

South African National NGO Coalition

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

STATEMENT BY SANGOCO TO REQUEST SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY ON THE ISSUE OF APARTHEID-CAUSED DEBT AND REPARATIONS

The people of southern Africa are still paying the cost of apartheid. The physical and human cost of apartheid can still be seen in the neighbouring states where massive damage was caused by destabilisation, and in the former home lands and townships of South Africa itself.

We believe it is immoral and unjustified that the people should pay twice for apartheid. Apartheid devastated the entire region and efforts to recover from apartheid are being held back by a lack of resources. We thus urge those groups who supported our struggle against apartheid to now support our call for the cancellation of apartheid-caused debt and for the payment of reparations by those who profited from our suffering.

In particular, we urge support for the recognition that:

- 1) Loans to the apartheid regime and its agents are "odious debts" which were taken to suppress the people of South Africa. These are not the responsibility of the people and of their new government and should not be repaid.
- 2) Loans given to the neighbouring states to help them resist South African destabilisation should be cancelled. These debts are now an unpayable burden which is preventing reconstruction. To expect children of the region to repay money lent in former times of war and destabilization caused by the Apartheid regime and its allies is unfair.
- 3) Apartheid-linked loans that have already been repaid were paid from the suffering of the people of the region; this money should be returned to southern Africa to help it to rebuild.
- 4) Those companies and banks which refused to heed the international calls for sanctions and disinvestment profited from apartheid, helped to keep the apartheid regime in power, and extended the suffering of the people of southern Africa. These profits are tainted and these companies and banks should now make reparations payments to the people of southern Africa.

Finally, we call on our partners throughout the world to campaign for banks and international lending institutions which made apartheid-linked loans, and for companies which profited from apartheid, to negotiate with representatives of the peoples of southern Africa on a fair cancellation of apartheid-caused debt and on the amount and ways of raising the funds for reparation and reconstruction.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF SANGOCO BY:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR