

Formulating the Nedlac Work programme

- Each constituency submits issues that will form part of the Nedlac programme for the year.
- The issues are then be tabled at the chamber meeting for discussion (Chamber prioritises the issues using the government programme for the year as a point of reference.
- All Nedlac meetings are chaired by the constituencies.

Nedlac's Relationship with Parliament

parliament not to amend the Nedlac agreement, as this would unravel important compromises made by one or the other party in order to solicit agreement elsewhere.

Several discussions emerged on the development of a complementary relationship between the Nedlac process and parliament so as to achieve legislation that promotes effective social consensus. The outcome of these discussions was the drafting of a protocol to govern relations.

The Nedlac Act states that all labour legislation and all significant changes to social and economic policy are to be considered at Nedlac before being implemented or introduced in Parliament. In the case of the LRA, Parliament was presented with a complex set of trade-offs and agreements made at Nedlac and captured in the form of legislation. The parties jointly appealed to

In more recent years, increased efforts have been made to ensure ongoing communication between Nedlac and the various Parliamentary Portfolio Committees. The interaction with Parliament tends to be a two-way, triggered process. On the one hand, the parliament Committees invite Nedlac for briefings on a number of issues. On the other, Nedlac makes requests to brief the parliamentary Committees on certain issues.

Production of the Nedlac Report

The Nedlac report is the official, formal and public report produced after consideration of a matter by Nedlac. Where appropriate, agreements are captured in legal form. A Nedlac report would cover, in the main the following sections:

Background (a brief description of what the issues are and how it arrived at Nedlac).

- The Nedlac Process (step-by-step account of the process, including the terms of reference of the negotiating committee, its meeting times, the members)
- The agreement
- Any disagreements
- Any reservations
- Conclusion

Consideration of Issues in Nedlac

Consideration of issues in Nedlac comprises three main phases, namely tabling of the issue for consideration, production of a Nedlac report, submission of reports to the Minister and Parliament. The role of the Executive Director, the Overall Convenors, the chamber convenors and the Management Committee and Executive Councils is dependent on which issues are being tabled, and at what level they are taken up.

Tabling the Issues

An issue generally in the form of draft policy strategy or legislation may be tabled by any government department through the Government Overall Convenor or through the relevant Constituency Convenor in the relevant Chamber.

All constituencies in Nedlac have the right to table any issue for discussion.

Constituencies may request that an issue be tabled at Nedlac.