

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

ANNUAL SUMMIT

TARGET: The National Economic Development and Labour Council shall hold one annual summit, which will be chaired by the President or Deputy President and shall give constituencies an opportunity to give input on the institution and the issues on its agenda. Sixty representatives of each constituency shall be invited, along with guests from broader civil society, including Parliament; NGOs and other SADC countries.

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Programme Performance

The 7th Annual Nedlac Summit was successfully held on 9 November 2002.

The Summit was chaired by the Deputy President, Jacob Zuma. The theme of the Summit was "Sustainable Development, a Platform for Growth" and the Summit focused on how the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development could lay a foundation for economic growth, job creation and decent work for all, greater social equity and the protection of the environment.

Deputy President Jacob Zuma reminded the meeting that he had, on a number of occasions, expressed the need for government, labour, business and the community sector to form a social compact. "I am therefore pleased to note that this resolve has come to fruition with the impending Growth and Development Summit next year," said Deputy President Zuma.

The Minister of Labour, Membathisi Mdladlana, commended Nedlac on the continued successes of the institution. He noted the numerous gains that had been made and the increased level of activity within all the Nedlac Chambers.

Speaking on behalf of the Community Constituency, Ruth Ntshulana-Bhengu, Deputy President of the South African National Civics Organisation, SANCO, called on all sectors of society to play a role in sustainable development. She mentioned the corporate sector, Black Economic Empowerment groups, women and youth in particular.

Chairman of Business South Africa, Attie du Plessis, emphasised the unity that organised business in South Africa is working towards. "In future, we will not speak of them and us", he said, referring to Business South Africa and Nafcoc, "but to us." He said that he was certain that the future unification and current co-operation of the Black Business Council and BSA would ensure that business participates more vigorously and effectively in Nedlac.

Labour's speech illustrated the challenges facing South Africa in tackling economic and social problems of poverty, unemployment and inequality. However, General Secretary of Cosatu, Zwelinzima Vavi was upbeat on the prospects for the country's leadership, as represented by Nedlac, to "shape a new destiny for our people".

The Summit included four commissions, where delegates were able to debate in more detail issues related to the Summit theme.

The issue of the Basic Income Grant was hotly debated in the Commission on Social Security, which was addressed by the General Secretary of SATAWU, Randall Howard, and the Deputy Director-General of the Social Development Department, Fezile Makiwane. General Secretary of Fedusa, Chez Milani, was the chairperson.

The perennial problem of defining good governance, and the topic of the "peer review" were some of the issues discussed at the Commission on Nepad and the African Union, where General Secretary of NACTU, Cunningham Ngcukana and Siphon Masuku of the South African Youth Council led the discussion along with Dr Pandelani Matoma of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Discussion also centred around how Nedlac could play a part in ensuring that civil society plays a bigger role in other African countries.

Mr Tayo Fashoyin, of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, based in Geneva, (part of the International Labour Organisation) flew in to address the Commission on globalisation. He was accompanied by Lord Brett, Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO, and former Chairperson of the Workers' group of the ILO Governing Body in 1993-2002. Respondents on behalf of labour and business were General Secretary of Cosatu, Zwelinzima Vavi and Nedlac Labour Market Chamber business convenor, Vic van Vuuren.

The commission on Investment, Sector Strategies and Partnerships discussed the sector focus that is now the hallmark of industrial policy, particularly in the Integrated Manufacturing Strategy, which was debated at Nedlac. The Director-General of the Department of Trade and Industry, Dr Alistair Ruiters, briefed the commission on how **the dti** was being restructured in order to accommodate this sector focus.

The summit adopted the following declaration:

7th Annual Nedlac Summit Declaration

9 November 2002

Sustainable development: A platform for growth

THE NEDLAC CONSTITUENCIES, government, business, labour and community, meeting at the 7th Annual NEDLAC Summit taking place on 9 November 2002 after a successful World Summit on Sustainable Development, hosted in Johannesburg.

AGREE THAT:

1. The outcomes of the WSSD form a sound platform for global sustainable development that can contribute to economic growth, job creation and decent work for all, greater social equity and the protection of the environment.
2. The past year has seen NEDLAC agreements being reached that bear testimony to the importance of social dialogue and partnership in South Africa's own development. In particular, much work has been accomplished towards laying firm foundations on which future economic growth can be built. These agreements include:

- The Information and Communication Technology Sector Summit Agreement
- The Civil Society Summit Declaration
- The Financial Sector Summit Declaration
- The Labour Law Amendments
- The Occupational Health and Safety Accord
- Preparations for the WSSD
- Constructive engagement on **the dti's** IMS
- MOU on Plastic Bags
- Draft protocol for future sector summits

THE NEDLAC CONSTITUENCIES RECOGNISE THAT:

3. Despite these singular achievements, much work remains to be done to improve consensus building on key national issues, including:

- Job creation
- Investment
- Economic growth
- Black economic empowerment
- Poverty alleviation
- Combating HIV / AIDS
- Improving the economic efficiency of South African firms
- Privatisation and the restructuring of the public sector, and
- Taking up the challenges and opportunities arising from NEPAD and the AU
- The social dimensions of globalisation

THE NEDLAC CONSTITUENCIES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO:

4. Making every effort to seek consensus on solutions in the above strategic areas to meet the major socio-economic challenges facing the country,
 - Through the Growth and Development Summit
 - Through Sector Summits
 - Through agreement on a comprehensive strategy for combating HIV-AIDS
 - Through the partnership with the International Labour Organisation

THE NEDLAC CONSTITUENCIES REAFFIRM:

5. That the shared vision expressed in the NEDLAC Summit Declaration of 2000 – and consequently also the Declaration of 2001 – remains valid and still represents the broad goals worthy of being achieved through social dialogue.