



NUMSA Policy Resolutions

1987 to June 2020

Complete Texts

Section 6
International

Introduction

This complete version of Numsa's Resolutions contains all policy resolutions of National Congresses, Central Committees and National Executive Committees in the 33 years between the Founding Congress of Numsa in 1987 and the Special National Executive Committee in June 2020.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Introduction..... | 3 |
| International Analysis, Solidarity and Inspiration..... | 6 |
| International Analysis..... | 6 |
| International and domestic balance of forces and the role of the working class:..... | 6 |
| International balance of forces | 8 |
| International Solidarity..... | 9 |
| Solidarity in general | 9 |
| Strengthening South - South cooperation | 9 |
| International Work..... | 10 |
| Venezuela, Cuba and Socialism: | 10 |
| End the economic blockade of Cuba | 10 |
| Regional international committees and twinning | 10 |
| International | 11 |
| Revival of the Twinning Programme..... | 12 |
| Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia | 13 |
| Zimbabwe | 13 |
| Worker to worker contact and International worker solidarity..... | 14 |
| International Organisations | 14 |
| International Metalworkers Federation | 14 |
| Resolution on Affiliation nationally and internationally..... | 17 |
| International affiliation | 18 |
| International Affiliation..... | 18 |
| International Workers Solidarity | 18 |
| International Trips..... | 19 |
| Merger of ICEM, ITLGWF, IMF | 19 |
| WFTU | 20 |
| WFTU | 20 |
| International working class forces | 20 |
| SADC and the Continent of Africa..... | 21 |
| SADC Free Trade Agreement..... | 21 |
| SADC Free Trade Agreement and Building of Strong Trade Unions | 21 |
| Regional Development | 22 |
| Regional Development | 22 |
| Mozambique..... | 23 |
| International: Campaign to fund-raise for Mozambican metal union..... | 23 |
| Zimbabwe and Swaziland | 23 |
| Zimbabwe & Swaziland | 23 |
| Zimbabwe | 23 |
| Zimbabwe | 23 |
| Swaziland..... | 24 |
| Swaziland (1996) | 24 |
| Swaziland (1997) | 24 |
| Swaziland (2010) | 24 |
| Swaziland (2011) | 24 |
| Swaziland (2012) | 25 |
| Zambia..... | 26 |
| On Zambia | 26 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Other African countries | 26 |
| The War in the DRC | 26 |
| Libya | 26 |
| Somalia | 26 |
| Nigeria: Abduction of schoolgirls..... | 26 |
| Western Sahara: | 27 |
| African Debt..... | 27 |
| African Debt..... | 27 |
| <i>Other Countries</i> | 28 |
| China | 28 |
| China (2009)..... | 28 |
| Iraq..... | 28 |
| Iraq (2003) | 28 |
| Palestine | 30 |
| Campaign against the unjustified Israeli occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people | 30 |
| Palestine | 31 |
| The Palestinian struggle for freedom | 31 |
| G4S | 32 |
| Boycott Israeli products and services | 32 |
| Bolivia..... | 32 |
| Election victory | 32 |
| Brazil | 32 |
| The Workers Party victory in Brazil..... | 32 |
| Campaign for the release of Lula | 32 |
| <i>Index.....</i> | 33 |

International Analysis, Solidarity and Inspiration

International Analysis

International and domestic balance of forces and the role of the working class¹:

1. International balance of forces:

Noting that:

1. The global financial crisis underway that all started in the United States of America (USA) represents one of the many failures of capitalism and its neo-liberal ideology.
2. The ascendancy of neo-liberalism in the 1970s and its dominance in the 1980s after the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) plunged the world with more or less similar financial crises, for example, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Asia, Russia and South Africa (currency crisis, 2001) etc. The world has since been devastated by socio-economic and political failures through the World Bank's Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) development finance or bailouts conditionalities.
3. The African Continent represents one of the worst victims of this anti-democracy and anti-intellectualism imperialist agenda. This can be observed in socio-economic and political crises such as underdevelopment and civil wars.
4. The rise of Brazil, China, India and South Africa and the positive, leftward developments in Latin America serve as an important axis for a challenge to the dominance albeit in crisis, of neo-liberalism.
5. The return of Russia though from a different political and ideological context with reference to the USSR, to the world stage as a potential countervailing force to USA-led imperialist project.
6. The capitalist class, albeit in crisis is currently dominating the international balance of forces hence the bailouts to the predominantly speculative finance capital, the nationalisation of their liability (debt) and continued privatisation of profits.

Believing that:

1. The global financial crisis underway has opened space for new international consensus, in particular the need in the short-term to put in place tight regulation and monitoring of capital and in the medium to long terms to finally defeat the neo-liberal policy paradigms (the Washington Consensus) both nationally and internationally.
2. For this to be realised, there is a need for increased coherence, coordination and collaboration of left and progressive forces (e.g. trade unions, political parties and other civil society formations, and states), strategic and tactical alliances internationally.
3. In order to make a desired impact the coordination and coherence of the left forces including trade unions and their federations, left political parties and progressive governments, must be grounded in different national contexts. This means that the working class of each country must intensify struggles to settle matters with the respective bourgeoisies.

¹ NC 2008

We therefore reaffirm:

The Numsa 7th National Congress Resolution on tilting the international balance of forces, in particular that:

1. South Africa must continue:
 - 1.1. Engaging with progressive governments to advance a counter-hegemonic agenda to neo-liberal dominance, and to build a left alternative world order;
 - 1.2. The outstanding work on peace and security, socio-economic and political development (democratisation) in the continent.
2. We must intensify our engagement with international trade union movements (federations included), party relations and collaboration on the foundation of a left organisational, political and ideological agenda as a matter of international policy (this must guide and be read in conjunction with Numsa's international work); and the advancement of strategic and tactical alliances at an international level including South to South relations.
3. We must make sure that Cosatu Strengthens global solidarity in fighting neo-liberal and imperialist agenda
4. Government must continue with forging the unity and cohesion of developing societies to build a counter-hegemonic bloc to the imperialist interests of the developed countries as dominated by the USA. This will require the existing efforts for the developing world to engage in the United Nations (UN) and its institutions, and the World Trade Organisations (WTO) as common front; and to build capacity on all matters dealt with in these bodies.

We further resolve that:

1. Numsa through Cosatu must engage the Alliance partners through their international relations as well as government to forge an international alternative to neo-liberalism taking advantage of the space opened by the current financial crisis.
2. South Africa's engagement on peace, security and democracy in the African continent and elsewhere must place the interests of the people at the centre rather than of the capitalist class (making it conducive for the capitalist class to exploit and oppress the working class in a stable environment).
3. Numsa must intensify its work in building the unity, cohesion and strength of metalworkers in the region (SADC) and the African continent, and to call on Cosatu to do likewise and further ensure that all its affiliates strengthen ties with the fraternal trade unions in the region (SADC) and the African continent.
4. Numsa must also make use of Company World Councils particularly within Multinational Corporations (MNC) and Global Trade Unions to forge proletarian internationalism and robustly engage with capital. This internationalism must have links with civil society formations in communities where these MNC are located and be rooted in mass mobilisation.
5. The resolution from the Cosatu 9th National Congress on regulating the activities of South African capital in the continent must be implemented in order to prevent the capture by capital, of the proceeds of peace, security, democracy and development in general; and to prevent South Africa to slide into a position of an imperialist element in the continent.
6. A discussion document should be crafted to facilitate debate in the union about the position, role and character of the South African State in the continent. Is South Africa a sub-imperialist power in the continent or not?

International balance of forces ²

Noting:

1. The ever changing international balance of forces
2. The need for South Africa as a country and workers to play a role in shaping a new world order
3. The emergence of Brazil, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) and IBSA blocks as a positive development.

Believing that:

1. The current global crisis of capitalism is an opportunity for the workers of the world to unite and crush capitalism
2. Capitalism does not have solution for problems confronting humanity
3. BRICS, IBSA are providing the developing world with alternative counter block to the dominant West.

Therefore resolve that:

1. South Africa must continue engaging with progressive governments to advance a counter–hegemonic agenda to neo–liberal dominance, and to build a left alternative world order; and the outstanding work on peace and security, socio–economic and political development (democratisation) in the continent.
2. We must intensify our engagement with international trade union movements (federations included), party relations and collaboration on the foundation of a left organisational, political and ideological agenda as a matter of international policy (this must guide and be read in conjunction with NUMSA’s International Work); and the advancement of strategic and tactical alliances at an international level including South to South relations.
3. We must make sure that Cosatu strengthens global solidarity in fighting the neo-liberal and imperialist agenda of the capitalist world
4. NUMSA through Cosatu must engage the Alliance partners through their international relations as well as government to forge an international alternative to neo –liberalism taking advantage of the space opened by the current financial crisis.
5. Numsa must intensify its work in building the unity, cohesion and strength of metalworkers in the region (SADC) , the African continent, Internationally and we must call on Cosatu to do likewise and further ensure that all its affiliates strengthen ties with the fraternal trade unions in the region (SADC) and the African continent and Internationally.
6. South Africa’s engagement on peace, security and democracy in the African continent and elsewhere must place at the centre the interests of the people rather than those of the capitalist.
7. The resolution from the Cosatu 9th National Congress on regulating the activities of South African capital in the continent and internationally must be implemented in order to prevent the capture by capital, of the proceeds of peace, security, democracy and development in general, and to prevent South Africa sliding into a position of an imperialist element in the continent
8. A discussion document should be crafted to facilitate debate in the union about the position, role and character of the South African State in the continent. This must ensure that South Africa does not become an imperialist power in the continent.

² NC 2012

International Solidarity

Solidarity in general³

1. Rebuild, revive and strengthen organisational structures, and through building solidarity committees from factory, local, region and nationally through clearly identified campaigns to assist with international worker solidarity.
2. Forge worker to worker contact and information exchange (including through study tours) through multinational shop steward councils.
3. National Office Bearers together with International Relations Officer to work out a programme including, as spelt out at the 1994 NEC:
 - 3.1. making contact with Brazilians and FIOM to set up a co-operation programme on industrial strategy issues
 - 3.2. working out a programme with like-minded unions on how to help IMF to intervene forcefully in ICFTU
 - 3.3. drawing up a programme by November 1996 Central Committee on how we link with unions in Southern Africa. Programme to be finalised by March 1997.
 - 3.4. NC to empower first Central Committee of 1997 to adopt an international programme of solidarity action informed by our own experiences and campaigns.
 - 3.5. Programme to be spearheaded by International Relations Officer.

1996: Unity of international workers⁴

1. Cosatu to encourage its affiliates to develop a strategy to build unions in Southern Africa including working towards setting up an African Shopstewards Council where economic Policies can be debated. Put in place carefully calculated strategies so as not to destroy Economies of these underdeveloped, developing neighbours.
2. Develop a common view of our international situation with other fraternal unions with a view to developing common programmes, campaigns and actions. To link with other unions world-wide on specific issues or common struggles e.g. collective bargaining strategies, privatisation, etc.
3. That Cosatu convenes an International Conference of Trade Unions, NGO's, Churches and sympathetic governments to discuss the IMF\World Bank and the World Trade Organisation so as to exchange experiences and programmes.
4. To continue with other federations to support workers who are denied the right to organise by repressive regimes.
5. Cosatu should hold an international week every year that would end with May Day celebrations focusing on a specific international theme. During that week, Cosatu to produce posters, information, t-shirts in regard to the theme adopted.

Strengthening South - South cooperation⁵

Noting;

1. The South African Government involvement with other major developing countries
2. The need for ensuring the interests of the South African people and the workers in particular
3. The need to develop alternative global blocks providing alternative forms of development.

³ NC 1996

⁴ NC 1996

⁵ NC 2012

Believing;

1. That the Government has a role to use its multilateral alliances to promote the economic interest of the country and the people of South Africa
2. South Africa is in a stronger position than the rest of the countries of the continent
3. The emergence of forums like BRICS, IBSA and G77 is necessary to tilt the balance of forces globally and promote South-South dialogue
4. BRICS, IBSA and other similar blocks have as their basis the interest of capital
5. Workers in the countries grouped under BRICS, IBSA have more reason than ever before to unite and strengthen links and cooperation.

Therefore resolve;

1. That these efforts of the government must be supported
2. To ensure that as the trade union movement we guard against these institutions being used against workers in favour of capital
3. NUMSA must explore possibilities of strengthening ties with unions in the Global South in general and as informed by this new development establish a trade union block in the BRICS, IBSA, etc
4. To reiterate our previous resolution on the imperialist nature of China.

International Work

Venezuela, Cuba and Socialism⁶:

1. Numsa must undertake a visit to Venezuela and Cuba to draw lessons from the model of development and transformation project.
2. Internationally we must advocate for the convening a left international conference to reflect on the crisis of capitalism;
3. Numsa and the federation must push and drive the perspective that another world is possible and that therefore the slogan Socialism is the Future Build it Now must be concretized in concrete programs in the current period;

End the economic blockade of Cuba⁷

1. The NEC started on the day (21 July 2015) when the Socialist Republic of Cuba's flag flew high in the skies at the bastion of imperialism and capitalism, the United States (US), as part of the renewed ties between the two countries. Numsa has been an integral part of international working class formations campaigning for uplifting the unjust economic embargo imposed on the Cubans owing to their chosen path of development – Socialism. Numsa views these cozy ties with a suspicious eye! We continue to call for the end to the economic blockade against Cuba.

Regional international committees and twinning⁸

The CC resolved that:

1. Regional International Committees must be established by all Regions by September 2011.

⁶ NEC Feb 2009

⁷ NEC July 2015

⁸ CC August 2011

2. The Numsa Regions would be twinned with neighbouring SADC countries for example and the Numsa International Solidarity Committee shall develop the working program for twinning Numsa Regions with the listed countries.
 - Kwazulu Natal with Mozambique
 - Hlanganani - Botswana,
 - Ekurhuleni - Zimbabwe
 - Northern Cape – Lesotho
 - Mpumalanga – Swaziland
 - Western Cape – Namibia
 - JCB – Zambia
 - KZN – Mozambique
 - Eastern Cape – Kenya
 - Sedibeng – Angola

Noting that:

1. Capitalism is permanent crisis, misery, oppression and exploitation for the working class both in its so called “good” and “bad” times.
2. The world capitalist system is now in a long-term systemic and structural crisis.
3. The global capitalist class has no solution to the many problems the global capitalist system is suffering from.
4. Unless the world working class wake up and organize themselves for the struggle for world socialism, the slide towards a global war is inevitable.

Further recognizing that:

1. This International Section of the Secretariat Report when read together with the Political and Socio-Economic Reports of the Secretariat Report, is capable of being used by Congress to formulate the means by which the Special National Congress political resolutions can be fast tracked.
2. Among the so called “Left forces” today, the defence of Marxism and Marxism-Leninism, have become one of the most urgent tasks of our times. This is the dividing ideological and political line along which the political struggles inside and outside Numsa are being waged.
3. More than at any time, Numsa needs to defend its Marxist-Leninist inspiration, otherwise many of the reactionary middle class ideas floating around which will come to dominate and destroy the revolutionary militancy and democracy of NUMSA.
4. Numsa must fast track the implementation of its SNC Resolutions.
5. Numsa has been able to twin its 9 regions to different organisations in the African countries

International⁹

This 10th Congress Resolves as follows, on the international question:

1. We must improve worker to worker contact as a way of growing the global solidarity of the world working class. A programme for the next four years must be drawn by the relevant union structures covering the entire union.

⁹ NC 2016

2. We must promote international work in all structures of the union. A programme for this work must be drawn for the entire union by the relevant union structure. Our International work and worker to worker contact must ensure that reports are delivered to all levels of the organisation and not just the national office.
3. We must take our twinning work further and work on our twinings with African countries
4. We must analyze the political and economic situation that obtains in all African Countries. We must study what has happened in Zambia. We must pronounce on what is happening in Zimbabwe
5. We must encourage the use of social media and the Internet for international work. The union is not doing enough to train shopstewards in international work. This must change after this Congress. The union must design training programmes for members, shopstewards and organisers and run these programmes.
6. We must design programmes that involve members, locals and regions, rather than over focusing on NOBs.
7. We must learn lessons from unions and Marxist-Leninist formations and parties. The Numsa Research Institute and the political party must lead in this work. We must examine how we take forward the revolutionary work advanced by Comrade Castro
8. We must strive to unite and work with left forces whenever and wherever this is possible. We must take note of the election of Donald Trump in the US and the right-wing triumph in different parts of the world, and we must shape international solidarity amongst the working class
9. Numsa should independently approach left and Marxist forces, including those who are traditional ANC allies, to explain its positions.
10. Numsa needs to arm itself against the attack on jobs and workers livelihoods from the so-called Fourth Industrial Revolutions and its replacement of human labour with robots and the Internet.
11. While there is an appreciation of how the union has used its presence in global unions, there is also a recognition that much more work needs to be done to use these international platforms to spread the ideas of socialism.
12. Numsa must disaffiliate from the WFTU.
13. While Numsa can claim to have used the International Framework Agreements (IFA) to its and neighbouring countries advantages, more could be done to promote solidarity especially with African trade unions.
14. The party Numsa is giving birth to must conduct further research into the failures and successes of socialist parties, to learn lesson.
15. We must see that the 9th and Special National Congress Resolutions are implemented in the coming period. Every aspect of the Numsa moment must be advanced and taken forward locally and internationally

Revival of the Twinning Programme¹⁰

1. The revival of the twinning program is critical given the current international situation and therefore the NOB's must see how best we revive this international Numsa Regions are doing with their counterparts on the Continent

¹⁰ CC July 2017

Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia¹¹

Noting;

1. The dire situation in the horn of Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular
2. The volatile situation in the Sudan.

Believing that;

1. As workers we must play our part in helping our brothers and sisters faced with such challenges
2. The establishment of the two states in Sudan is a positive step towards peace in that region.

Therefore resolve that:

1. We heed the call for lending a helping hand to Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and other drought stricken and conflict affected countries
2. Any assistance must be coupled with long term programmes to ensure sustainability
3. Condemn the sporadic attack on Somali nationals in our country and that this kind of xenophobia is unacceptable and the state security agents must apprehend and prosecute all those involved.
4. The union links with charity organisations to assist the people of affected countries
5. To support the peace process in Sudan and pledge to work with relevant unions in that country- North and South Sudan.

Zimbabwe

Noting:

1. The recent splits within the ZCTU
2. The challenges facing the people of Zimbabwe generally.

Believing that

1. The situation in Zimbabwe is posing challenges for our work in uniting the African trade union movement
2. The Split in the ZCTU is taking the struggle of workers backwards.

Therefore resolve;

1. To campaign to put pressure to President Mugabe to force him to introduce reforms and allow free trade unions to operate freely
2. To continue our work in working closely with our allies in Zimbabwe
3. To lobby within the ANC for a decisive stance by the SA government to exert diplomatic pressure on Zimbabwe
4. That COSATU must take a keen interest in the unity process of the ZCTU as our allies.

¹¹ NC 2012

Worker to worker contact and International worker solidarity¹²

Noting;

1. The challenges that smaller national companies face
2. That there is an increase in the number of South African companies doing business in the continent in particular and throughout the world in general.

Believing;

1. That workers must link up to build solidarity among themselves.

Resolve that:

1. The union must assist shop stewards from small multi-national companies to establish company networks and attend multi-national shop steward councils that must be established with our sister unions. Currently only the big auto companies participate.
2. The union must make study grants available to shop stewards and ordinary members to study part time in order to capacitate them to deal with globalization.

International Organisations

International Metalworkers Federation¹³

The meeting noted a report on a unity meeting of IMF affiliates in South Africa, which had taken place on 15 October 1988.

Resolved on a motion by Cde Bokaba seconded by Cde Olifant that

1. Numsa should support joint negotiations by IMF affiliates in the engineering industry
2. Numsa expresses support for co-operation between affiliates at plant level.
3. Numsa agrees to submit membership details to the SA Council of the IMF as soon as all affiliates agree to items (a) and (b) above
4. (Numsa supports fully the objective of establishing one metalworkers union in South Africa, but believes that this will only be achieved if the unions concerned set a target date for proposed unity and then work to achieve full unity by that date. The proposed date was agreed as 1 November 1990.
5. The meeting is scheduled for 3 December 1989 and the meeting agreed that the delegation from Numsa shall remain unchanged, viz. Cde Bokaba, Adams, Foster, Madlala, Xipu.

International Trade Secretariats¹⁴

1. We should play a more active role in the International Trade Secretariats.
2. We should develop links with International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) affiliates which will lead to mutual benefits and strengthening of our organizations.
3. We must strengthen the relationship between members of I.T.S's.

¹² NC 2012

¹³ NEC November 1988

¹⁴ NC 1996

4. We must exchange information on employers we share including working towards international recognition agreements which could lead to international bargaining.
5. We should still pursue pushing the Cosatu "Code of Conduct for Multinationals investing in South Africa".
6. Special attention be given to building the relationship with Southern African Unions, including initiating a shop steward council for neighbouring countries to build and strengthen such unions. International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) to fund and co-ordinate.
7. Numsa should play a leading role in ensuring that the I.M.F. structures in Southern Africa are strengthened and rebuilt.
8. World company councils should be extended to smaller companies around the globe. These to meet once a year.
9. Transform ITS and ICFTU without trading our principles.

OATUU & ITUC - AFRICA¹⁵

Noting:

1. International work is the pillar to unite workers internationally.
2. To counter globalization we need more coordinated strategies and efforts.
3. In Africa we still have two different federations i.e OATUU and ITUC - AFRICA. The two federations share the same membership.

Believing:

1. The two federations lacks capacity of taking African governments in the continent.

Resolving:

1. Cosatu must take all measures to ensure that there is a merger between ITUC-AFRICA and OATUU as soon as possible but not later than 2011.
2. The merger must guarantee job security of all employees of the organizations as this may create a stumbling block towards unity.
3. Cosatu must fully resource the International Department to be able to engage in rebuilding the African trade union movement and undertake other important activities.

The international trade unions confederation (ITUC)¹⁶

Noting:

1. The birth of the ITUC from the merger of World Federation of Labour (WFL) and International Confederations of Trade Unions (ICTU) in November 2006 brought unions together comprising 250 million members
2. The 250 million workers have not translated into power at national, regional and international level. Strategies, orientations, structures and form of engagement remains the same. Power of decisions is centrally controlled.

¹⁵ Mini NC 2009

¹⁶ Mini NC 2009

3. Workers' conditions all over the world deteriorate every day while ITUC remains powerless in engaging capital and changing the balance of forces in favour of workers. The world trade union body remains a parliament that issues press statements, countless resolutions and declarations that are ignored by capital.
4. There is varying degree of development and differences on how to respond to globalizations by trade unions while TNCs are united on strategies applied globally. TNCs unilaterally decide on world wide production systems, location of production, closure of plants, relationship with suppliers, decision about employment and other decisions impacting on workers' conditions.
5. Global trade unions fail to come with popular programmes that unite and capture the imagination of workers and unite them internationally.

Believing:

1. Trade unions especially in industrialized countries have retreated from working class politics and thus not engaging in struggling to alter the causes of global exploitation.
2. Press statements, resolutions, declarations will not address the causes of the exploitative conditions workers are being subjected to.
3. Low wages, poverty and bad working conditions in developing countries will ultimately undermine the gains achieved by trade unions in industrialized countries.

Resolving:

1. We affirm Cosatu resolution of transforming the international trade union movement into truly workers' organizations fighting for the interests of workers. Cosatu should convene a workshop with left-leaning trade unions within ITUC to reflect and develop positions on this matter.
2. The congress mandates the union to develop a study in cooperation with Cosatu on the new forms of global patterns of relations of production and their interconnectedness. The project must be carried out at an international level but located at local level. It must generate knowledge about supply chains so as to build international solidarity to counter globalisation.
3. Numsa must develop alternatives to the current discourse of global competitiveness and ensure that all Numsa members and officials understand it.
4. Congress mandates the union to bring together revolutionary activists, working class thinkers, socialist and progressive intelligentsia to formulate working class solutions.
5. The incoming leadership must ensure that a decisive program to empower shopstewards, general membership through conference/indaba and training is put in place within 3 months of this resolution being passed.
6. Numsa should engage sister unions and working class formations who still firmly believe that there is an alternative to capitalism and that that alternative is class struggle.
7. Such a process would build working class loyalty of workers to their trade union and to themselves as a class for themselves.

World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU):¹⁷

The CC noted that in the Cosatu September 2009 National Congress Numsa NOB's were requested by the WFTU delegates to visit WFTIU in Athens Greece. During the January 2010 Numsa NOB visit to the WFTU HQ in Greece, Numsa were invited by the WFTU leadership to affiliate. On 17 February 2010, Numsa received a formal written request to join WFTU.

Decision:

1. The CC agreed that Numsa shares the same ideological perspectives with the WFTU and therefore resolved that Numsa should affiliate.
2. Numsa would remain in the IMF but because we want to bring together unions across the world - we cannot continue to allow workers to be divided along cold war borders.
3. We must cascade WFTU information down to members so that the WFTU perspectives is well understood.
4. Numsa should persuade the WFTU to establish African regional offices to bring about the unity and solidarity amongst trade unions on the African continent.
5. The Secretariat should establish from WFTU what the affiliation fees amount to so that we may include this into our 2011 budgetary process

Resolution on Affiliation nationally and internationally¹⁸

This Congress noting that:

1. Most metal unions are affiliated to national and international labour organisations.
2. Such affiliation is in line with this union's objective to strengthen the unity of workers both in and outside of South Africa.

Therefore resolves that:

1. The union apply and affiliate to:
 - 1.1. the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu)
 - 1.2. the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF)
 - 1.3. the International Chemical and Energy Workers Federation (ICEF)
2. To ensure maximum effort is put into the active participation in these labour organisations by our union that a committee be appointed by the central committee to deal with the question of solidarity between the union and:
 - 2.1. Cosatu-IMF-ICEF and,
 - 2.2. any other progressive trade union or labour organisation.
3. Such solidarity committee ensure that all structures of the union are drawn into practical action in the struggle to achieve worker unity.

¹⁷ CC July 2010

¹⁸ NC 1987

International affiliation¹⁹

Noting;

1. The proliferation of trade unions around the world
2. Weakening of the global trade union movement due to divisions and ideological differences
3. That NUMSA affiliation to WFTU has increased the capacity of worker to worker contact and sharing of various experiences from other countries.

Believing that;

1. A united strong trade union movement can adequately represent the workers of the world
2. The merger of IMF, ICEM and ITGLWF into the new GUF the IndustriAll will present the platform for workers of the world to unite and bring all their experiences and strengthen together with solidarity and action against global capital
3. Only a class oriented global trade union movement has the capacity to fight for workers globally against greedy multinationals
4. Our affiliation to federations that do not espouse our ideological views and beliefs is counterproductive and inconsistent.

Resolve that:

1. All efforts must be employed to unite the workers of the world
2. Our federation COSATU must provide leadership in linking with ideologically aligned federations of the world
3. COSATU must affiliate to the World Federation of Trade Unions, which is ideologically closer to us than the ITUC
4. NUMSA must prioritise affiliation globally and not affiliate to every available federation
5. COSATU must work towards one global federation, working towards the unity of the WFTU and ITUC
6. We support the view that Numsa should keep their membership with its industry specific international federations like the IMF (soon to merge into the new GUF, the IndustriAll).

International Affiliation²⁰

1. The CC noted the decision of the SAFTU NEC that SAFTU should write to ITUC to enquire about affiliation
2. It was agreed that we need a deeper analysis of the international trade union movement before we rush into affiliation

International Workers Solidarity²¹

This Congress resolves that:

1. The points contained in the Composite Resolution on International Workers Solidarity with the exception of point 10 will be referred to the Central Committee for further discussion.
2. Cosatu must consider affiliating to the ICFTU and in doing so it must take into account the following principles that should apply to an international confederation.

¹⁹ NC 2012

²⁰ CC July 2017

²¹ NC 1993

- 2.1. It should not destabilise the labour movement world-wide.
- 2.2. Stop funding or supporting regimes with no democratic rights, in particular Trade Union rights.
- 2.3. Should support emerging democratic unions in developing countries.
- 2.4. Commit itself to a programme of solidarity action and of furthering workers' interests in international institutions.
- 2.5. Respect the mandates of affiliates.
- 2.6. Commit itself to a programme of international unity including talks with WFTU.
- 2.7. Ideological inclination should not be a consideration before affiliation is accepted

International Trips²²

1. The CC resolved that we need tighter protocol on international trips in terms of selection, what is to be presented on behalf of Numsa and demand written report backs from those representing Numsa
2. Prior internal briefings are required before trips are undertaken

Merger of ICEM, ITLGWF, IMF²³

Noting;

3. That the global trade unions federation namely ICEM, IMF, ITGLWF will merge on 18 – 20 June 2012 in Denmark in one global federation called IndustriALL.
1. The merger brings together sectors straddling mining, chemical, manufacturing and other sectors in which manufacturing unions are organised.
2. That 50% of workers in the world are still unorganised especially in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe
3. That IndustriALL still represent a political orientation that does not threaten the exploitative practices existing in the present world order.

Believing;

4. That socialism is the only hope for workers and the poor in the world devastated by capitalism
1. That if not influenced otherwise, the present political orientation practiced by IndustriALL and ITUC will preserve the present capitalist system, marauding transnational companies and domination of the financial sector.
2. That the present political orientation will not assist Africa and other developing countries to overcome their economic and political challenges.

Therefore resolve;

1. To support the emergence of IndustriALL as a progressive step towards realising the goal of uniting the labour movement internationally.
2. To support the emergence of strong regional structures in IndustriALL that will lead regional struggles in various regions of the world which are well financed and coordinated by their regional leaders within IndustriALL?

²² CC July 2017

²³ NC 2012

3. To support the struggle for the change of the political orientation of IndustriALL to one that will truly represent the aspirations of working class and the poor.
4. The support the collaboration of IndustriALL with social movements internationally and in its regions. The Africa region should lead this effort by inviting social movements to their meetings on annual basis.
5. To call for setting up of working group within IndustriALL to work on industrialisation of Africa from 2012. The working group should provide periodical reports to regional and executive structures of IndustriALL.

WFTU²⁴

We have consensus that we not disengage with the WFTU so the NOB's must deal with the sharing of resources and share the South African difficulties with the WFTU leadership

WFTU²⁵

1. The Central Committee noted that we, as Numsa, had joined WFTU for class and revolutionary considerations but now WFTU had been captured by our Cosatu adversaries.
2. Since our expulsion from Cosatu we have not seen any solidarity action from WFTU. In fact, when Numsa requested the WFTU Head Quarters in Greece to intervene in the isolation of Numsa within Cosatu, the reply was that WFTU does not interfere in their affiliates.
3. The CC agreed that there is no benefit of our continued affiliation and so we should disaffiliate. As such the WFTU HQ must be advised accordingly.
4. WIP must decide how we terminate the lease for WFTU's occupation of JCB regional building.

International working class forces²⁶

We resolve to collaborate with the following international working class forces:

1. Liaise with our organized labour partners in other countries to advise how they mitigate these challenges.
2. Mobilise and forge alliance with global lobby groups and raise awareness at a global platform in doing so we must collaborate with all Socialist formations across the globe, NGO's, Trade unions, Churches etc.
3. Should also involve gender and youth formations internationally.
4. Create a link with other metalworkers internationally and all other left forces.
5. We should better understand the African continent and strengthen our links with Socialist African Countries who are Marxism-Leninist inspired e.g. Peoples Republic of Angola; The People's Republic of Benin ; Congo Brazzaville; People Republic of Ethiopia and People's Republic of Mozambique and the Rainbow Party of Zambia.
6. We must continuously build relationships with left wing countries globally, especially those that have accomplished many of the struggles that we still fighting to attain such as Cuba, Chile & Venezuela.

²⁴ CC May 2014

²⁵ CC July 2016

²⁶ NC 2016

SADC and the Continent of Africa

SADC Free Trade Agreement

SADC Free Trade Agreement and Building of Strong Trade Unions²⁷

Noting:

1. That SADC is embarking on regional integration strategy which has a great potential of promoting development and free trade in the region.
2. Africa is in a crisis with economic and political crises engulfing Zimbabwe, conflicts in Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries.
3. That labour laws and standards have not been harmonized and that most of the countries still use laws inherited from their colonial masters.
4. Trade unions in the region are still weak, divided and belong to different national centres and conditions of workers are still bad and wages exploitative.
5. The region is still afflicted by poor infrastructure, poverty, diseases, unemployment, corruption, poor governance and other problems causing untold suffering to million of workers and the poor.

Believing

1. Trade unions in SADC and Cosatu must protect the interests of workers and the poor.
2. South African multinationals will find it easier to relocate to low wage countries and export to South Africa.
3. Free trade agreements without a social clause will lead to downward spiral in lowering of standards.
4. Past programmes of building strong trade unions by global union federations (GUFs) and other labour bodies have not yielded strong trade unions.

Resolving:

1. The social clause must be included in the new free trade agreement in SADC. This congress mandates Cosatu to take up this matter with SATUCC to vigorously interact with these processes to achieve the social clause. The entire civil society needs to be mobilized to achieve this objective and Cosatu and SATUCC are mandated to call for a regional strike if it is necessary to achieve this objective.
2. Numsa must undertake a study on how the free trade agreements will affect the metal industry and the possible relocation of production to low wage countries. The study should look at how conditions and standards could be harmonized to avoid workers in SADC competing on unfavourable conditions.
3. Transnational companies operating in more than two countries in the region must be bound by a code of conduct to be drawn up in cooperation with trade unions and be enforced by SADC.
4. This congress mandates Cosatu and other regional trade union federations to table demands on this code and call for a regional strike in SADC should no agreement be reached with governments and employers in the region.
5. The work of building strong trade unions in the region in cooperation with ICEM and IMF must be strengthened and intensified.

²⁷ Mini NC 2009

6. The congress mandates the union to increase funding and its involvement in the work to build stronger unions in the region. This project should not be limited but cover multifaceted areas like union systems, mergers, building proper structures, collective bargaining, research, campaigns, staff skills and other important areas that will build sustainable unions. Worker to worker contacts of the same TNC and industries should be held regularly to exchange experiences and build solidarity links.
7. The work of harmonization of standards must be urgently undertaken by the GUFs in the region and SATUCC. Research must be undertaken on comparative standards and conditions in Southern Africa and how harmonization could be achieved. This research should back our representation within SADC Social & Employment Structures.

Regional Development

Regional Development²⁸

Noting;

1. The huge economic disparities existing within our region with unemployment reaching peaks of up to 40% to 90%, increasing inequalities and deepening poverty.
2. The present regional integration favours trade instead of focussing on development.
3. The present investment by South African companies in the region favours South Africa leading to loss of productive capacity in neighbouring countries and does not help in building the economies of SADC.
4. The failure of governments to enact laws and benefits to protect vulnerable workers like the unemployed, injured workers and the aged in the form of child-care grants, unemployment insurance, compensation for injured workers and grants for pensioners.

Believing that;

1. There is a need to build a developmental state within the SADC region.
2. The poor economics in the region are causing the influx of economic migrants into South Africa.
3. The division of workers in the region assist in the preservation of capitalism and exploitation.

Therefore resolves;

1. We must struggle for progressive governments in the region including striving for strong united trade union federations, political movements and social movements to lead that struggle.
2. That we support the efforts of the South African Communist Party (SACP) to coordinate left-wing parties in the region and the continent.
3. That we need to develop a revolutionary agenda to lead that process including using the Southern Africa Social Forum to achieve that process.
4. That SOE must invest in the region to fight unemployment and under development.
5. Must avoid South Africa being an imperial power in the region.
6. We support the previous resolution of developing a regional code of conduct of South African multinationals operating in the region and internationally.
7. We call on Cosatu to develop a strategy in regard to regional integration in SADC and the rest of the continent.

²⁸ NC 2012

Mozambique

International: Campaign to fund-raise for Mozambican metal union²⁹

1. The Central committee acknowledge problems faced by sister unions in Mozambique this year .During the visits it was clear that one of the key needs that they have is for transport.
2. The Central Committee therefore accepted the below proposals with the proviso that the Regions will discuss to get mandate and support. The next National Executive Committee should revisit the matter:
 - 2.1. Numsa would run a campaign of informing its members about the Mozambican union, its members, its needs, the importance of supporting them etc.
 - 2.2. Together with the campaign it would organise through shop steward councils to collect monies to be given to the Union to buy motor bikes.

Zimbabwe and Swaziland

Zimbabwe & Swaziland³⁰

1. We must reposition ourselves as South Africa to deal with what is likely to follow in terms of the consistent crises in Zimbabwe and Swaziland to counter any future xenophobic attacks;
2. Pressure must be placed on SADC to deal with the anti democratic situation in Swaziland.
3. The Swazi King must be removed from important structures and positions in SADC.
4. The support for Swazi and Zimbabwean Unions must be political and we must begin to offer assistance with ideological training
5. We must work with the structures of PUDEMO in South Africa to see how we forge solidarity
6. The NOB must be empowered to offer logistical and material support to Unions in SADC and the rest of the continent.
7. On the Zimbabwean question we must have a reflection on the political economy of the SADC region and how we champion alternatives so that the potential imperial agenda via a MDC Presidency does not get a hold in our region and continent.

Zimbabwe³¹

1. The brutality of the Zimbabwean Government meted out against its citizens are condemned in the strongest possible terms. We must start a discussion within the Union on the role of imperialist forces that would be all too happy to overtake the popular revolt and work for their own regime change

Zimbabwe³²

1. The change of leadership in the Zimbabwean state will not necessarily lead to improvement in the interest of the working class and we must therefore have a dynamic relationship with the Zimbabwe union's and working class formations.
2. The past achievements achieved under Mugabe such as quality education, land, etc. must not be forgotten. We must however learn from the mistakes committed in the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe

²⁹ CC Dec 1998

³⁰ NEC Nov 2008

³¹ CC July 2016

³² CC Dec 2017

3. We must take time to develop an analysis of the weaknesses of liberation movements on the African Continent so that we are able to educate our shopstewards to better understand the execution of national liberation struggles or revolution and how it can go off the rails. In this regard the education department must undertake this work

Swaziland

Swaziland (1996)³³

On the request for assistance by the Swaziland Metal Workers Union, the NEC resolved that Numsa assistance will be in the form of finance and secondment of an organiser to assist for a limited period.

Swaziland (1997)³⁴

1. Numsa to finance and support the merger process of metalworkers' unions in Swaziland.
2. To support the merger process by financing joint shop stewards seminars and joint rallies. This assistance to be monitored by the National Office Bearers.
3. We reserve spaces for them in our educational seminars.

Swaziland (2010)³⁵

1. The CC noted that repression of trade unions and broader civil society continues to be a daily occurrence in Swaziland. The CC acknowledged the good work done by the Numsa Mpumalanga region.

The CC resolved that:

1. Cosatu should lodge a S77 application, blockade the delivery of goods coming or going to Swaziland until democratic and free political activity is attained;
2. The region should continue the empowerment and capacity building programs with our Swazi counterparts as part of our overall struggle for the liberation of the Swazi people who seem distant from dislodging the Swazi from Royal rule
3. We must get Cosatu and the SACP to undertake a detailed study/analysis of the Swazi struggle in relation to the involvement of the masses or abstention of the masses from that struggle for Freedom, all organisations operative in Swaziland who are driving the struggle for Freedom. This analysis must help us to understand what tactics and strategies inform the Swazi struggle;
4. Numsa must through Cosatu embark on a campaign so that government can take a tougher stand against the Swazi King who continues to play a key role in the security organs of SADC.

Swaziland (2011)³⁶

1. The South African government's bailout to Swaziland does not advance the struggle of the Swazi people for freedom and democracy. Our struggle against the monarchy has been undermined by the SA government's bailout. We therefore condemn the South African government's bailout.
2. We call on the SACP, Cosatu and all democratic forces to intensify our campaign against the Swazi regime.

³³ NEC July 1996

³⁴ NEC July 1997

³⁵ CC Dec 2010

³⁶ NEC August 2011

3. Government must withdraw the loan or place conditions on the Swazi regime to release detainees, unban all political parties in Swaziland and create conditions for a democratic transfer.

Swaziland (2012)³⁷

Noting;

1. The continued oppression of the people of Swaziland by the Mswati regime
2. The continued banning of political parties and trade unions in Swaziland
3. South African government loan to Swaziland was a substantial amount of money which only helped to sustain the undemocratic regime.
4. The new development in the establishment of the unitary federation the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland-TUCOSWA
5. The good work done by the Swaziland Democracy Campaign-SDC to raise the profile of the Swazi struggle globally.

Believe:

1. That money loaned to Swaziland is not going to benefit the interest of the poor of the poorest and not to build the infrastructures but to build castle of monarchy
2. The struggle for democracy in Swaziland is a legitimate struggle.

Therefore resolve;

1. To continue supporting the democratic forces of Swaziland in general and the trade union movement in particular and strengthen our relations with our sister unions there
2. That NUMSA must continue to support the Swazi organisations to help them to be sustainable and be able to fight
3. To condemn the banning of the TUCOSWA by the Swaziland government and reject the formation of a state funded federation to counter the legitimate unity of workers and call on unions of the world to isolate and reject this phony state- sponsored federation called **Swaziland Economic Empowerment Workers Union**
4. To support the process of unity in the trade movement of Swaziland and support the merger of unions in our sectors in Swaziland
5. To support fully the work of the Swaziland Democracy Campaign-SDC in its work to profile the Swazi struggle internationally
6. To support the Swazi people in their call for a democratically elected government under a multiparty system
7. NUMSA through Cosatu influence the ANC to have formal relations with the liberation movement of Swaziland, PUDEMO and openly support the democratisation process as opposed to supporting the oppressive regime
8. Lobby the ANC government to provide humanitarian support to the liberation movement of Swaziland as it did receive during the struggle against apartheid
9. The South African government must put conditions before they can approve loans to any country including Swaziland.

³⁷ NC 2012

Zambia

On Zambia³⁸

1. The arrest and violence meted out against the Rainbow Party leadership must be condemned

Other African countries

The War in the DRC³⁹

1. Numsa must through Cosatu make a call for a summit of civil society on the continent to be convened so as to deal with the war, poverty and underdevelopment inflicting our continent.

Libya⁴⁰

We resolve that NATO should get out of Libya so that the people of Libya may resolve their own internal conflict. The West has shown inconsistency insofar as the protection of civilians is concerned. No action has been taken against Syria who has been killing unarmed citizens. This points to the fact that the West and its aggression is driven by its interest to secure oil resources and wealth from Libya. We need marches and demonstrations to show solidarity with the people of Libya.

Somalia⁴¹

1. There must be a long term solution with regard to the famine in Somalia beyond the short term contribution of food. Scientific approaches are required to bring development to an impoverished country such as Somalia. We must mobilise workers in our country to contribute items such as canned food, etc.
2. Furthermore our solidarity with the people of Somalia must include an insistence that the African Union take into cognizance the crisis in Somalia so that a lasting resolution is found for the development and improvement in the lives of Somalians.
3. Numsa's support for the people of Haiti must be used as an experience to rally support from Numsa Head Office so that locals and regions can actively participate.
4. Each staff member of Numsa must make a R100 contribution and a minimum of R50 from Numsa members.
5. Regions must go back and engage with staff and members.
6. Organisations of Civil Society and the Left in Somalia, South Sudan and Libya must be interacted with to better understand the situation in those countries. The interest of the West in countries such as Somalia is not about the development of the country but their so-called war on terror.

Nigeria: Abduction of schoolgirls⁴²

Condemn the abduction of the 200 school girls and the silence of the AU. The matter should be dealt with by the continent

³⁸ CC July 2016

³⁹ NEC Nov 2008

⁴⁰ NEC August 2011

⁴¹ NEC August 2011

⁴² CC May 2014

Western Sahara:⁴³

Noting;

1. That Western Sahara remains the last colony in Africa, colonised by another African country Morocco
2. That there is continued occupation of Western Sahara territory by Morocco and the continued exploitation of minerals in that country by Western countries.

Believing;

1. That the Situation in Western Sahara is a disgrace and unacceptable.

Therefore resolve;

1. To reiterate COSATU previous resolutions to support the struggle of the people of Western Sahara for self determination
2. To condemn the occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco
3. To intensify our campaign in support of the Western Sahara.

African Debt

African Debt⁴⁴

Noting:

1. African debt has not been cancelled by the IMF and World Bank
2. African countries are still paying more than what they originally borrowed.
3. Workers in Africa are still earning less than a dollar a day.
4. Strict conditions are imposed on African conditions on repaying of these loans in the form of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)

Believing:

1. The debt enslaves the African people and continues to sustain conditions of under-development
2. Policy and other strategic decisions of countries are sacrificed by African governments for the sake of servicing and re-paying the debt.
3. The accumulated debt has partly been caused by the prescription imposed by the World Bank and the IMF.

Resolving:

1. Numsa and Cosatu should continue campaigning against the debt in cooperation with social movements.
2. Regions should cooperate with social movements in their own regions to take up these campaigns in cooperation with Cosatu Provinces.
3. Numsa should identify and cooperate with NGOs and social movements who have done work around this area.

⁴³ NC 2012

⁴⁴ Mini NC 2009

Other Countries

China

China (2009)⁴⁵

Noting:

1. China has become a major player in the global capitalist system and has a huge economic footprint in the African continent characterized by a huge appetite for minerals and oil with no regard for the interest of workers and the poor contrary to socialist principles.
2. That Chinese unions are not yet members of any on the international trade union confederations and Cosatu and Numsa have not strong links with unions there.
3. Chinese multinationals are making huge investments in the continent and relying on exploitative terms of labour for their businesses.
4. Multinationals from all over the world have established their presence in China.

Believing:

1. That a strong independent union in China will play a major role in influencing a trade policy with Africa and the behaviour of Chinese multinationals.
2. It is in the interests of organized workers in the world including South African workers to have independent strong trade unions in China.

Resolving:

1. Numsa rejects the view that China is revolutionary as misleading to the working class and socialists. We reject the use of China, India and Taiwan by companies as a benchmark for competitiveness because of exploitative conditions facing workers there.
2. Cosatu must investigate the conditions of Chinese workers and audit the conditions of workers working for Chinese multinationals within the African continent.
3. Trade agreements with China must include measures to protect labour rights and standards. They must be limited to building the productive capacity of African countries, prevent dumping, limit and control products coming into South Africa. Numsa must investigate the use of quota as in the case of Sactwu to protect our industries.
4. Chinese investment in Africa must be directed towards re-building the manufacturing sector and transfer of technology to Africa.

Iraq

Iraq (2003)⁴⁶

The General Secretary made the following input about the ongoing war on Iraq by the USA allied forces:

1. The USA government has been policing the world , they continue to use religion and seek to impose its will on the Middle East countries. They define the current war as the "moment of truth". As the NEC we must take into cognisance that the USA/Britian coalition failed to convince the world about the second UN resolution to disarm Iraq. This act of unliteralism by the USA/Britian will set a wrong precedent and devastate the emerging economies of the world. At the same time North Korea indicated to renew its programme on weapons of mass destruction.

⁴⁵ Mini NC 2009

⁴⁶ NEC March 2003

Amazingly, the war came at the time when UN inspectors were doing a fine job. What is really striking and wish the world must condemn is the killing of innocent people. This will be a bloody slaughter of innocent civilians.

2. As the war is continuing, millions of people globally are engaged in demonstrations and marches protesting against the Allied forces decision to attack Iraq. These protest actions are continuing directly in Britain and America.
3. The USA government publicly declared that Iraq/Iran and North Korea were an 'axis of evil', i.e. countries that posed a security risk to the United States of America. In essence, this was a pretext to justify the United States' aggressive and militaristic foreign policy towards any country in the world, in the view of the US, a threat to its economic and political interests. When their military strategy failed to 'flush' Bin Laden in Afghanistan, without any evidence, Iraq became associated with the Taliban and the US compelled the United Nations to adopt Resolution 1441 calling upon Iraq to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.
4. As the war is continuing, in order for the Allied forces to win the world public opinion on this matter, they have to use the United Nations resolution to justify any unilateral action against the people of Iraq.

Discussions

1. After witnessing the protest actions of the Anti-War and Stop the War groups directed at S.A Denel arms manufacturing company, one thing was clear, to what extent do we act to protect the jobs our members at the company. Cosatu must find a way of getting the two anti-war groups together because it's confusing to have two groups with one objective and we end up not knowing which one do we support.
2. The civil society structures are weak in South Africa and it has been difficult for the ANC alliance to find a common ground with some social movements. This has been the case in the recent anti-war protest action.
3. There is really nothing at grassroots that is happening in so far as participating in the protest actions. Many of our members are lost and confused.
4. The Bush administration has failed to win the hearts and minds of the working class. It is time to fight the imperialist ambitions of the Allied forces in their quest to conquer the world.
5. What the NEC is discussing might not have an impact or may not be effective. Can we rather say that we'll go out as a union and stop the USA investments, production and supply of arms to Britain and also continue with mass actions. We must boycott the USA products.
6. The UN headquarters must be moved to USA. We think that UN is undermined because everything is done and decide in the USA. The role of the UN as credible body is completely undermined.

Resolved:

1. The meeting agreed that the union should issue a press release condemning the attack on Iraq and the subsequent bombing of the innocent civilians. All regions must inform and mobilise members on the war. This will entail organising protest actions in the shopping complexes. We must encourage members to wear armbands in protest of the war. The NOB's should also meet with Denel management to clarify the union stance on the war and resolve issues of job security for workers. The union should seek to build a global movement for peace more especially starting in the continent.

Palestine

Campaign against the unjustified Israeli occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people⁴⁷

The General Secretary presented to the Central Committee a synopsis of recent developments surrounding the Israeli/Palestinian question;

1. In the month of June 2010, the Israeli Navy intercepted a humanitarian ship carrying supplies to Gaza manned by activists and in the process killed 9 activists. This massacre of unarmed activists was condemned all over the world including at the United Nations.
2. Israel has blockaded the borders of Gaza since the Gaza war of 2008 which has left 1 417 civilians dead, 20 000 houses demolished and 100 000 dwellings damaged.
3. Despite the horrific conditions which people in Gaza are facing, Israel has continued to blockade the areas despite its actions being branded illegal in terms of international law.
4. Despite condemnation of Israel actions internationally, no government has taken action to ensure that the Palestine people are treated justly hence the resolve by people's organizations, social movements, trade unions and progressive political organizations that only the people will liberate Gaza and lift the illegal blockade

CC Decision

1. Numsa condemns in the strongest terms the murder of activists in the flotilla and the continued persecution of the Palestinian people
2. We call on all governments including the South African government to take stronger action to protect human rights of the Palestinian people
3. Support the struggles of the Palestinian people and call for an immediate end to occupation by Israel, as well as confirm that Israel is an Apartheid state
4. We support the Goldstone report on Israel as adopted by the UN General Assembly, which found Israel to have committed war crimes and called for prosecution of all war criminals involved in Gaza
5. We support the global Boycott, Disinvestment & Sanctions campaign against Israel as the only peaceful way to end Israeli occupation of Palestine and rally the global trade union movement to render practical support to the suffering people of Palestine
6. Numsa through Cosatu must lobby our government to have the Israeli Embassy in South Africa closed down until the demands of Palestinians are met.
7. Numsa calls on its members to scrutinize any linkages of their companies with Israel especially those supplying the Israeli war machine and those involved in building the wall and members must engage companies to terminate these linkages as soon as possible. Members cannot support apartheid and repression by Israel.
8. There should be a programme of action to pursue in Cosatu which must include marches to the Union buildings, UN High Commission, US Embassy and Israeli Embassy.
9. Cosatu through the Alliance must file a case of genocide against Israeli Prime Minister and the USA for providing arms to Israel which are killing Palestinians.
10. The Alliance must condemn the presence of the US military on the African continent.

⁴⁷ CC July 2010

Palestine⁴⁸

Noting;

1. The continued harassment of the Palestinian people by the brutal Israeli state
2. The continued building of the Apartheid Wall that divides the Palestinian land and people and continued enactment of discriminatory laws and practices against Palestinian people.
3. The continued expansion of Jewish settlements on Palestinian land in contravention of UN resolutions.

Believing;

1. That the killing and dehumanisation of the people of Palestine is a crime against humanity
2. That Israel is acting in defiance of International UN resolutions
3. That Israel, just like the apartheid regime of South Africa must be isolated from the rest of the world.

Therefore resolve;

1. To continue supporting the struggle of the people of Palestine in their struggle for self determination, freedom and an independent state side by side with the state of Palestine
2. Welcome the declaration by the Minister of Trade and Industry to label products produced in occupied territories.
3. NUMSA resolves to support the Boycotts, Disinvestments and Sanctions campaign (BDS) and also reiterate in support of the 2004 NAM statement, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which South Africa belongs to, which called on member states to "undertake measures... to prevent any products of the illegal Israeli settlements from entering their markets... to decline entry to Israeli settlers and to impose sanctions against companies and entities involved in the construction of the [Israeli] wall."
4. As a union we will identify in our organised sectors companies that are doing business with the racist Israel and develop campaigns against them
5. Put pressure on the South African government to close down the Israeli embassy and recall our envoys from Israel
6. Call for arrest Israeli leaders and South African mercenaries working in the Israel army for crimes against humanity.

The Palestinian struggle for freedom

1. Numsa must revive its international program in support of the Palestinian liberation struggle including a march to the Israeli embassy in Hlanganani
2. We must critique the United Nations for its failure to bring a lasting solution to the oppression and exploitation of the Palestinian people
3. NUMSAYF must establish links with Palestinian youth and students. Our Numsa Gender structure must establish links with gender/women groups in Palestine.
4. Numsa as a trade union must research the existence of independent unions we can work with⁴⁹

⁴⁸ NC 2012

⁴⁹ CC July 2017

G4S⁵⁰

The CC noted and acknowledged the decision to terminate the services of G4S given their technical support for the Israeli government

Boycott Israeli products and services⁵¹

1. Israeli products and Israeli linked security companies must be boycotted and in this regard we shall have to manage the job security and retention of security workers particularly those who are Numsa members.

Bolivia

Election victory⁵²

The people of Bolivia returned the Bolivian Movement for Socialism and its much loved President Morales. The working class must have faith in the struggle for Socialism as expressed in the outcome of elections in Bolivia in particular and other countries in Latin America in general.

Brazil

The Workers Party victory in Brazil⁵³

In the context of its allies accusing the PT of flirting with neo-liberal policies like the ANC and SACP in South Africa, the Workers Party of Brazil (PT) won the election with a reduced majority. In our international study to explore a Movement for Socialism in South Africa, we will be asking penetrating question about the Workers Party's and the danger of subjecting the working class to capitalist and neo-liberal policies in the name of Socialism.

Campaign for the release of Lula⁵⁴

1. The campaign for the release of Comrade Lula must be continued
2. A memo and the next Numsa News must explain the reason behind the incarceration of Lula and why Numsa is campaigning with our international counterparts to secure his release
3. The CC appreciated the Numsa Gauteng picket at the Brazilian embassy.

⁵⁰ CC December 2014

⁵¹ CC Sept 2018

⁵² CC December 2014

⁵³ CC December 2014

⁵⁴ CC Sept 2018

Index

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| A | | M | |
| Africa | | Mozambique | 23 |
| Debt | 27 | N | |
| Alliances | | Nationalisation | 6 |
| Tactical | 6, 7 | Numsa | |
| The Alliance | 7, 30 | Collective Bargaining | |
| C | | Recognition Agreements | 15 |
| China | 6, 28 | Office Bearers | 9, 24 |
| Class struggle | 16 | P | |
| Competitiveness and new management techniques... 16, 28 | | Palestine | 30 |
| Corruption | 21 | Privatisation | 6, 9 |
| Cuba | 10 | R | |
| D | | Recognition Agreements | 15 |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 21, 26 | S | |
| Denel | 29 | SACP | 24 |
| E | | SADC | 7, 21, 22, 23, 24 |
| Energy | 17 | Free trade agreement | 21 |
| Environment | 7 | Social clause | 21 |
| F | | Socialism | 10 |
| Federations | 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 21 | South African Communist Party | 24 |
| G | | Study tours | 9 |
| Globalisation | 15, 16 | Swaziland | 23, 24 |
| H | | T | |
| Human rights | 30 | Technology | 28 |
| I | | The Left | 6 |
| ICEF | 17 | Trade policy | 28 |
| International | | Trade unions | 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 17, 21, 24, 28, 30 |
| Balance of forces | 6, 7 | Transnational Corporations | 16, 21, 22 |
| Solidarity | 9, 16 | V | |
| International financial crisis | 6 | Venezuela | 10 |
| International Metalworkers Federation | 14, 15, 17 | W | |
| International Monetary Fund | 6 | WFTU | 17, 19 |
| International Trade Secretariat | 14, 15 | World Bank | 6, 9, 27 |
| International Trade Union Confederation | 15, 16 | World Federation of Trade Unions | 17, 19 |
| Iraq | 28, 29 | World trade organisation | 7, 9 |
| ITUC | 15, 16 | WTO | 7, 9 |
| J | | Z | |
| K | | Zimbabwe | 21, 23 |
| L | | | |