

# **SACP 8th Congress**

## **Standing Orders and Rules**

### **A. NATIONAL CONGRESS**

1. National Congress is the highest organ of the South African Communist Party.
- 2 This Congress shall decide and approve all congress structures, rules of procedures for elections and the Congress Agenda.
3. Congress in its plenary sessions shall adopt resolutions and documents in the manner prescribed by the Constitution.
4. Pending adoption of the final Constitution, Congress shall operate on the basis of the Draft Constitution, unless otherwise agreed by simple majority in a plenary session.
5. Any decisions taken under the Draft Constitution shall be readopted after the adoption of Congress.

### **B. THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

1. The Steering Committee shall direct all the work of Congress, in conformity with the decisions of delegates.
2. The members of the Steering Committee shall be drawn from the ILG or Congress Organising Committee, regional representatives and delegates elected to Congress.
3. The Steering Committee shall be appointed by the ILG and shall be submitted to Congress for approval.
4. The Steering Committee shall appoint the Presidium and other officials of plenary sessions.
5. The Steering committee may constitute Commissions, appoint the Chairpersons and rapporteurs and allocate the facilitators thereof.
6. The Steering committee shall monitor the work of the sessions as tabulated in the Agenda, and make recommendations to Congress to expedite and facilitate its deliberations.
7. The Steering Committee shall seek to resolve issues that Congress fails to resolve and end all deadlocks.
8. The Steering Committee shall meet prior to the commencement of Congress and thereafter as and when necessary.
9. The Steering Committee shall approve all public statements made on behalf of Congress.
10. The Steering Committee shall approve the distribution of all Conference documents.
11. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for scrutinising and approving the credentials of all participants and shall appoint a Credentials Committee for this purpose.
12. The Steering Committee shall have the right to appoint other Committees of Congress and delegate its responsibilities as it shall deem necessary.

### **C. THE PRESIDIUM**

A Presidium consisting of a minimum of three persons appointed by the Steering Committee shall collectively guide and conduct the proceedings of each plenary session.

The Presidium shall ensure that matters on the agenda are dealt with in a timeous, expeditious manner.

The Presidium shall facilitate the widest participation in discussion ensuring a regional spread, protect the freedom of expression of delegates, promote free and fair debate, ensure that speakers address the issue on the agenda and that discussions are conducted in an orderly manner.

The Presidium shall apply the rules of procedure.

The Presidium shall

- i. Call on speakers in accordance with procedure set out below.
- ii. Call participants to order.
- iii. Withdraw the right to speak where there has been an infringement of rules of procedure.
- iv. Ensure that speakers adhere to the stipulated time.

### **D. RULES OF PROCEDURE**

1. Speakers will only be recognised if they follow the appropriate procedure.
2. Motions or observations related to the rules of procedure take precedence over other requests to speak.
3. On a point of order being raised, discussion should be suspended to allow an intervention of not more than one minute.
4. A point of information may be allowed at the discretion of the speaker, who must then be allowed to respond.
5. All resolutions and motions must be proposed and seconded before they are opened for discussion.
6. Draft resolutions and proposed amendments should be discussed in the order in which they are raised.
7. When voting on a document to which there have been amendments, the amendments should first be put to a vote and finally the document with accepted amendments should be put to the vote.

8. Questions in dispute not provided for in the present rules of procedure shall be settled by the Congress upon proposal of the Presidium. The Presidium shall be guided by rules of procedure in common usage.

## **E. PARTICIPANTS**

The following may participate in the proceedings of Congress:

### ***Voting Delegates***

Delegates elected from branches

Members of the Central Committee plus elected chairpersons and secretaries of the regions.

### ***Non-Voting Participating Delegates***

Invited veterans, SACP organisers, the tripartite alliance including MK, ANCWL, ANCYL, COSATU affiliates and NACTU.

## **F. SPEAKERS' RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES**

1. Elected delegates, ex-officio and appointed delegates and non-voting participating delegates have the right to speak in the plenary sessions and in Commissions.
2. Delegates will be allowed to speak for a maximum of two minutes in plenary sessions unless otherwise specified.
3. Points of clarification arising from the presentation of reports to plenary should be raised collectively through the region.
4. Delegates will be allowed to speak only once during the plenary session on each topic.
5. Observers shall be allowed to speak only once during the plenary session on each topic.
6. The right to speak of elected delegates shall take precedence over the right of other participants.
7. Points of order, and points of information should be indicated by raising of hands.
8. Participants may express themselves in the language of their choice. Translations will be provided in English, Zulu and Sotho.

## **G. DELEGATIONS' AND PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. All delegations should take their seats prior to the hour appointed for commencement of proceedings.
2. Participants should study conference papers and other documents in advance.
3. Participants should make their contributions in accordance with the agenda in the manner prescribed by the rules of procedure.
4. All contributions should be directed to the Chair and not to other participants.
5. Participants should be prepared to consider views contrary to their own, and assist the Presidium in ensuring freedom of expression.
6. Participants should not express their opinions through howling, heckling, ululating, jeering, hissing, cheering and other similar interventions.
7. No document may be circulated at Congress without the prior approval of the Steering Committee, with the exception of reports and resolutions, drafts or amendments for consideration by Commissions or other sessions of Congress.

## **H. DRAFTING AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

1. The Drafting and Resolutions Committee (DRC) shall be appointed by the Steering Committee.
2. The members of the DRC shall be drawn from the ILG, the Conference Organising Committee, the regions and elected delegates.
3. The committee may appoint sub-committees and/or call on participants with special experience for assistance.

## **I. COMMISSIONS**

1. Commissions shall be constituted by the Steering Committee to address specific matters on the Agenda.
2. The Steering Committee will appoint the chairperson, rapporteurs and facilitators of Commissions.
3. The Steering Committee may delegate the power of appointment to the Commissions.
4. Commissions have the power to make recommendations for consideration by plenary sessions of Congress.

## **J. RECORD OF CONGRESS**

1. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for providing a proper record of the proceedings of congress.
2. All congress records and documents shall be submitted to the custody of the Central Committee for use and deposited for safekeeping in the SACP archives.

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