

## **Resolutions adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> SAMWU National Congress 2015**

### **1. Relevance of the Union**

#### **Noting that:**

- a) Currently the national bourgeoisie remain hegemonic in the ANC.
- b) The working class was only hegemonic in the ANC prior to the dawn of democracy, for example, during the adoption of the Freedom Charter.
- c) The ANC as the leader of an alliance is a multi-class organization that does not represent specific class interest. Rather, the ANC remains home to the different classes.
- d) This multi-class character means that the ANC is s a contested terrain, which is lobbied by different classes or ideologues.

#### **Believing that:**

- a) The revolutionary alliance is the only formation through which the working class could defend and advance its own interests.
- b) The alliance is a progressive formation, which could be reconfigured to deliver genuine economic emancipation.

#### **Therefore resolved:**

- a) That the alliance remains relevant in terms of advancing the NDR which is the basis for socialism.
- b) COSATU should influence the alliance.
- c) The alliance must be reconfigured into a strategic political centre.
- d) The deployment of all resources should be the competence of this strategic political centre.
- a) The alliance should play a role of determining macro-economic and other policies.

### **2. Alliance Summit**

#### **Noting that**

- a) There have been very few substantial meetings of the alliance.
- b) Issues agreed at these meetings have largely not been followed through.

#### **Believing that:**

- a) These summits are necessary and remain relevant in terms of shaping political direction of the alliance.
- b) These summits should also play a role of developing programme of action.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) That the alliance at national, provincial, regional and branch levels should formulate programmes whose aim is to address challenges that confront the working class.
- b) All alliance programmes should be implemented without hindrances.

**3. COSATU****Noting that:**

- a) In the current conjuncture COSATU is facing challenges.
- b) These challenges have rendered COSATU unable to fully play its key role in the defence of the exploited working class.
- c) These challenges are not confined to COSATU, but also confront other alliance partners.
- d) The COSATU Special National Congress represented a watershed moment in which the COSATU was confirmed as the leader of the organised working class in South Africa.

**Believing that:**

- a) COSATU remain working class organisation whose key aim is to defend and advance the interests of the working class.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) That COSATU is the only progressive federation in South Africa.
- b) SAMWU should continue to defend and advance the agenda of COSATU.
- c) That SAMWU should fully participate in all COSATU programmes.
- d) SAMWU must contribute to any effort of building a strong COSATU which is capable of advancing pro-working-class programmes.
- e) That SAMWU must distance itself from all those affiliates and individuals who are campaigning for the reinstatement of former COSATU General Secretary and NUMSA.

**4. Swelling the ranks of the ANC****Noting that**

- a) This resolution of COSATU on swelling the ranks of the ANC has not so far produced desired outcomes.

**Believing that:**

- a) This resolution remains relevant, and its implementation must be deepened.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) SAMWU must not define itself outside the alliance.

- b) Reaffirm the COSATU resolution on swelling the rank of the ANC.
- c) Influence the decision making in the ANC.

### **5. Swelling the ranks of the SACP**

#### **Noting that:**

- a) The SACP remain weak in the current conjectures and hardly acts as the vanguard of the working class.

#### **Believing that:**

- a) The SACP remain the vanguard of the working class despite its challenges.

#### **Therefore resolve:**

- a) Reaffirm the previous resolutions of SAMWU to join the SACP
- b) The municipal workers must swell the ranks of the SACP in order to advance the socialism agenda which could only be led by the SACP.
- c) Rebuild the SACP as the vanguard of the working class.
- d) The SACP needs to re-establish its focus and ensure that it has full time leadership whose primary commitment is to be driving the organization forward at all levels.
- e) The SACP must enhance its capacity, visibility, and ideological clarity.

### **6. Character of the state**

#### **Noting that:**

- a) The state according to Marxism remains the instrument of class rule regardless of who run it.
- b) The character of the state personnel does not determine the nature of the state.
- c) Any party or person that administers the capitalist state at the end administers the affairs of the bourgeoisie class, as Karl Marx and Frederick Engels have pointed out in the Communist Manifesto.
- d) The state is the structure that provide political prerequisite for capitalist production- to protect capitalist property, to provide certain services which are essential for the reproduction of the capitalist system.
- e) Nevertheless, the state over the years has implemented some social progressive policies whose aim is to address both poverty and inequality.

#### **Believing that:**

- a) The South African State is a capitalist state.
- b) This imply that the complete advancement of the NDR remain unfeasible as long as the state is capitalist in character.

- c) Only the socialist state has potential to deliver the political and economic emancipation of the working class.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) The SACP must contest state power.
- b) That the debate on state power must be revived.

**7. Outsourcing and privatization:**

**Noting that:**

- a) The EPWP in its current form is exploitative and encourages lower wages and unbearable working conditions.
- b) The use of EPWP workers is preferred by the neo-liberal municipalities, mainly because the labor power of these workers remains irrationally cheap.
- c) The EPWP have significant substitution effects, replacing traditional municipal workers with the EPWP workers.
- d) Outsourcing or privatization in the local government sector has worsened the working conditions of municipal workers. The outsourcing takes different forms in different municipalities and even within a single municipality.
- e) SAMWU welcomes the progressive amendments to the Labour Relation Act, especially the provisions which seek to protect vulnerable workers from unfair labour practice.

**Believing that:**

- a) Both the privatization and outsourcing worsen the working conditions of the municipal workers.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) The EPWP must be scrapped because of its exploitative nature.
- b) The EPWP workers must be permanently employed by municipalities.
- c) The union must work toward closing the gap between EPWP workers or other vulnerable workers and standard municipal workers, particularly the gap in wages and benefits. This will entrench the principle of Equal pay for equal value of work.
- d) Increased union representation amongst the precarious workers
- e) Rebuild a coherent campaign against outsourcing or privatization.
- f) Increase the absorption of the EPWP workers into standard municipal employment.
- g) Reduce the outsourcing of services by the union in its offices especially the type of work that does not fall under scarce skill category.

- h) The implementation of the new amendments of the Labor Relation Act must be closely monitored.

### **8. Resolution on Comrade Mark Harmel**

#### **Noting that:**

- a) The role of Communists and Trade unionists in the struggle for National liberation and the international working-class struggle.
- b) Our failure to adequately recognise the contribution and sacrifices made by working class leaders.
- c) The recognition awards conferred, by WFTU, to cde Mark Harmel for his sterling contribution to the working-class struggle.

#### **Believing that:**

- a) Recognising cde Mark Harmel contribution is part of the preservation of our history.
- b) As South African workers we owe a lot to these stalwarts of our movement.

#### **Therefore Resolve:**

COSATU must confer an award in recognition at the lifetime of working-class struggle to Cde MICHAEL Harmel (Lerumo)

### **9. Property laws:**

#### **Noting that:**

- a) Historically the indigenous land was dispossessed by colonialism.
- b) Indigenous land rights have historically been undermined by a variety of doctrines such as apartheid.
- c) The vast majority of Black South African remain landless.

#### **Believing that:**

- a) The land belongs to the indigenous people.

#### **Therefore resolves.**

- a) The land should be returned to the indigenous people, the rightful owners.

### **10. International**

#### **Noting that:**

- a) Karl Marx's clarion call that said "workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains".
- b) That the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has contributed immensely to the trade union struggle in RSA and to our struggle for National liberation.

- c) That COSATU predecessor the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) was an affiliate of the WFTU. Both Moses Mabhida and Eric Stalin Mtshali and many others acted as prominent leaders of WFTU.

**Believing that:**

- a) COSATU has more in common with WFTU in terms of its ideological orientation.
- b) This is demonstrated in relation to the Cuban five, Palestinian question and the rejection of the Bretton Woods Institutions such as the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**Therefore resolve that:**

COSATU and its affiliates should affiliate to the WFTU and sever all ties with ITUC, whom we have no historical or political ties.

**11. Palestine:**

**Noting that:**

- a) The oppression of the people of Palestine by the Apartheid state of Israel continues.

**Believing that:**

- a) The Palestine people deserve to enjoy freedom, self-determination and peace.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) Reaffirm our support for the people of Palestine.
- b) Build the programme of action whose aim is to isolate the apartheid state of Israel.

**12. Western Sahara**

**Noting that:**

- a) Western Sahara remains the last colony in Africa. Western Sahara is the unique non-self-governing territory in Africa.
- b) The state of Morocco continues to oppress the Sahrawi people of Western Sahara.

**Believing that:**

- a) The oppression of a state by another is the crime against humanity.

**Therefore resolve that:**

- a) State of Morocco must desist from brutal oppression of the people of Western Sahara.
- b) The state of Morocco should grant self-determination to the people of Western Sahara.

**13. Cuban economic blockage**

**Noting that:**

- a) That, the Cuban five were released on certain conditions.
- b) The solidarity struggle both here in South Africa and abroad compelled the imperialist US government to free the Cuban Five comrades from prison.

**Believing that**

- a) The release of the Cuban five is used by the US to portray itself as an advocate international peace.

**Therefore resolve**

- a) Welcome the release of the Cuban five
- b) That, we should call for more US concessions.
- c) That, we must demand for withdrawal of all conditions which govern the release of the Cuban Five
- d) That, we demand for a permanent end of the Cuban trade embargoes.

**14. International Criminal Court****Noting that:**

- a) That South Africa remains an affiliate to the international criminal court.
- b) That the international Criminal Court discriminates against Africa

**Believing that:**

- a) The international criminal court continue to pursue the imperialist agenda whose aim is to subjugate Africans.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) That South African government must withdraw its affiliation to the international criminal court with immediate effect.

**15. BRICS****Noting that:**

- a) South Africa has entered into a relationship with the alternative economic partners such as Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

**Believing that:**

- a) There is no clear benefit for the working class in this relationship.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) COSATU should form alliance with other progressive trade unions from the BRICS countries.
- b) Discuss BRICS relationship with neo-liberal institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.

**16. Swaziland****Noting that:**

- a) Kingdom of Swaziland continues to oppress the people of Swaziland and their organisations.

**Believing that:**

- a) Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) and PUMEDO remain relevant in relation to the struggle of Swazi people.

**Therefore resolve:**

- a) South African government must condemn the brutal oppression of Swazi people.
- b) COSATU and other progressive organisations must deepen solidarity struggle against the oppression of Swazi people.
- c) To continuous support the struggle of Swaziland and Palestine.
- d) South African civil society organisations must distance themselves from the social activities organised by the King of Swaziland.