in the SETA sector in that the National Skills Development Plan (NSDP) and the Changing SETA Landscape were approved.
    3. Good progress was made in the realignment of the Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETA) landscape.
    4. The role of both state and private sector by granting access to the workplace for experiential learners remains critical for the success of the work of the SETAs.
    5. Collaboration between the SETAs, the public sector and the private sector has not resulted in making all graduates from the PSET system work-ready at the time of completion of their studies.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The HET sector develops a system with goals and targets to place students, especially all college students, in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programmes throughout their period of studies to improve employability with productivity in relevant industries at the time of graduation.

4.6.8 The College sector in the Post-School Education and Training System:

1. Noting that:
    1. The reports of the HET sector in the ANC and government do not

provide any information on progress made to clarify the nature and role of the entire college sector.

2. This sector comprises of Community Education and Training (CET) colleges, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and other colleges for specialised purposes such as agriculture, nursing, emergency care, policing and teaching.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of the 54th national conference is reaffirmed.

2. The NCV (Primary Health) course and qualification be terminated.

3. The sector provides the ANC with report that has a clear articulation of the structure and function of the HET skills development platform and articulations between schools, colleges, and universities by 30 September 2023.

4.6.9 Making sufficient resources available to increase infrastructure, lecturer training, bursaries, access, and curriculum transformation in the college sector:

1 Noting that:

1. Progress has not been made to increase infrastructure, lecturer training, bursaries, access and curriculum transformation in the college sector.

2. The HET continues to exclude all other types of colleges such as Emergency Medical Service, nursing, teacher training and agricultural colleges in its plans and work.

3. Despite the R2.991 billion additional funding through the TVET Capital Infrastructure Efficiency Grant from 2018-2019 to 31 March 2022, funding is insufficient for the sector to expand the college sector as directed by this resolution.

4. This additional funding was only for infrastructure repairs of core teaching and learning facilities.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference including the target of 1 million enrolments in TVET colleges by 2030 is reaffirmed.

2. The HET and the national Cabinet prioritise the provision of adequate resources and the introduction of appropriate curricula in the college sector to enable it to achieve its objective of growth to its 2030 goals and target to support the economy of our country.

4.6.10 Alignment by the HET and BE sectors of technical and vocational offerings in schools and colleges:

1. Noting that:

1. Little progress has been made by the HET and BE sectors to align technical and vocational offerings in schools and colleges.

2. There appears to be no sense of urgency amongst senior civil servants as chief implementers to attain the goals of this resolution.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The Ministers in charge of this sector make this matter a priority.

3. The Ministers in charge of this sector report to the Subcommittee regularly on this matter as one of the priority ministerial programmes.

4.6.11 Articulation within the PSET sector:

1. Noting that:

1. Good progress is being made in the implementation of this resolution of conference.

2. The HET sector has evaluated the implementation of National Qualification Framework to determine how TVET colleges and universities are articulating students within and between programmes and institutions.

3. There is a challenge of different practices and approaches by individual institutions.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The HET report regularly on progress being made in its implementation of the model to standardise programme articulation of college programmes into university programmes in the context of clear career paths in various professions and industries.

4.6.12 Offering in colleges qualifications for post-Grade 12 entrants on Levels 5 and 6:

1. Noting that:

1. Some TVET colleges are offering Level 5 Higher Certificates in partnership with universities.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of the 54th national conference is reaffirmed.

2. That this matter must be clarified with the view to accepting this resolution as having been achieved.

4.6.13 Conducting the cost-effectiveness and appropriateness of offering students mid-level courses at universities instead of colleges:

1. Noting that:

1. The sector has not provided the ANC with the assessment of progress made in doing research on this matter.

2. It has not reported on whether it has determined where such courses would best be delivered.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of the 54th national conference be reaffirmed.

2. The sector submits urgently to the Subcommittee a report to this effect by 31 January 2023.

4.6.14 Conducting an audit of skills in colleges to determine competencies of educators and support staff:

1. Noting that:

1. The audit of skills in colleges to determine competencies of educators and support staff has not been done.

2. The said audit is still in its planning phase.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. That the resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The PSET sector starts with its comprehensive skills audit on or before 31 January 2023.

4.6.15 Expansion of and resources for the college sector:

1. Noting that:

1. The ANC has not received any report or plans on the expansion and adequate funding of the college sector.

2. The ANC has noted that the expansion by 610 000 instead of 2.5 million new admissions by 2013 is due to factors such as inadequate funding.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution is reaffirmed.

2. New targets and dates be determined.

3. A plan with cost estimates on the expansion of the comprehensive college sector excluding those in the military and law enforcement agencies be presented to the ANC, be adopted, and be implemented in government.

4.6.16 The programmes of TVET colleges must respond to skills needs and unemployment:

1. Noting that:

1. The ANC has not received a comprehensive review of all pro-

grammes of public and private colleges to ensure that they respond to the skills needs of our economy and our country.

2. The DHET has not provided details of its collaboration with industry associations to respond to skills needs and unemployment.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of the 54th national conference is reaffirmed.

2. The ANC receive a comprehensive report that covers all programmes of the private and public sector in the context of this resolution with the view of increasing the employability of all college graduates.

4.6.17 Colleges must foster partnerships with universities of technology and various industries for work experience for both lecturers and students:

1. Noting that:

1. Little progress was made to ensure that Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is compulsory in undergraduate education and training, as directed.

2. The HET sector has not institutionalised systematic attachments and active placement of students in companies in various industries from first year to the last year of training.

3. However, Work Integrated Learning (WIL) in colleges has gained traction through support from the National Skills Fund (NSF).

4. The placement of students for work experience is now being tracked as a key output in colleges.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The DHET must ensure that it changes from the current practice of "Practical work and gaining experience after graduation" to "Work Integrated Learning (WIL) during years of education and training".

3. Lecturers in colleges benefit from structured constant exposure to work in relevant industries.

4.6.18 Greater focus on education and training in social sciences:

1. Noting that:

1. Progress has been made in the pursuit of education and training in social sciences and humanities.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The HET sector submits plans, programmes, and progress report to the ANC on the work that is being done to make the education and training of students in humanities and social sciences a priority.

3. The HET sector submits a progress report to the ANC on initiatives that are being pursued to improve lecturer competencies and capacity to drive improvement programmes in these areas by 31 January 2023.

4. Colleges and universities must continue prioritising science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), but also focus on education and training in the social sciences.

4.6.19 Institutional autonomy:

1. Noting that:

1. South Africa has not made progress on institutional autonomy of universities mainly due to lack of cooperation by various institutions and stakeholders.

2. The ANC has not received any report from the HET sector on its enforcement of legislation on institutional autonomy for universities.

2 Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The DHET immediately submits a report on the implementation of current legislation on institutional autonomy and the enforcement thereof.

4.6.20 People's Education for People's Power:

1. Noting that:
    1. No progress has been made to position the ANC as a thought leader on the broader ideological and political issue of decolonisation of education and training.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The DHET must submit urgently to the ANC concrete plans, programmes and a progress report on the decolonisation of education and training in South Africa.

4.6.21 Increasing the retirement age of professionals and academics:

1. Noting that:
    1. The retirement age of workers with scarce skills, professionals across all sectors and academics has not been increased as directed by conference.
    2. The ANC has not received a report on whether this resolution has been translated into government policy, and what progress has been made in its implementation across government.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The national Cabinet formally translate this into government policy and implement it throughout government departments, statutory bodies, and State-Owned Companies.

4.6.22 Improving the alignment between college and university programmes to the requirements for employment:

1. Noting that:
    1. There is substantial work being done on this through the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP).
    2. The HET has not reported to the ANC on its implementation of the resolution of conference which makes it compulsory for colleges and universities to obtain concurrence and approval from relevant ministries to offer any course, especially in the health sector.

2 Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The HET sector must immediately implement this resolution and submits plans, programmes and a progress report on the work that is being done in the college sector to improve the alignment between college and university programmes to the meet the needs of society and requirements for employment, with special focus on agricultural, nursing, teacher training and emergency medical care colleges.
    3. The HET sector and the BE sector collaborate to identify and terminate courses, offerings and qualifications such as the NCV(Health) that disadvantage trainees and leave them at the level of NSC after three (3) years of further education and training post-NSC.

4.6.23 Work-readiness of graduates and diplomates:

1. Noting that:
    1. No progress has been made in ensuring that graduates from colleges and universities are work-ready on the day of their graduation.
    2. No data was provided on the enforcement by colleges and Universities of Technology of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) from the first year of studies.
    3. The Entrepreneurship Devel-

opment in Higher Education Programme (EDHE) is being implemented to cultivate the entrepreneurial mind-set and promote self-employment after graduation.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The HET must submit a report on progress that is being made to ensure that graduates from South African colleges and universities are work-ready, fully proficient, competent and productive on graduation day with no need for employers to require that they get additional work experience before being offered full-time employment on probation.

4.6.24 The establishment of specialized colleges and universities in metropolitan municipalities:

1. Noting that:

1. No progress has been made in the establishment of specialized colleges and universities in metropolitan municipalities.

2. The ANC has noted the announcement made of plans to establish a university of science and innovation in Ekurhuleni and a crime detection university in Hammanskraal.

3. The sector will urgently submit a report on this matter.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. That the ANC re-endorses the resolution of conference; and that the ANC directs the HET to submit a copy of policies, plans, programmes that have been put into action and a progress report to ensure that specialised colleges and universities are established in specific metropolitan municipalities as per this resolution and directives.

4.6.25 Ensuring adequate supply and replacement of teachers:

1. Noting that:

1. No progress has been made in the auditing of teachers for the purpose of workforce or human capital planning and development to guarantee adequate supply and replacement.

2. The ANC has not received the Teacher Supply and Demand Study that has been completed and was due for submission in May 2021.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The Subcommittee to receive and evaluate the report and submit recommendations to the NEC by 31 January 2023.

4.6.26 Holding members of college and university councils accountable:

1. Noting that:

1. Progress has been made in holding members of college and university councils accountable.

2. The DHET monitors the compliance of college governance quarterly.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.

2. The HET must finalise and adopt the draft Governance Standard Regulation designed for monitoring and evaluation of councils

3. The HET reports quarterly to the ANC NEC on the monitoring and evaluation of college and university councils.

4.6.27 Funding commitments of the NDP 2030:

1. This resolution was implemented fully and remains work in progress.

4.7 Health:

4.7.1 National Health Insurance and Health Financing:

1. Noting that:

1. Progress is being made in the law-making process towards the NHI Act.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an 18-month delay in the processing of the Bill.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolutions on the National Health Insurance (NHI) are reaffirmed.
    2. The resolution on the NHI, which states that the implementation of the NHI remains a priority of government, is reaffirmed.
    3. All branches, regions, RECs, PECs and the relevant PEC and NEC Subcommittees to embark on mass education and mobilisation to support the passage of the bill into law.
    4. ANC lawmakers, namely members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures, are hereby directed to expedite the passage of the NHI Bill through parliament.
    5. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be put in place by the government to provide reports on all provinces' state of readiness for the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI), as the NHI Bill moves through the law-making process.

4.7.2 On health budget allocations and population movements:

1. Noting that:
    1. The government has not implemented the resolution of conference on providing solutions that ensure that the health budget allocation takes account of population movements.
    2. This includes reducing the financial burden on the National Health System that is caused by undocumented and illegal migrants from other countries.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. Resolutions on internal migrants, refugees and various categories of foreign immigrants accessing health services in South Africa are reaffirmed.
    2. In its work of developing plans to mitigate population movement, the Department of Health first study the impact of migration and population movement in the country on health facilities in different locations to provide healthcare services that meet the demand of the area.
    3. Cabinet must ensure that this problem is completely resolved by 31 December 2023 through the work of relevant government departments and in collaboration with multilateral bodies responsible for the welfare of refugees and migrants.

4.7.3 Improving the management of the National Health System:

1. Noting that:
    1. The public health sector continues to be plagued by five (5) major issues namely management, human resources, procurement and supply chain systems, financial management and infrastructure maintenance.
    2. Several steps have been undertaken to address all these challenges.
    3. The main challenges are leadership, management and the underfunding of the health sector.
    4. Underfunding and budget shortfalls, which have been the subjects of continuous engagements with the National and Provincial Treasuries were exacerbated by budget cuts over a long period up to the MTEF period ending 2022-2023.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. Previous resolutions on the management, leadership and underfunding of the National Health System are reaffirmed.
    2. The problems of management, human resources, procurement and supply chain systems, financial management and infrastructure maintenance in the health sector be prioritised immediately for resolution at every level of the National Health System.

3. That the ANC NEC receive, through the Subcommittee, quarterly reports from the Minister of Health on these critical matters.

4.7.4 Medical malpractice, medical insurance, and litigation:

1. Noting that:

1. The ANC NEC has not received any report from the health sector on the implementation of this resolution.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1 The health sector continuously strengthens measures to improve the quality of care delivered by health practitioners in the public and private sector.

2. The health sector reports regularly to the ANC on progress being made to decrease litigation and medico-legal hazards and to curb high costs of medical insurance and litigation against medical malpractice.

3. Because of escalating Medico-legal claims against the state, parliament expedite the passage of State Liability Amendment Bill.

4.7.5 Human resources for health: Planning, training and development and management including the Nelson Mandela-Fidel Castro Health Collaboration and the expansion of the health professionals training platforms in South Africa:

1. Noting that:

1. The South Africa-Cuba Cooperation in the fields of Public Health and Medical Sciences, also known as the Nelson Mandela-Fidel Castro (NMFC) Health Collaboration, is a programme of cooperation in four (4) areas, namely the recruitment of medical doctors and lecturers from the Republic of Cuba, the training of South African medical students and postgraduates in the Republic of Cuba, the exploration of possible mutual interests in the fields of biotechnology production and the development of pharmaceuticals and any other field of scientific research; and any other program or activity that may be mutually agreed upon between South Africa and Cuba.

2. The resolution, which directed the Subcommittee and the ANC and government health sectors to assess the NMFC Health Collaboration in the light of the expansion of the health professionals training platforms in South Africa, has not been implemented.

3. However, the government has been assessing this programme on a continuous basis.

4. The ANC has neither assessed independently nor received from government a report on the NMFC Health Collaboration and the expansion of the health professionals training platforms in South Africa.

2. Therefore, resolve that:

1. Conference re-endorses the resolution on the Nelson Mandela-Fidel Castro Health Collaboration (NMFCH) in the context of the country's Skills Revolution.

2. All areas of the South Africa-Cuba Collaboration including the SA-Cuba agreement on Public Health and Medical Sciences be further explored.

3. The elements of solidarity between the ANC and Cuba, and South Africa with Cuba be maintained, also in the national human resources plan.

4. Human Resource Planning:

1. Health sciences training, especially the training of medical personnel or doctors, must be discussed and reviewed.

2. Nursing education and training must be reviewed and increased to meet the needs of our country.

3. Nursing education must be made excellent and accessible to all.

4. The selection into the nursing program must focus on recruiting candidate student from

poor, needy and child-headed households to address poverty and unemployment.

5. The structure and size of the nursing training institutions must be reviewed.
6. The Nelson Mandela-Fidel Castro Health Collaboration must be assessed with a view to continue with the South Africa-Cuba Collaboration.

5. Training and Human Resource Development:
    1. The Cuban model of medical training and the structure and configuration of its medical schools per university must be studied carefully and lessons learnt from Cuba and similar countries must be used to South Africa's advantage
    2. The health professionals training platform in South Africa must be expanded.
    3. The programme of medical training, which is a component of the NMFCHC, and its funding must be centralised.
    4. The reaffirmation is in the context of the Skills Revolution.
    5. A sustainable internal skills development platform and a fully-fledged external skills incubator under the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation in collaboration with the Department of Health be established.
    6. The reaffirmation includes the sectors setting up a system of registration to keep the record of all students who are training in foreign institutions and countries.
    7. The blue economy and related sectors be used to develop skills especially in the African communities to deal with unemployment.
    8. The element of solidarity between the ANC and Cuba, and South Africa with Cuba be maintained in the human resources development plan.
    9. The Department of Health and HET must work together to expand health faculties in universities and nursing colleges as a strategy to increase the number of health human resources to reduce the skills shortage gap in the country's health system.
    10. Nursing colleges be migrated or integrated into Department of Higher Education and Training with continued involvement of the Department of Health.
    11. Support for the strengthening of the Limpopo academic hospital, including the provision of adequate financial and human resources, must be done in earnest, as resolved in earlier conferences. Similarly, the Walter Sisulu University (WUS) Medical School and the Health Science Faculty and the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital must be prioritised.

6. Human Resource Management:
    1. Health management delegations and budgets must be decentralised to hospital level.
    2. The Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD) for public sector healthcare workers must be reviewed.
    3. The ANC and government health policies include integration of Community Health Workers.
    4. Retired health professionals such as doctors, nurses, dentists and physiotherapists must be utilised primarily for mentoring.

4.7.6 Coordinating and promoting research and development in Traditional Medicine products and practices:

1. Noting that:
    1. There is poor progress in the implementation of resolutions of conferences that direct members to prioritise traditional medicine research

and those that call for support for provincial district and local structures of African traditional health practitioners.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The state must, on behalf of the traditional medicine sector, be the custodian of the Intellectual Property (IP) related to African Traditional medicines.
    3. The IP of traditional medicines be protected from interested parties such as the international pharmaceutical giants.
    4. A study must be undertaken for South Africa to learn from other countries such as China, India, and other BRICS members, on how these countries have protected and developed their traditional medicines, pharmaceuticals and practices and implement that for the benefit of South Africans.

4.7.7 Healthy lifestyle:

1. Noting that:
    1. The ANC NEC has not received any report from the health sector on the implementation of this resolution.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The resolution of conference is reaffirmed.
    2. The health sector reports urgently to the ANC NEC on the implementation of this resolution, particularly on the establishment of the Health Promotion Commission, provision of amenities and the intensification of preventative, promotive and wellness programmes.

4.7.8 Strengthening school health services:

1. Noting that:
    1. This programme is being implemented by the DBE in collaboration with the Department of Health.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The health sector implements together with relevant sectors the resolution that deals with school health services.
    2. School health services must be strengthened, and nurses must be deployed to schools to implement health plans.

4.7.9 Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery for Health:

1. Noting that:
    1. This resolution on Accelerated Infrastructure delivery has been prioritised by the Ministry.
    2. The sector is currently using the Infrastructure Unit System Support (IUSS) Gazetted Guidelines whose processes are aligned with those of ASIDI and one of the initiatives of the DOH and CSIR.
    3. One of the challenges is the lack of capacity of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to deliver and maintain health infrastructure.

2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The health sector submits to the ANC NEC the Accelerated Health Facilities Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (AHFIDI) or equivalent.
    2. The health, at the operational level and through discussions with the National Treasury, the issue of centralization of funding of infrastructure projects in the departmental Infrastructure Fund.
    3. Health infrastructure budgets must be moved from Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to the Department of Health and its facilities.
    4. The capacity and role of and collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure be reviewed.
    5. Cabinet must direct law enforcement agencies to identify, arrest and eliminate criminals and criminal

syndicates and their civil service enablers that operate in the public sector where some demand and award contracts through corrupt means.

4.7.10 Elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases:

1. Noting that:
    1. South Africa is currently experiencing a wave of measles outbreak.
    2. The health sector has not submitted a plan and a report to the ANC on its programmes to eliminate all vaccine-preventable diseases which have existing vaccines with proven efficacy on or before 2027.
    3. However, the health sector has made progress on its programmes to eliminate all vaccine-preventable diseases which have existing vaccines with proven efficacy on or before 2027.
    4. It continues to focus on reducing the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.
    5. Several public and private sector partners are collaborating in the field of vaccinology including South Africa's participation in the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. The Subcommittee must regularly update the ANC NEC on the implementation of this policy, particularly progress against vaccine-preventable diseases and their elimination by 2027 using existing vaccines with proven efficacy.
    2. The health sector is directed to regularly update the ANC NEC through the Subcommittee on the BRICS collaborations and local efforts to increase outputs on vaccine research and development and self-sufficiency with pharmaceuticals, therapeutics, and vaccines.

4.7.11 Revitalisation of military health facilities:

1. Noting that:
    1. This resolution which addresses matters falling under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defence (DoD) and not under the Ministry and Department of Health has not been implemented.
    2. The Subcommittee has not followed up these matters with the ANC NEC Subcommittee on Peace and Stability in line with the resolutions of the 54th National Conference and previous conferences.
2. Therefore, resolve that:
    1. This resolution is reaffirmed.
    2. The military health, namely the Department of Defence (DoD) and the South African Military Health Services (SAMHS), and civilian health services through the National Department of Health must collaborate in line with previous resolutions of conference.
    3. This matter must be prioritised, in the context of the 2017 conference resolution and resolutions of conferences that preceded this, in a well-coordinated fashion and without compromising the combat readiness of the SAMHS.
    4. The Subcommittee together with the ANC NEC Subcommittee on Peace and Stability report quarterly to the NEC on progress made.

5. Conclusion:

5.1 Noting that:

5.1.1 Resolutions of conference are directives to the membership of the ANC.

5.1.2 Resolutions of conference must be implemented with urgency to improve the lives of all South Africans.

5.2 Therefore, resolve that:

5.2.1 The ANC NEC Subcommittee on Education, Health, Science and Technology must ensure that the report goes back to every branch of the ANC as for feedback from conference and for urgent implementation or monitoring of implementation by those deployed in government and various institutions at home and abroad.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Conference re-affirms the International Relations recommendations of the 6th National Policy Conference.

Believing that:

1. The centrality of the ANC's international relations in advancing the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) is directed by its historical mandate of the principle of the Freedom Charter that **"There shall be peace and Friendship"**.
2. Since its formation, the ANC's political, economic, and ideological ethos has been progressive Internationalism, Pan-Africanism, and international and continental solidarity. Our historical mission is to contribute to the building of a better Africa and better world that is humane, just, equitable, democratic, and free.
3. The ANC moves from the premise that our international relations policy is informed by our domestic policy and vice versa. Human rights, poverty eradication, economic development, job creation, workers' rights, and other NDR objectives are all intertwined with our pursuit of long-term regional and continental peace and development.
4. Africa and its development remain the central objective of the ANC's international perspective and policy, with the African Renaissance remaining a key policy objective.
5. The ANC remains committed to and is an integral part of the Progressive International Revolutionary Movement to liberate humanity from the bondage of imperialism and neo-colonialism.

Reaffirming the 54th National Conference and 6th National Policy Conference:

6. In pursuit of "Progressive Internationalism in a changing world" to attain a Better Africa and a Better World, the international relations work of the ANC is anchored on the following five pillars:
   - Building a Better Africa and World inclusive of peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and development
   - Solidarity and Campaigns
   - Party-to-Party, Intra-Party and Multilateral Relations
   - Transformation of Global Governance
   - Policy Development
7. The ANC International Relations sub-committee implements its programme of action, aligning its work to the above five pillars continentally and globally; strengthening party-to-party relations, peacebuilding, participating in strategic forums and leading various solidarity campaigns.

PILLAR 1: CONTRIBUTING TO BUILDING A BETTER AFRICA AND BETTER WORLD

Building a better Africa

Recognising

8. Africa is severely impacted by the unfolding global developments. Africa is not a neutral observer or a disinterested bystander on global politics.
9. The ANC is deeply interested in the kind of global order that will safeguard our common interests and belong to the progressive family of nations and regions that seek to free themselves from neo-colonial capture and imperialist plunder.
10. The ANC seek to carve our own democratic and developmental path that puts the interests of the people and the sustainability of the planet first. As the world undergoes multiple transitions and crises, we urgently need a more inclusive, equitable and just system of global governance.
11. Africa will insist on the restructuring of multilateral institutions to safeguard equity, justice and redress as we deal with pandemics, climate change, peace and confliction resolution as well as trade and investment.
12. Progressive global forces must ensure that countries in the Global South are not marginalised, exploited or left behind. Africa will also continue to insist that the destiny of our continent is in our own hands.

Therefore resolve that:

13. **African Union (AU)**
    a. The ANC calls that the South African Government must push that more work should be done on the important matter of ensuring that

the entire institutional system of the AU works effectively in terms of ensuring the implementation of all decisions of the AU and encouraging the steady advance of the Continent towards the achievement of its strategic goals such as the entrenchment of democracy and peace as well as Africa's renaissance and unity.

b. The ANC and the South African government must be vigilant on trade relations with major trading partners to guard against the raising of issues in alternative forums when they do not succeed in negotiations with the AU.

c. The ANC and South African government to mobilise counterparts in the continent to advance the Africa Renaissance together with AU Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a means of ensuring progress in the implementation of programmes and campaigns.

d. The South African government should ensure that the AfCFTA is not only ratified by all African countries but meaningfully implemented.

e. The South African government should ensure support and resourcing of the implementation of the AFCFTA.

f. The ANC and the South African government should champion the establishment of a local currency based African Development Fund to enhance continental self-reliance.

g. The ANC calls on the AU to strengthen the full participation of its sixth Region, the African Diaspora.

h. The ANC remains concerned about Morocco's admission in the AU despite its continued colonisation of Western Sahara.

14. Africa must continue to strengthen its cooperation in the continuing effort to address its socio-economic challenges. It is very important that in this context, the Continent must do everything in its power to encourage and promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

15. **African Credit Rating Agency**

a. Noting the discussions in the African Union to establish an African Credit Rating Agency as part of efforts to ensure access to capital and to strengthen Africa's place in the global financial architecture. The ANC-led government must support efforts aimed at the establishment of an African Credit Rating Agency.

b. The South African government must support efforts aimed at the establishment of an African Credit Rating Agency.

c. The ANC and the ANC led government must fully support the establishment of an African Credit Rating Agency as part of a lasting solution to support access to capital and to change the global financial architecture.

16. **SADC**

a. The ANC and the South African government should promote sufficient investment in SADC integration for the development of the region.

b. The ANC must continue to support Zimbabweans in their efforts to find holistic solutions to challenges they face and supports the AU and SADC position against unilateral sanctions.

c. The ANC supports the process to ensure that Zimbabwe returns to the Commonwealth and that sanctions imposed against it are completely eliminated. The ANC-led government and SADC should thus reinforce these efforts through practical measures ensuring a structured dialogue towards the normalization of relations with the international community.

17. **Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO):**

a. The ANCWL and the South African government should strengthen the PAWO, particularly the secretariat.

b. The ANC must ensure that the resolution on the formation of a Young Women's structure within PAWO is expedited.

18. **Pan African Youth Movement:**

a. Noting that South Africa was the 15th country to ratify the African Youth Charter and supported the African Union's Decade of Youth Development (2008-2018).

b. The ANC and the South African government must ensure the full implementation of the African Youth Charter to ensure effective youth participation in the development process, particularly given the demographics on the African continent.

Building a better World

Recognising:

19. The ongoing war in Ukraine has far-reaching strategic geopolitical and economic consequences for the peoples of the world.

20. This can no longer be described simply as a Russia-Ukraine war – it is primarily a conflict between

the US and US-led NATO and Russia in pursuit of the objectives of the so-called Wolfowitz doctrine.

21. According to this doctrine, the US should not allow that any country in the world should have the possibility, in the post-Cold War period to challenge US interests, especially its hegemony. In this regard, US geopolitical strategy has identified Russia and China as the two powers that must be contained, according to the Wolfowitz doctrine which undergirds US foreign policy.

22. This is why the US provoked the war with Russia over Ukraine, hoping to put Russia it in place. The peace and "free market economy" dividends promised at the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s have been shattered. The Western imperialist dominance over Eastern Europe is being advanced not through free trade and open competition for markets, but through US-led expansionist military strategies.

23. There is a conspicuous failure of the current global institutions to resolve conflicts fairly, justly and equitably in order to safeguard the interests of all nations. The war has caused major disruptions in the global economy – the disruption of supply chains of food, fuel, fertilizer and energy, sky-rocketing inflation and the cost-of living crisis at a global scale.

24. The impacts of the tensions of the US with China and Russia, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Covid-19 pandemic, and rising narrow nationalism among other global developments has impacted South Africa and Africa.

25. The ANC has been part of the non-aligned movement. We are also part of the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial forces.

26. The ANC remains firm in its view that all conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. We totally reject gun-boat diplomacy. Coming from a continent's structural transformation is hampered by conflicts sponsored by imperialist interests, we know from experience that war is costly and that without peace, there can be no sustainable development

Therefore resolve that:

27. The ANC and South African government should view the UN as a terrain of struggle.

28. The ANC and ANC-led should strengthen its communication on the conflict in Ukraine and other global issues to project an unambiguous position.

29. The ANC and South African government together with countries of our continent, through the AU, should maximise its contributions in the UN, guided by Progressive Internationalism.

30. The ANC and South African government remains committed in strengthening North-South Dialogue on matters of common interests.

31. The ANC and the South African government remain committed to the strengthening of South-South Cooperation by contributing to the enrichment of the global south multilateralism.

32. The ANC lends its support to all democratically elected progressive governments in Latin America and equally condemn regime change attempts in these progressive countries.

33. **Non-Aligned Movement**

a. The ANC calls for the revitalisation and reinforcement of the Non-Aligned Movement in view of the worsening global peace and stability.

b. The ANC calls on countries of the African Union (AU) as a whole to remain non-aligned and to actively participate in the Non-Aligned Movement.

34. **On Consolidation and strengthening of BRICS**

Recognising that:

a. The BRICS community plays a critical role in setting global development agenda, promoting financial stability, and accounts for 17% of global trade and one-third of global GDP.

b. South Africa is the 2023 Chair of BRICS.

c. In organising the BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue, the ANC emphasised the importance of South Africa leveraging on its membership within BRICS to advance common development goals with other BRICS countries and the world, particularly the African continent.

Therefore resolves that:

d. The South African government must strengthen and enhance BRICS participation to higher levels, including mobilising South Africans.

e. The South African government should support the expansion of BRICS by admitting additional members on the basis of formally agreed criteria, principles, and values.

f. The South African government should advocate for greater synergy between the BRICS Business Council and the AfCFTA which must be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

g. The ANC must mobilise for the 2023 BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue by enhancing

implementation of the 2018 resolutions and also attend to timeous preparations for the 2023 BRICS Political Parties Plus Dialogue.

h. The ANC must enhance its coordination with the various diplomatic tracks underway in the BRICS, including think tanks, academia, civil society, and business

35. **Peacebuilding, Reconstruction and Development**

Recognising that:

a. The resurgence of conflicts and military coups in some countries and regions is a serious reversal of the gains made since the establishment of the African Union twenty years ago

b. The ANC notes with concern that continental efforts at peacebuilding and to establish peace and security mechanisms have slowed down.

c. The importance of peace and human security. Silencing the guns is an urgent development imperative for our continent.

Therefore resolves:

d. The ANC calls on the government, partnering with like-minded countries, to revive the continental push on peace building and security. There can be no development without security, and no security without peace.

e. The ANC and South African government should ensure meaningful participation of Women in Peace building processes in both the global and continental institutions and architecture.

f. The ANC notes the support the South African government provided to the Ethiopian Tigray peace talks, which resulted in a globally acclaimed peace agreement. The ANC commends the efforts of the parties and mediators for this achievement. The ANC expects the SA government to continue to support this peace effort.

g. The ANC urges the South African government to recall their illustrious history and positive impact on building peace, stability, and development programmes on the African continent since the dawn of our democracy.

h. ANC calls on the South African government to increase their participation in the AU so as to meaningfully participate in the AU interventions in the various conflicts including potential conflict on our continent. Our continent, in particular the African Union, requires South Africa's meaningful participation in the peace building interventions of the AU. There are a number of conflicts, as well as brewing conflicts simmering on our continent, across all five regions, these affects, amongst others Burkina Faso, Sudan, Mozambique, and Syria etc.

i. The synergizing between International Relations and Peace and Stability Committee challenges should not be limited to government, but also within the ANC.

j. The ANC Peace and Stability Committee and International Relations Sub-Committees must work in a synergized manner on matters of peace and security.

36. **Gender and Youth Agenda**

Recognising that:

a. Strengthening the women's movement and taking forward the Gender Agenda 2030, as well as the Global Youth Agenda are strategic imperatives of all progressive forces in the 21st century.

b. The ANC welcomes the launch of the Young Women of Africa (YWOA) in 2021, which is convened by South Africa.

Therefore resolve that:

c. The progressive forces should lead national, continental and global campaigns to genuinely and effectively integrate women and the youth into the sustainable development agenda.

PILLAR 2: CONTINENTAL, INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND CAMPAIGNS

Recognising that:

37. The persistent oppression and exploitation of peoples in various parts of the world, the weakening of efforts for global peace and stability, the ANC should focus on and intensify international solidarity in all forms.

Therefore resolve that:

38. The ANC should formulate a clear strategy and plan on international solidarity campaigns.

39. The ANC should strengthen the ability and capability of global motive forces by, inter alia:
    a. Revitalising South-South Solidarity
    b. Reviewing North-South Cooperation and restructure them to resonate with our latest policies and vision for the NDR.

40. **Palestine and Israel**

Recognising that:

a. South Africa and Palestine share a common history of struggle. Reminded by the words of Nelson Mandela that "Our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians".

b. The ANC notes with concern the deepening dire situation in Palestine due to the brutality of the Israel apartheid state on the peoples of Palestine, and the expansion of Israeli relations with African states.

c. The ongoing expansion and growth of the Israeli and colonial-settlement and 100s of Palestinians killed, including children. Also noting the 100s of Palestinian homes that have been destroyed and displaced.

Therefore resolve that:

d. The ANC continues to pledge and intensify its solidarity with the people of Palestine for freedom, independence, justice, and equality.

e. The ANC's solidarity campaign and engagements should be informed by regular interaction with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

f. The ANC should also engage other progressive forces in Palestine and Israel to promote unity of purpose in finding lasting resolutions to the Palestine-Israel conflict.

g. The ANC should be at the fore front of the civil society campaign in support of the Palestinian liberation by working with solidarity organizations and progressive forces domestically, regionally, and continentally.

h. The ANC reaffirms the downgrade of South Africa's embassy in Israel.

41. **Western Sahara**

a. The ANC calls for the completion of the decolonization process in Africa, to protect the right to self-determination of African peoples still under colonial rule.

b. The ANC intensifies the call for the right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, with a view to enable these countries and peoples, to effectively exercise sovereignty.

c. The ANC must continue to strengthen the long and traditional bonds with Polisario Front built in the common struggle against apartheid and colonialism.

d. Western Sahara faces huge challenges, and the ANC reaffirms the decision of the 54th Conference that a special envoy must be appointed. As a movement the ANC has to consider elevating the issue of Western Sahara, through humanitarian assistance, bursaries, and other material support.

e. As a movement the ANC and the South African government has to elevate the issue of Western Sahara, through encouraging humanitarian assistance, bursaries, and other material support during the ongoing occupation and aggression of Morocco.

f. The ANC supports initiatives to establish a secondary school along the lines of the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College to be called the Nelson Mandela Secondary School in Western Sahara.

42. **Chagos Archipelago and Comorian Island of Mayotte**

a. The ANC calls for the expeditious end to the unlawful occupation of the Chagos Archipelago, the Comorian Island of Mayotte.

43. **Cuba**

a. The ANC should strengthen its solidarity towards the people of Cuba and intensify its calls for the lifting of the Embargo.

b. The ANC and the South African government should intensify its calls for the lifting of the Embargo and unilateral sanctions against Cuba.

c. The ANC calls on ANC structures and the Alliance must support and encourage South Africans to intensify the humanitarian campaign in support of Cuba through donations of non-perishable foods, medicine and clothing.

d. The South African government must be found unwavering, especially when it comes to solidarity work and cooperation with CUBA.

e. The South African government must communicate South Africans unwavering support for Cuba and our cooperation agreements.

f. The South African government should enhance solidarity by increasing trade between Cuba and South Africa on a bilateral and multilateral level.

44. **eSwatini**

a. The ANC confirms its strong support for the people of Eswatini and calls for direct engagement with the Eswatini monarch and government leaders to find lasting solutions to the challenges facing the people of Eswatini.

b. The ANC together with its alliance partners should merge our solidarity campaigns on the basis of a commonly agreed framework of action.

c. The ANC should intensify its support for programmes of progressive political and social movements in Eswatini, such as the People's United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO), the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO) among others.

45. **Venezuela**

a. The ANC should intensify its solidarity campaign with the Venezuelan government and its people.

b. The ANC and the South African Government should intensify its campaign for the full lifting of sanctions on Venezuela.

46. **Ireland**

Recognising that:

a. The Irish people's right to self-determination and Brexit being a catalyst for constitutional change in Ireland, with successive opinion polls underpinning growing support for Irish unity.

b. The Good Friday Agreement provides the democratic means to achieve Irish unity and end partition in Ireland and the increasing numbers of Irish citizens accepting that partition has failed.

c. The international growing support for a referendum on Irish unity.

d. A new Irish constitutional democracy, equality, social justice, citizens' rights and respect for diversity is a legitimate democratic objective.

e. The recent initiatives taken within Irish civic society and academia broadening the discussion on constitutional change in Ireland.

f. The establishment of Sinn Fein's "Commission on the Future of Ireland" as a positive contribution to the wider conversation on Irish unity.

Therefore resolves that:

g. The ANC urges the Irish Government to convene and resource an all-island Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity, to plan and prepare for constitutional change.

h. The ANC encourages the Irish Government to use its international diplomatic resources to secure a date for a unity referendum.

i. The ANC calls on all progressive international political and civic forces to support the process of constitutional change and the achievement of Irish unity

j. The ANC pledges to support these ends across the African continent, within the African Union and through all available multilateral institutions.

47. **Unilateral Sanctions**

a. The ANC supports the calls for the lifting of the punitive and cruel sanctions against Venezuela, Iran, Cuba, Syria, Zimbabwe and elsewhere where such sanctions have been imposed unilaterally and unjustifiably.

48. The South African government must increase its humanitarian support to Cuba and Western Sahara.

49. The South African government must convene a solidarity conference on Palestine, Cuba, Western Sahara and Venezuela.

50. CAMPAIGNS

Recognizing that

a. The ANC established the largest social justice movement in the 20th century, the ANC noted regression in its campaign work.

Therefore resolves that:

b. The ANC needs to strengthen its work on campaigns.

c. The South African government should create broader awareness campaigns on continental matters through the promotion and observation of Africa Day, Africa Women's Day, African Youth Day, and through the singing of the AU National Anthem in all spheres together with our national anthem.

d. The South African government should create broader awareness within the education system and the utilization of media and communications about the African Union and the broader continent.

PILLAR 3:
PARTY-TO-PARTY, INTRA-PARTY AND MULTI-PARTY

51. The ANC's international relations, with Africa at its center, must strengthen relations with like-minded parties as well as parties in power.

52. The ANC must rebuild international solidarity networks through party-to-party relations with its historical partners and build new relationships with newly formed progressive forces.

53. The ANC should strengthen party-to-party, intra-party, and multi-party relations in our continent to turn consensus into concrete action.

54. The ANC should intensify engagement with Southern African Liberation Movements (Former Liberation Movements) on party-to-party and multi-party level to ensure that common programmes are realised.

55. The ANC expresses its deepest concern about the rise of military coups and attempted coups against democratically elected governments in Africa in the recent past. The Movement reaffirms its conviction to use party-to-party relations to contribute to building a culture of democracy supported by strong institutions and a vibrant civil society.

56. The ANC needs to reactivate and strengthen its affiliation to like-minded organisations as well as proactively participate in structures of Socialist International (SI), Sao Paulo Forum, and the Non-aligned movement among others.

57. The ANC must ensure as a matter of priority that all affiliation fees to International Forums such as SI and others are up dated and kept up dated to enable active and maximum participation.

58. The ANC should guide and ensure that the ANC Youth League participates meaningfully in party-to-party relations, in IUSY, the Pan-African Youth Union, WFDY, Former Liberation Movements and other progressive international bodies.

59. The ANC should guide and ensure the ANC Women's League participates meaningfully in party-to-party relations, Socialist International Women, Former Liberation Movements, Pan-African Women's Organisation (PAWO), the Progressive Women's Forum and other progressive international bodies.

60. The ANC and ANCWL should strengthen and maintain relations with progressive women's organisations aligned to liberation movements and countries that we stand in solidarity with.

PILLAR 4:
TRANSFORMATION OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS

61. The South African government must advocate and actively participate in the strengthening multilateralism including reforming global governance architecture and institutions as well as meaningful participation of Women on all levels.

40. **United Nations (UN)**

Recognising that:

a. The changing geopolitical landscape, the ANC and South African government advocates for the realisation of urgent UN reforms.

Therefore resolve that:

b. The South African government should move toward text-based negotiations on UN Reforms.

c. The ANC must develop more concrete proposals on UN Reform, including revisions to the Ezulwini Consensus.

d. The South African government must advocate in the Human Rights Council for an end to all forms of discrimination, social rights, economic rights and environmental rights. In addition promote international solidarity.

63. **International Criminal Court (ICC)**

a. Noting the ANC's previous position on the continental approach signaling countries of the continents' withdrawal and robust engagement have positively impacted and contributed to the ICC being substantively reformed for the better.

b. Further, noting that only a few countries in our continent have ratified the Malabo Protocol, thus delaying the establishment of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights.

c. The ANC and the South African government must rescind the withdrawal from the ICC Court and intensify its lobby for the ratification of the Malabo Protocol.

64. **International Monetary Fund and the World Bank**

a. The ANC reaffirms its call for the reform of the IMF and the World Bank and directs the South African government to continue to advocate for its reform at every regional, continental and global multi-lateral platforms..

65. **G20**

a. The South African government must intensify its lobby for the African Union to be made a permanent member of the G20.

PILLAR 5: POLICY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

66. **Foreign Policy and the National Interest**

a. Noting the adoption of the National Interest Framework Document and the broad definition of South Africa's national interests.

b. The ANC and South African government must ensure that the pursuit of the national interest should not lead to sub-imperialism and dominance but should be considerate of local needs and local conditions.

c. The ANC's characterization of the national interest should be about the advancement of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR), and be informed by the Strategy and Tactics document of the ANC. It must equally recognise that our national interest also includes our commitment to human rights and democracy and not just trade and economic interests.

d. The national interest framework should incorporate the current challenges of human trafficking and migration, worker rights in addition to human rights issues.

e. The ANC structures must engage the national interest framework document further and work towards building a greater degree of consensus on South Africa's national interests and the values that underpin them.

f. The South African government must revise various treaties and bilateral agreements to ensure they are relevant to South Africa's foreign policy and national interests.

g. The South African government must revisit binding treaties on amongst others private military and multi-national corporations.

h. The South African government must strengthen its economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, people-to-people relations, solidarity, and sustainable peace, amongst others.

67. **Gender and International Relations**

a. The ANC should incorporate the recommendations that have been made by the Gender Reference Sub-Committee – in particular, the establishment of a task team on women in foreign policy anchored in the NEC to assess and monitor gender equality and women empowerment.

b. The ANC should find a funding mechanism to better utilize our politically deployed, former Ambassadors and their experience by forming a party think-tank named 'Jessie Duarte International Relations Academy'.

c. In 2020 the AU dedicated a decade to African Women for Financial and Economic inclusion and the ANC and South African government should develop practical programmes and fast-track implementation.

68. **Sustainable World Peace**

a. The ANC calls for the peaceful resolution of conflict and calls on major powers to stop engaging in proxy wars.

b. The 55th Conference of the ANC recalled the historic bonds of solidarity and friendship between the ANC and the Chinese Communist Party and in the context of the strategic partnership between South Africa and the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC), reaffirmed the "One-China" policy and urged the South African government at all levels to continue articulating this position in all relevant international platforms. The ANC supports China in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

c. The ANC calls for the resuscitation of the World Peace Movement and should actively engage the progressive forces to realise this.

69. **Digital Diplomacy**

a. The ANC and South African government should both develop policy guidelines and implementation frameworks for Digital Diplomacy to enhance existing capabilities while utilizing existing opportunities.

48. Economic Diplomacy

a. The ANC and South African government should have a constructive engagement on the possible reconfiguration of international relations to include the trade functions in government.

b. The synergizing between International Relations, Trade & Economic issues, should not be limited to government, but also within the ANC. The ANC Economic Transformation

and International Relations Sub-Committees must work in a synergized manner on economic diplomacy.

c. The ANC and South African government should utilise international relations as a strategic tool for the revitalisation of the economy to:
   - Assess the status quo of the role and contribution of embassies in facilitating trade and investment.
   - Ensure regular diagnostics and audit on trade and investment done.
   - Strengthen the activities and programmes of the trade missions in embassies.
   - Expedite the formulation of policy on economic diplomacy.

71. **Diplomacy at the Provincial and Municipal Level**

a. The ANC and South African government must ensure that provinces and municipalities do not contradict national positions on foreign policy while building the requisite tools and capacity to enhance coordination

72. **Xenophobia**

a) The ANC and South African government should address Xenophobia by:
   - Developing a long-term strategy for dealing with xenophobia and its root causes.
   - Create public awareness of the dangers of xenophobia and the fact that it is against the character of the ANC being non-racial and non-sexist movement.
   - Develop adequate intelligence measures and effective channels for the public to report incidences of xenophobia as an early warning mechanism to avoid worse incidents and flare-ups.

b. The ANC PSBC and IRC together should work towards developing a new policy framework on migration which must include the combating of xenophobia and its manifestations in respect of continental aspirations.

73. **Parliamentary Diplomacy**

a. The South African government should capacitate Parliamentarians deployed to global forums like the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), especially given the decision for the SADC Parliamentary Forum to be a fully-fledged Parliament.

b. The ANC calls on Parliament to promote public education in both urban and rural areas of South African foreign policy issues to create a better understanding in the public domain.

74. **SADPA**

a. The ANC encourages government to accelerate the establishment of the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA) to assist in the pursuit of our vision for a better Africa.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

75. The ANC-led government must strengthen the training of diplomats and public servants by infusing a progressive political orientation in the curriculum.

76. The ANC must develop and utilize current talent within the party as well as identify potential cadres for international relations work and include capacity building for the identified cadres, inclusive of learning foreign languages.

77. The ANC must empower youth, women, and people with disabilities as a key focal point.

a. The ANC and the ANC-led government should examine the calibre of the Ambassadors appointed and ensure that they understand progressive internationalism and are exemplary in character.

b. The ANC-led government should take up its leadership and staff quotas in International and Continental bodies such as the AU and UN to ensure a greater South African presence in these institutions.

78. The ANC must ensure that its deployed cadres leading the international relations functions in parliament attend and participate regularly in meetings and activities of the ANC International Relations.

BUILDING INTERNAL CAPACITY AND COORDINATION

79. Given that International Relations is a cross-cutting issue, the ANC must consider appointing the Chair of the International Relations Sub-Committee into the National Working Committee (NWC) by appointment or co-option.

80. The ANC reiterated the urgent need to implement the resolutions in Paragraph 55 on page 60 of the 54th National Conference resolutions stipulating:

    a. That a full-time N.E.C. Head of International Relations be appointed urgently.

    b. That the Provincial Executive appoint a focal point among members who will liaise daily with the ANC Sub-Committee and Headquarters on International Relations.

81. The ANC must develop and implement a comprehensive capacity building and training programme in international relations and protocol for IR staff and other departments that are involved in IR related work.

82. ANC must strengthen its internal capacity to enable it to build a progressive landscape with like-minded stakeholders and ensure that international relations work is not just left to government alone to execute.

83. The ANC must strengthen the coordination between the IR subcommittee, leagues, and provinces to ensure the agreed upon positions of the movement.

84. The ANC must develop a clear monitoring and evaluation framework, and strategy for the implementation of International Relations resolutions.

85. The ANC should consider supporting the MKLWV on diplomatic and international relations training.

86. The ANC International Relations should strengthen its support to MKLWV with regards to the repatriation of MK Cdes buried across the world e.g. Angola, Cuba, Tanzania, Russia, Mozambique among others.

87. **Alliance Programme on International Relations**

    The ANC together with the Alliance should identify the current landscape of progressive forces to engage and collaborate with in order to enhance human progress and development.

88. **Establishment of ANC International branches abroad:**

    a. The NEC shall, through the Office of the Secretary General, authorize the establishment of international branches in countries where, after satisfying itself, there are significant numbers of ANC members.

    b. A minimum of 25 members, to set up a branch, is feasible in a country.

    c. Any further rules and procedures that will address the unique situation of international branches shall be the responsibility of the NEC.

6

CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE FIRST PART OF THE 55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

20 DECEMBER

National Chairperson, Gwede Mantashe,

Deputy President, Paul Mashatile,

Secretary General, Fikile Mbalula,

First Deputy Secretary General, Nomvula Mokonyane,

Second Deputy Secretary General, Maropene Ramokgopa,

Treasurer General, Gwen Ramokgopa,

Former President Thabo Mbeki,

Former President Jacob Zuma,

Isithwalandwe Mama Sophie De Bruyn,

Representatives of the Leagues,

Members of the Electoral Committee,

Representatives of the Alliance, fraternal parties and observers,

Distinguished guests,

Delegates,

We have come to the end of the first part of our 55th ANC National Conference.

The Steering Committee has decided that we should adjourn the conference and continue with it on the 5th of January 2023.

This will be followed by the celebration of the 111th anniversary of the ANC on the 8th of January in Mangaung in the Free State.

This Conference has in many ways proven to be a watershed moment in the life and the history of our movement.

Through the deliberations at this Conference have chosen the path of renewal, to rebuild our movement and restore its values.

We have chosen the path of principled unity, in the finest traditions of our movement.

There have been attempts to divide us, to provoke us and to divert us from the tasks that we must undertake in advancing our National Democratic Revolution.

There have been moments at this Conference that have tested our unity and cohesion.

But thanks to the political consciousness and for the most part the discipline amongst yourselves as delegates, whatever differences amongst us did not distract us from the critical work that the people of this country expect and require of us.

The branches have spoken by choosing the leadership that will emerge from here.

The ANC has spoken.

The strong democratic tradition that underpins the founding of our movement, has been victorious once more.

During our expansive discussions that started in your branches, in our Policy Conference and the commissions we had, we have defined the actions that we must take to confront the challenges of the present and the future.

On the 8th of January 1959, the great revolutionary Fidel Castro gave a rousing speech on his arrival in Havana following the victory of the Cuban revolution.

Addressing the Cuban masses he said:

"The people are greatly affected by whether we are going to make a good job of this revolution, or if we are going to make the same mistakes as in the last revolution, or the one before that, or the one before that.

"And so we will suffer the consequences of our mistakes, since there are no mistakes which do not affect the people, and no political mistake which does not have to be paid for, sooner or later."

As the ANC, we have made mistakes. And we have paid for them in many ways.

But even having found ourselves on the brink, we pulled ourselves back.

Because we know there is a greater task yet to be fulfilled, and that task is building a better South Africa that leaves no-one behind.

This Conference has reaffirmed that purpose and mission.

There is no other reason for the existence of this organisation than to unite, mobilise and serve the people of South Africa.

Let us be clear that there is no other reason for us to join the ANC and there is no other reason for us to seek or accept election to positions of leadership within its ranks other than to serve its people.

Consistent with this mission, the delegates to this Conference have discussed proposals that will accelerate radical social and economic transformation.

The deliberations and the conclusions from our Policy Conference have placed the needs and the interests of the people first, especially the working class and the poor.

We have outlined the steps that we must take to build an economy that serves all South Africans; an economy that bridges the huge gap between wealth and poverty, between privilege and disadvantage, between black and white, between men and women.

We have agreed to consider a combination of measures – which could be trade incentives, tax rebates and a compact with the private sector – to accelerate the rollout of mobile infrastructure and fibre in rural areas and township

We are committed to supporting the economic development of rural areas through, among other things, working with traditional leaders to implement the Invest Rural Master Plan.

This Conference has expressed impatience at the pace of change and has given our deployees in government, in Parliament and legislatures and across society an instruction to act with extraordinary effort, urgency and purpose to implement these resolutions.

This Conference sets out the path to a society in which every child receives a quality education and in which every person has access to health care, regardless of their ability to pay.

Our deliberations set out the path towards comprehensive and sustainable social protection, and to the provision of affordable housing and basic services for all.

We have deliberated on the actions we must take to, once and for all, redress the original sin of land dispossession.

We have agreed on measures to accelerate land reform and provide support for the productive use of that land.

We undertake land reform not only because justice demands it, but because it is a necessary condition for the growth of an inclusive economy that can realise the potential of our plentiful natural resources and the capabilities of our people.

This Conference has prioritised the safety and security of the South African people.

We have outlined steps to further strengthen our police service and other law enforcement agencies, to improve the effectiveness of our criminal justice system and to improve the security of our borders.

We have reaffirmed that ours must be a police service and not a police force, and we have agreed to overhaul and harmonise our immigration laws to meet the new challenges facing the country.

Crime is a problem of society, and requires the mobilisation of all social formations, all communities and all individuals in a sustained effort to end it.

We must strengthen Community Policing Forums and coordinate more effectively the work of businesses, trade unions, community-based organisations, traditional leaders, women's organisations, youth organisations and faith-based organisations.

We must mobilise all of these formations to be an integral part of the fight against gender-based violence and femicide.

This Conference has provided guidance on the strengthening of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF and provided clear direction to our structures and to our deployees in government on further steps necessary to end this pandemic.

Delegates have said that the future of our country demands that we prioritise the development and empowerment of young people.

In addition to the work already underway, we need to ensure equal access to high and tertiary education, and should establish more TVET colleges and technical high schools.

This Conference has reiterated our commitment to a better Africa and a better world.

This 55th National Conference has placed the position of women – both within the ANC and in society – firmly at the centre of our national election.

We must welcome the fact that three of the top seven Officials elected at this Conference are women.

This is great progress, but it is not enough.

We should not rest until we have achieved full equality in all structures of our movement – equality in terms of representation, of participation and of opportunity.

Our discussions at this 55th National Conference have taken a firm stand against corruption.

We have recognised that corruption within the ANC is a dire threat to the continued existence of our organisation and to the future of the National Democratic Revolution.

We have recognised the great progress that has been made over the last five years in tackling corruption within our ranks, within the State and across society.

But we have also acknowledged that we have not done enough to end corruption, to reverse the effects of state capture and to deal with its corrosive effects on the ANC and institutions across society.

We have said that government should consider the establishment of a vibrant and independent anti-corruption agency as a structure to address issues of corruption across the country.

We have stated our determination, as this 55th National Conference, to take all necessary actions to end corruption and patronage within the ANC.

We know from our recent experience that such actions can be difficult and painful.

We know that these actions may be met with opposition and that they may increase discord within our structures.

But, as this Conference has recognised, we have no choice – we either deal with corruption or we perish.

Comrades,

While this 55th National Conference has paid great attention to the difficulties that confront our nation today, it has also looked towards the future.

Our discussions on Vision 2032, have positioned the ANC as the movement of tomorrow.

We have anticipate how our society and our world will change and we have had to envision the organisation that will be required to organise, to advance and to thrive in those circumstances.

We are not content to merely observe change that will unfold.

Vision 2030 is taking us along route of setting out a roadmap through which we will contribute to the direction and pace of social and economic change.

This roadmap will outline the work we must undertake – starting now – to make the ANC an ever more effective agent of fundamental transformation.

Comrades,

Five years ago, in this very hall, we set out on a journey of rebuilding, unity and renewal.

It has been a difficult journey. We have encountered many challenges.

At times, we have met fierce resistance. We made some errors along the way.

But we have remained true to the course of the restoration of our movement.

This 55th National Conference has confirmed that we are on the right path.

But more than that, this Conference has made a clear call for greater urgency and greater action.

Delegates have conveyed the view of the ANC members that they represent that we need to do much more and we need to do it much faster.

We need to resolve the load shedding that is causing so much turmoil in our country. We also need remove the obstacles to faster economic growth and job creation.

We need to act against those public representatives and officials who are delaying the vital reforms that we need to build a thriving economy.

We need to fix our schools and our hospitals, our roads and our water infrastructure.

We need to employ people because they are competent and committed, not because they are connected.

We must show no mercy for those who steal from the people, whoever they are and wherever they are.

This is the definitive mandate that has emerged from discussions at this Conference and we are bound by our commitment to the ANC and to the people to fulfil that responsibility.

We have come to the end of the first part of a successful 55th National Conference. We will adjourn this conference and hold the second and last part of this 55th National Conference on the 5 January 2023 on a hybrid format.

I wish to thank those people who have made this Conference possible – the management of NASREC, the Electoral Committee and the Elexions Agency, technical staff, marshalls, security officials and the many service providers, donors and exhibitors.

I wish to thank the media for their coverage of this Conference, ensuring that all South Africans have an opportunity to follow the proceedings of this important event in the life of our country.

I wish to thank our Alliance partners, representatives of civil society organisations, guests from fraternal parties and members of the diplomatic corps who have been with us over the past five days.

I wish to thank all our branch members, whose wishes and aspirations we had come here to represent.

For many months, throughout the country, tens of thousands of ANC members have been meeting in preparation for this Conference.

They have elected their delegates, nominated their leadership candidates and conducted extensive discussions on the policy priorities of the organisation.

In doing so, they have participated in a democratic process that is more extensive, more vibrant and more thorough than that of any other political formation in our country.

Lastly, I wish to thank you, the delegates, for having so diligently represented the mandate of your branches and structures.

I wish to commend you and to congratulate you for having placed our movement firmly on the path of fundamental renewal and rebuilding.

Returning to Comrade Fidel Castro's 1959 victory speech, he asked the gathered revolutionaries what they expected to achieve.

"Was it just ambition and a desire to command?

"Was it to take over the reins of power, just to be able to drive around in limousines, to own mansions and to live like kings?

"Or was it about self-sacrifice, about being willing to give up all and receive nothing in return?

"Was it about being ready to give up everything and continue on the austere path of the genuine revolutionary?"

As a movement we have at many points in recent times had to ask similar questions of ourselves.

What we hoped to achieve at this 55th National Conference was to unite our movement, to give momentum to the process of renewal and to recommit ourselves to serving the South African people.

We are emerging stronger as the ANC, but we know that our work is far from done.

Now, more than ever, history demands that each one of us demonstrates that the unity and renewal of our movement is an imperative.

This should give us that sense of duty to serve our people our country with no expectation of anything in return but to earn the confidence and trust of our people.

This 55th National Conference has affirmed what the people of this country believe and desire – that the ANC lives and the ANC leads.

Amandla.

7

CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE SECOND PART OF THE 55TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

6 JANUARY 2023

National Chairperson, Gwede Mantashe,

Deputy President, Paul Mashatile,

National Officials,

Members of the National Executive Committee,

Delegates,

Comrades and Friends,

We have reached the end of the 55th National Conference.

This Conference is historic in many respects.

It is the first time that the ANC has succeeded in electing three women to its top seven Officials.

It is the first time that we have, through the use of technology, brought together some 3,000 delegates from across the country into a virtual forum to receive commission reports and adopt resolutions, and to conclude the work of the 55th National Conference.

This Conference will be recalled as a decisive moment in our movement's history, where we reaffirmed the values, principles and historic mission of the ANC.

This Conference will be recalled as a moment when we stood as one in turning our back on the destructive tendencies and practices that have eroded the people's confidence in our movement. This conference will be remembered as a key moment on the path of the renewal of the ANC. It will indeed be remembered as being a key foundation stone in forging the unity of the ANC.

We have acknowledged our shortcomings and considered the factors that have contributed to the erosion of our standing among the people.

Through Vision 2032 and the Renewal Plan of Action tabled by the ANC Veterans League we have described the organisation that we are striving to be and have developed a roadmap towards the achievement of that organisation.

This 55th National Conference will be recalled as a conference at which we adopted a credible, far-sighted and ambitious programme to meet the challenges that our nation faces.

The discussions we have had in our Policy Conference preceding this conference and the discussion we had in our commissions during the first part of the conference as well as the reports we have adopted today place the needs and the interests of the people first, especially the working class and the poor.

Our discussions have outlined the steps that we must necessarily take to build an economy that serves all South Africans.

This is an economy that bridges the huge gap between wealth and poverty, between privilege and disadvantage,

between black and white, between men and women.

As we said in our Declaration, we are beginning to see positive developments in the economy, returning to the pre-COVID levels of economic strength. While the economy is producing better outcomes and growth sectors are performing better, we believe that as the ANC, we must ensure that our growth is inclusive and creates much-needed jobs.

We have said that the future of our country demands that we prioritise the development and empowerment of women, young people and people with disabilities.

We have agreed on actions to address the immediate challenges that the country faces – chronic unemployment, an electricity crisis, the rising cost of living – while setting out the path we must follow to further transform our economy.

Our resolutions set out the path towards comprehensive and sustainable social protection, and to the provision of affordable housing and basic services for all.

We discussed and agreed on measures to accelerate land reform and provide support for the productive use of that land.

We have had extensive discussions on how we should prioritise the safety and security of the people of our country.

We have outlined steps to further strengthen our police service and other law enforcement agencies, to improve the effectiveness of our criminal justice system and to improve the security of our borders.

The challenge of gender-based violence and femicide received in-depth attention and we agreed on prioritising the task of ending all forms of violence against women and children.

This Conference has provided guidance on the strengthening of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. We have also provided clear direction to our structures and to our deployees in government on further steps necessary to address this pandemic, including how the budgets of various departments should be deployed and utilised.

Delegates have confirmed that the transformation of our society requires a developmental state that is capable, adequately resourced and effectively managed.

We have adopted resolutions on professionalising our public service, eradicating graft and waste and monitoring more closely and more regularly the performance of our deployees in government.

We have agreed on actions to strengthen local government, to improve the provision of services to all citizens and to promote integrated planning and implementation through the District Development Model.

This Conference has reiterated our commitment to a better Africa and a better world.

We have agreed to strengthen our relations with fellow liberation movements and like-minded parties across the African continent and the Global South in pursuit of progressive ideals, sustainable development, peace and stability.

We agreed that our country needs to play a progressive role in our foreign policy in a multipolar world. We should continue working with progressive forces to advance our developmental objectives. We will chair BRICS this year and should strengthen our relations with our BRICS partners. Our participation in SADC and the African Union must be aimed at advancing the interests of our country and our continent.

Conference has directed us to strengthen the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO).

Our support for the people of Palestine, Western Sahara and Cuba remains solid and firm. We support the calls for the lifting of punitive and cruel sanctions against Zimbabwe, Cuba, Venezuela and elsewhere where such sanctions have been imposed unilaterally and unjustifiably.

This Conference has mandated government to pursue the reform of international institutions so that they are more inclusive, representative and responsive to the needs of the developing world.

Delegates to this Conference have recognised the grave threat posed by climate change to our country and indeed to all of humanity.

We have resolved to reduce our carbon emissions and to end load shedding and restructure Eskom so that it can serve the interests of our country.

We have resolved that the transition to a low-carbon economy must be just and inclusive and that it must prioritise the welfare of those workers, communities and industries most affected by the transition. Our mixed energy approach must guide our transition as we also use new technologies to help us through this transition.

Over the course of five days in December and in our discussions today, we have crafted a programme of transformation that priorities action and urgency.

It is a programme that directly addresses the needs of our people today, tomorrow and into the future.

But the value of this programme – and indeed the value of this Conference – will ultimately be measured by the actions we must now take to implement it. Working together as an Alliance and all sectors of society through a forged solidarity and social compact we will be able to implement our programme of action and accelerate economic recovery.

As we rise from this 55th National Conference, as we return to our branches and deployments from the venues where we have gathered, our focus must be on turning the resolutions we have taken into reality.

The people of South Africa must see and feel a real difference in their lives.

Cde Mac Maharaj, our veteran, has given us useful guidance by getting us to ask ourselves pertinent questions. He said we should ask ourselves questions about what our people want from and expect from the ANC. He went on to say we should ask ourselves whether we will be able to reverse the decline of our movement in the eyes of our people.

He correctly said our tasks are numerous and extensive. They are immediate, medium term and some are long term. But he suggested that we should focus on implementable tasks so that we can demonstrate to our people that indeed we are serious about addressing their needs.

Our people must experience a renewed and revitalised ANC that serves their interests and meets their needs.

The significance of this period in the history of our struggle – and the tasks that we are therefore required to undertake – are effectively expressed in the Consolidated Report of the commissions on Strategy and Tactics, where we state:

"All the delegates to the 55th National Conference agree that South Africa and the ANC are at a moment of fundamental consequence.

"This moment requires clarity of thought, firm conviction and courage, as well as decisiveness and an unshaken commitment to the ideals that have inspired generations of South Africa's freedom fighters who sacrificed and suffered so that our country can be free and our people can live in dignity."

This is indeed a time for firm conviction and decisiveness.

As we prepare for the 111th anniversary of the formation of our movement on this coming Sunday, the 8th of January 2023, let us remember the great responsibility that history has placed on our shoulders to renew the ANC and revive the National Democratic Revolution.

Let us remember that we have a responsibility to those who have walked this path before us and to the generations that will follow to act with extraordinary resolve to restore the struggle for liberation.

Let us conclude this 55th National Conference united in our determination to spare neither strength nor courage as we strive together to build a better life for all our people.

Let us demonstrate through our tireless work that the ANC lives and the ANC leads.

Amandla.





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