

Consolidated Draft International Policy Conference Resolutions for the 11th National Congress 2012

Noting that:

1. The 5th Central Committee Resolution amplifies the need for a consolidated and comprehensive International Policy of the Federation to guide our work and that of affiliates in terms of principles, perspectives, focus, strategic approaches and general orientation.
2. The deepening crisis of capitalism highlights the structural and endemic nature of the crisis. It is a crisis of relative overproduction and accumulation that results in the increase in levels of inequality, poverty, unemployment and hunger in most African countries and the global South in general.
3. There is a rapid shift in the international geopolitical balance of forces in favour of multipolarity with the emergence of the BRICS bloc of countries. This new international scenario creates an opportunity to make a break with the neoliberal politics of the Washington consensus and advance real alternatives against military framework for international relations.
4. Even in the context of the possible shift in the near future, power still resides with the Western industrialised countries that continue to monopolise the global political and economic space in their own narrow interests. This requires our consistent critique of imperialism in its varying forms.
5. Africa is characterised by a generalised infrastructure of underdevelopment, largely resulting from Africa's position in the global economy as an extraction zone of raw materials that are beneficiated in the advanced countries.
6. The need for effectively influencing the foreign policy of South Africa towards serving the agenda and interests of the working class and the poor, and in the process affirm it as an activist and anti-imperialist instrument of the people.
7. The need for our people to benefit fully from their natural resources through beneficiation creation of jobs and supportive fiscal, monetary and macro-economic policy spaces to enhance that objective.
8. South Africa is the leading polluter on the continent, largely as a result of some multinationals and our overreliance on carbon-intensive energy sources.
9. The need to strengthen SATUCCs capacity for effective campaigning, research and education in order to strengthen its affiliates and their impact at national level, as well as its own at the regional level.
10. The conspicuous deficiency in the reproduction of different layers of leadership within the trade union leadership in the region.

11. The unequal levels of development in the region and on the continent that impact negatively on the ability for an enhanced regional development path.
12. The emergence of Global Framework Agreements and the need for comprehensive research and monitoring of their impact and effectiveness in relation to the goals of empowering workers at the shop floor in different parts of the continent and beyond.
13. The progressive emergence of creative cross border forms of worker-to-worker contact and solidarity with the regional shop stewards councils as the foremost example of that development.
14. The lessons from the 2010 soccer World Cup in South Africa and the rich experiences and lessons it offered in relation to the organisation of atypical or informal, outsourced and other vulnerable work.
15. The weaknesses of the African trade union movement and the sad reality that most unions on the continent are dependent on external donor funding, hence their limited space to assert themselves.
16. The 10th Congress resolution which directs Cosatu to “affiliate to the WFTU as part of ways and means to strengthen and grow the WFTU, especially in Africa as part of our long-term objective towards one international trade union centre”

Therefore believing that:

1. Fighting capitalist globalisation, the internationalisation of capital, the financialisation of the economy and the spread of multinational corporations will most effectively be achieved by a combined international response by global progressive forces.
2. The international context necessitates more than ever that international work takes its rightful place as a priority for COSATU. It is fundamental that International work is intrinsically linked to our domestic priorities and class interests.
3. COSATU has a critical role to play in building a global progressive working class movement founded on the basis of clearly anti-imperialist and revolutionary principles. This includes the important task of transforming the international trade union movement into a united and fighting force in the struggle against capitalism and imperialism and to promote socialist construction.
4. The strengthening of South-South relations between the progressive forces of the region retains its central primacy in our international work.

5. We need to develop Africa-wide trade union development and support strategy anchored in the firm principles of worker control and political clarity of thought.
6. The above tasks require for their success bold and ambitious plans for Africa's industrialisation and development, which must a) recognise the critical role of the South African economy on the continent, b) be based on satisfying the needs of all people, c) be sensitive to the needs of the protection of the environment.

Therefore Resolving to:

On the COSATU International Affiliation

1. Conference noted and acknowledged the NALEDI Report on the COSATU International Affiliation Review process as a useful basis for informed decisions about present affiliations.
2. Conference recommended scenario 1 outlined in the Naledi report, that COSATU affiliates to the WFTU, whilst retaining its membership of the ITUC as the preferred option. This must be viewed against COSATU's profound principle and ultimate objective of working towards forging global working class unity.

On confronting underdevelopment for industrialisation and prospects for job creation through a green economy in Africa

1. Call for the development of a clear, people-centred industrial development strategy, continental growth path and new and a progressive, alternative trajectory of development anchored in the beneficiation of our massive natural endowment and resources. This is necessary in order to change the patterns of economic accumulation and ownership, to empower communities, workers, and local farmers, and build a solid base for sustainable job creation on the continent.
2. Fight to ensure that Africa's industrialisation is linked to measures to ensure the protection of the environment. In that regard, we need to develop a comprehensive African response to the deepening capitalist crisis of climate change through the effective measures for mitigation, adaptation, and other means, to counter the devastating effects of this growing phenomenon.
3. Build a progressive, anti-neo-liberal movement on the continent to promote solidarity and unity in action for all social forces that are committed to the best interests of the continent and its people. In this regard, the full and effective participation of workers and communities in the development of alternative policies is central.
4. Develop a comprehensive strategy as a country to reverse South Africa's position as leading polluter on the continent, and take responsibility for our

part in this. We must call to account those South African multinational companies responsible, and urge them to do their part towards the shift to clean, renewable and green energy.

5. Support genuine efforts towards unity and integration in Africa. These must be anchored in people-to-people co-operation and exchanges and not an elitist, corporate driven process of integration for profit maximisation and accumulation for multinational companies.
6. Work towards the development of revolutionary consciousness through Marxist political education. We should promote loyalty to the working class and not to former colonial powers who, in collaboration with corrupt local elites, always divide us in order to effectively sustain the infrastructure of plunder and exploitation.
7. Engage the alliance as a means to collectively clarify our combined position regarding what should be the core elements of a progressive African agenda and what are the complementary roles that alliance partners must play in that regard. We must also promote strategic, government-to-government and people-to-people linkages with the rest of the continent in order to reverse years of apartheid practices that attempted to position South Africa as a semi-Western bastion of reaction, as opposed to a genuinely African country.
8. Call for and actively participate in the global campaign for the cancelation of debt that frustrates development of poor countries as a result of the unfair lending terms and unjust economic relations between Africa and the underdeveloped work on the one hand, and the advanced capitalist countries on the other.

On the transformation of multilateral institutions, democratisation of global power relations and fighting the domination of the world by a few countries

1. Fight for the right of trade unions to full participation and representation in all multilateral processes and institutions to ensure their effective transformation, and for the voice of workers to be hegemonic therein.
2. Support institutions of the global South, and develop instruments in which to anchor our development initiatives given the devastating effects of the existing Bretton Woods institutions and their auxiliaries. This would also draw from the ALBA initiatives in Latin America, including the Bank of the South as an example of that. As such we should welcome the initiative for a BRICS bank for development and engage with the proposal.
3. Defend and fight for the sovereign right of African and Southern countries to pursue independent development paths and to explore alternative economic models free from the pressures from the Washington consensus and its devastating neoliberal agenda.

4. Recognise, assess and appreciate the implications of the new emerging geo-political and economic blocs such as BRICS, particularly with respect to trade and development in general and as it affects workers and jobs.
5. Work to ensure that the ILO responds adequately to the practical conditions faced by workers in different contexts, such as workers suffering from occupation, and varying forms of oppression and exploitation – particularly vulnerable workers. Ultimately this must result in strengthening the effectiveness of the supervisory system of the ILO.

On SADC Regional integration and its meaning for working class solidarity

1. Support a people-centred regional integration that prioritises the needs and full co-operation of all people of this region. Business interests should be subordinated to those of the people, especially the working class and the poor. In this regard, the free movement of people is very critical to the integration of the region.
2. The need for the effective promotion of a common market that allows the countries and peoples of the region to pool together their resources – not competitively, but cooperatively, for the realisation of a common development path. This could also include the issue of a common currency and even common, but developmental economic and trade policies. This arrangement must not disadvantage small economies, but must be balanced to ensure the development of all states in the region. In this regard, we should pay sufficient attention to the requirement for political integration of the region as a whole, without which the realignment of fiscal unions will prove difficult if not impossible.
3. The progressive harmonisation of labour standards in the region to allow workers in all countries to enjoy full and equal rights, as well as ensure that companies do not play one worker against another, one country against another and one section of the region against another, in a downward race to the bottom. In other words, no country must be forced to lower its standards in order to attract foreign investment, whilst lowering the living and working standards of the majority.
4. Strengthen SATUCC to effectively play its role in leading militant worker struggles for the realisation of a SADC free from all forms of exploitation and the looting of our natural resources.
5. Work towards the strengthening of SADC protocols, and ensuring their implementation and monitoring. This requires that workers and their organisations ensure that the ideals set out in those protocols, such as democracy and free and fair elections, happen.
6. Ensure that the industrialisation of the region and the beneficiation of our resources is a priority element of regional integration. This aim must be accompanied by a means to achieve it as a matter of urgency.

7. Support Southern African workers' struggles in the interest of common development, including strengthening our struggles against national chauvinism and xenophobia in our own country, and promoting these throughout the region and beyond. In that regard, we must effectively transform the apartheid political economy – which positions South Africa as a sub-imperialist power by carefully treading the path of common development in the context of sometimes conflicting national interests.
8. Harness the rich history and traditions of movements and struggles for liberation against colonialism, apartheid and imperialism as a means to sustain the momentum for a consistently progressive culture and popular consciousness.
9. Intensify our work in supporting struggles for democracy and human rights, and link them with workplace and class struggles throughout the region.
10. Use all means possible to facilitate the enhancement of working class and trade union unity throughout the region.
11. Push for the revival by SATUCC of the SATULA (Southern African Trade Unions Leadership Academy) initiative to build and promote the development of capable trade union leaders, sharing of experiences by workers, effective empowerment of shop stewards, promotion of democracy and worker control, and ultimate consolidation of a progressive working class agenda in the region and on the continent.
12. Argue for the constitution of Independent Elections Observers and Monitoring Missions wherever possible during elections in various countries, and working with their counterparts in the countries concerned to ensure free and fair elections. The composition of these institutions should include worker representatives to take account of the orientation of electoral moments towards the needs of workers.
13. Advance our objective of an activist foreign policy that links workers struggles with a progressive state agenda, particularly in light of South Africa's silence on human and workers' rights violations on the continent.
14. Argue for SADC countries to cooperate to bargain effectively on the international stage, without sacrificing the importance of continental unity and its importance.

On building global solidarity for confronting multinational companies

1. Recognise the urgent need to counter the power of multinational capital that has become the key driver of international trade agreements and economic policies in general.
2. Advocate that the struggle for harmonisation of standards should be waged within international company councils, regional trade union bodies, and

within global trade unions as a means to counter the spread of multinational and transnational corporations.

3. Support and expand Global Framework Agreements and international shop steward's councils throughout the value chain and to ultimately cover the regional, continental and international levels. These offer us the opportunity of direct worker-to-worker contact and solidarity and their potential must be harnessed. This corresponds to the need to monitor the full and effective implementation of ILO conventions in all of our countries as minimum standards of compliance.
4. Investigate the opportunities for conducting an audit of the location of multinational companies, their labour practises and investment patterns, so as to also ensure that they promote or adhere to local procurement, production and beneficiation requirements towards an over-arching industrial strategy.
5. Commit to understand and organising workers along the value chain and across borders to avoid the divide-and-rule tactics of multinational companies.
6. Insist that clear conditions for effective social responsibility be attached to investment by trade union investment companies. Trade union investments' mandates should be developmental and in the public sector – not for narrow private accumulation interests. The activity of the trade union movement needs to be consistent with development principles; this requires that we consider formulating investment codes of business practice wherever operations exist.
7. Strengthen our participation at NEDLAC, particularly where trade agreements are discussed, and in following up on their impact. In this regard, we must also review existing trade agreements to counter the fact that they represent the interest of Trans National Corporations.

On building working class power for fair trade and global economic justice, and a global working class movement to confront neo-liberalism and build anti-capitalist alternatives

1. Work with allied forces to build a progressive bloc of social and political forces outside the pole of imperialism and neo-liberalism to build working class power for socialism.
2. Critically analyse the BRICS political alliance, with particular reference to China and also use this leverage to develop a BRICS trade unions Platform around an anti-capitalist agenda and towards a new and democratic world order. The coming BRICS summit in South Africa in 2013 should be used to rally the BRICS trade union movement towards practical convergence.

3. Recognise the clear linkages between the development of the African working class and the development of the continent's productive forces, primarily through industrialisation.
4. Develop a dedicated programme to build and support the capacity of the African trade union movement to assert itself on the international stage, free of undue and external influences and control.
5. Engaging in a decisive global economic justice campaign, particularly for just and fair trade and the dismantling of the unequal relations between countries of the global South and those of the global North.
6. Labelling of products should talk to worker-friendly conditions of work at factory floor level, the upholding of international standards, and respect for human and trade union rights in general. This should be coupled with the strengthening of our research capacity on such matters.
7. Undertaking a careful study and evaluation of the meaning and impact of the crisis of social democracy, particularly in Europe. This should include the phenomena in which right-wing governments are resurfacing with austerity agenda and institutionalised attacks on the working class.
8. Support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign as initiated by the Palestinian progressive movement. The BDS call is not simply a principle, but rather a political movement and campaign strategy. Our demands in support of the Palestinian people are:
 - That Israel end the occupation and dismantle the apartheid wall (which contravenes international law)
 - Universal right of return for Palestinian Refugees
 - Full equality for Palestinians
 - Return of the land
 - End to the colonial settlements expansionism of Israel
9. Build tighter coordination with the SACP in particular and the alliance as a whole in our international solidarity work.