

JOINT PROCESSES

Monitoring the Presidential Jobs Summit Agreements

The committee met four times in the period under review. A framework for monitoring the implementation of the Presidential Jobs Summit Agreements was agreed. A consolidated review of the progress in implementing the PJSA was published in October 2001.

Taxi recapitalisation

The process falls between the Trade and Industry and Development Chambers, but is co-ordinated by the Trade & Industry Chamber. The Task Team gave input into various aspects of the project, but was still awaiting an update report from Government at the end of the year under review.

Social security

The WSSD was a focus at Nedlac in 2001-2002.

In January 2001, it was agreed that the joint DC-LMC Task Team would reconvene once the Commission appointed by the Minister for Social Development to conduct a review of social security, had forwarded its report. This was not forthcoming during the year under review.

World Summit on Sustainable Development

Nedlac identified the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development as crucial to South Africa, both in terms of hosting the Summit, and the content of issues that would be up for discussion. The co-ordination of constituencies' input into the process is being effected through a Joint Task Team on WSSD comprised of delegates from both the Development as well as the Trade and Industry Chambers. From this technical and operational level through to the highest decision-making and policy level of Nedlac – the Executive Council – there is agreement that Nedlac needs to make a significant contribution to ensuring that the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development is a success. The Summit takes place from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

Content discussions

The Nedlac WSSD task team has considered the Government Non-Paper on the Global Deal for further implementation of Agenda 21 towards sustainable development. The paper was approved by all the stakeholders at a meeting on 27 February 2002.

Government also tabled the Chairman's text to the task team. This text will form the basis for discussions at Prepcom III, (preparatory meetings in the run-up to the Summit) and is still under consideration. Emphasis has been laid on sectoral partnerships. Partnerships are seen as important in the implementation of targets. Developing targets with clear timeframes will help to make the Johannesburg Summit different from the Rio Earth Summit of ten years ago, where specific targets were not agreed.

Government initiated the drafting of a paper on Civil Society and Industry in sustainable development, and it was agreed that the drafting should include the task team members. The paper seeks to clarify the implementation roles of both Civil Society and Industry in sustainable development as this is not apparent at present, as the sectors are currently more of a monitoring than an implementation structure.

The Nedlac task team assisted in content and logistical preparations.

Logistical preparations

The Nedlac task team also considered logistical preparations for the Summit. It was addressed by Jowsco (The Johannesburg World Summit Company which has been established especially to run the Summit) on the approved budget, procurement policy and the volunteer scheme. Jowsco agreed to consider the Proudly South African campaign, initiated by Nedlac, in its procurement policy and confirmed that empowerment was one of considerations in choosing service providers.

Civil society representation

At the start of the process, there were concerns expressed that civil society was not fully represented in the structures that had been set up to co-ordinate civil society participation. Through the South African Council of Churches and the Nedlac Community Constituency, the problem regarding the leadership and representation of the civil society process was successfully resolved.

A Broad Political Forum, representative of major groups and taking into account national dynamics, was established. There are seven major stakeholders in the process, viz., Women, Youth, Civics, Communities of Faith, Labour, NGO's and the Disabled. A Management Committee was set up constituting one person per major group with a primary responsibility of interfacing with the Civil Society Secretariat on a daily basis and designing a process to deal with broad content and substance issues regarding the Summit.

Nedlac-specific input

Nedlac was also encouraged to do something for the summit as an organisation in addition to constituency organisational programmes. It prepared a research paper that links targets and action plans set out in NEPAD, the Secretary General's Report and the Non-Paper on the Global Deal for the further implementation of Agenda 21 in sustainable development. The paper is intended to assist the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in the development of implementation processes and programmes for sustainable development.

Rail Safety

Fedusa tabled the issue of rail safety in the wake of a spate of rail accidents. A joint task team was established to look into the issue.

Food prices

Cosatu tabled the issue of rising food prices. A task team was established to take the issue forward.