

COSATU Congress 1987



This Congress noting that:

1. Thousands of workers are killed every year in industrial accidents in this country.
2. Hundreds more suffer disablement from occupational health hazards.
3. Workers are forced to work in unhealthy and unsafe places.

4. Workers' safety and health are sacrificed for profits.
5. Workers are required to fit into jobs.
6. Injured and sick workers are thrown on the streets soon after becoming disabled.
7. The compensation system is totally inadequate and is a source of frustration for many workers.
8. The government inspectorate is not capable of controlling and monitoring health and safety hazards in the workplace on a regular basis.

And noting further that:

The health services and health care are gradually becoming an expensive commodity which the bosses seek to sell to workers at a high price.

And believing that:

1. Every worker has a right to a safe and healthy work environment.
2. Every worker has a right to refuse dangerous work without fear of victimisation.
3. Every worker has a right to know the environment he works in and its dangers.
4. Bosses cannot be entrusted with the safety and health of workers.
5. Workers have the knowledge, capability and experience to control their working environment.

Therefore resolves:

- 1. COSATU hold a National Health and Safety Conference where workers from affiliates can share experiences and plan united action on health and safety.**
- 2. Structures that will deal with health and safety issues be set up at local, regional and national levels.**
- 3. COSATU affiliates should make all efforts to make health and safety agreements with their bosses.**
- 4. Workers should elect their own Safety Stewards/representatives at every factory and mine to control and monitor the working environment on a regular basis.**
- 5. Safety Stewards/representatives should have the right to inspect the workplace without the presence of management representatives.**
- 6. Government officials should not hold inspections or enquiries without involving the safety stewards and union safety representatives.**
- 7. All information relating to the work environment and possible hazards should be made available to workers.**
- 8. No worker should lose his/her job on account of any injury.**
- 9. Disabled workers be paid compensation that will be enough to provide for themselves and their families, and to this end compensation be paid on the person's ability to find another job.**
- 10. COSATU rejects the privatisation of health care as an attack on the working class and demands a free national health care system both inside and out of the workplace.**