



Uniting to fight *Poverty & Inequality*
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Uniting to fight Poverty & Inequality

NGO Week 2011
Report

23rd-25th November 2011



Table of Contents



1. Acknowledgements

2. What guides our work?

SANGOCO

NGO Week 2011

3. The Context within which we operate

National Development Agency

Southern Africa Trust

The National Planning Commission

4. Taking a step back: SANGOCO 2008 – 2011

Synopsis of National Organisational Report

Synopsis of Provincial Reports

5. Taking 10 steps forward: SANGOCO 2012 and beyond

NGO Week 2011 Resolutions

6. Appendices

Participants List

Draft National Constitution

Presidential Report

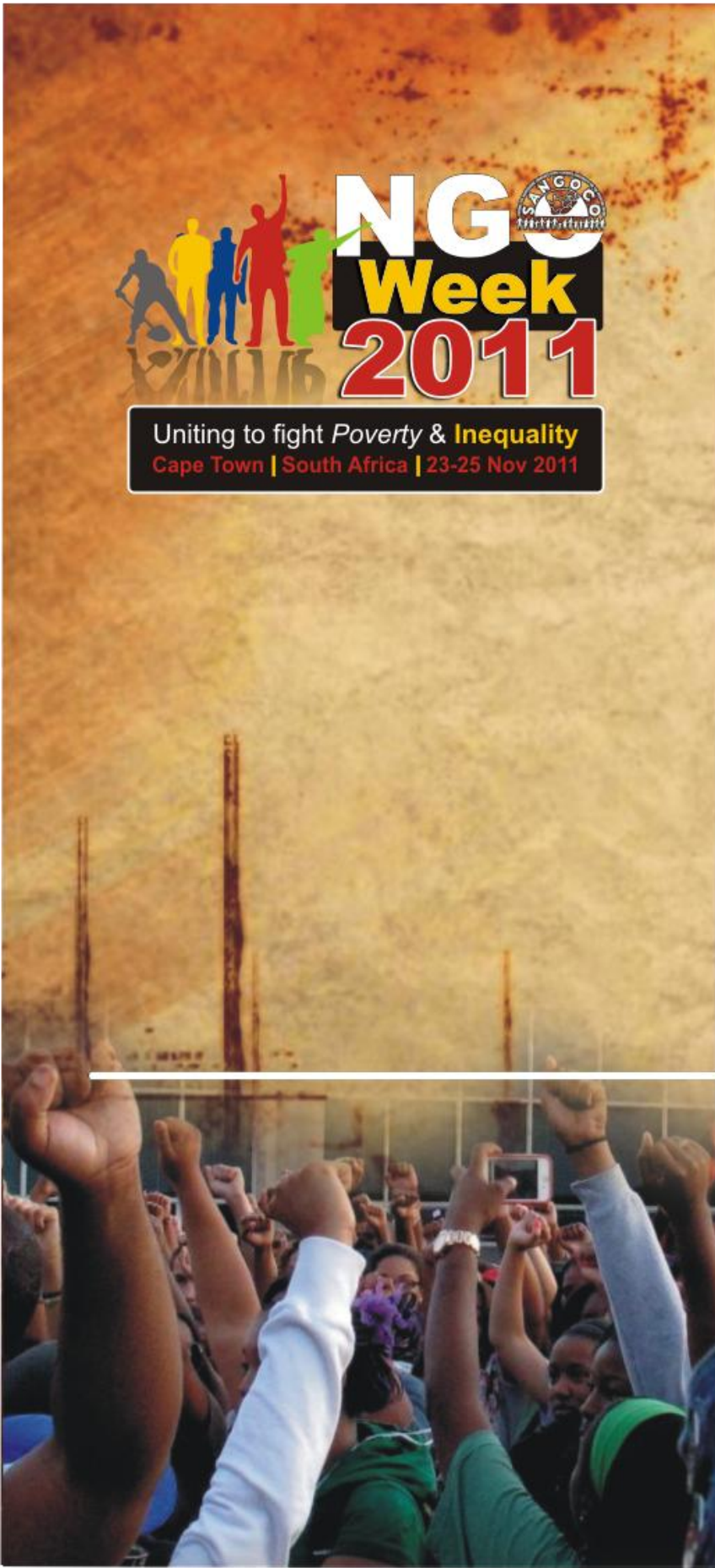
Acknowledgements



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- The support and guidance provided by the Sangoco National Task Team in the lead up to National NGO Week 2011.
- The National Development Agency (NDA) for their support that enabled SANGOCO representatives from the different provinces to participate in National NGO Week 2011. Secondly for availing their board member, Ms Suraya Bibi Khan to deliver a message of support on behalf of the CEO, Ms Vuyelwa Nhlapo.
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- The National Planning Commission for their presentation delivered at the National NGO Week 2011 Cocktail Evening.

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**What Guides
our Work?**



Our History

The South African National NGO Coalition, (SANGOCO), emerged in 1995 to coordinate Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community-based Organisations (CBOs) input into Government policy and ensure that the rich traditions of civil society - forged in the resistance to apartheid - continue to serve the people of South Africa. SANGOCO is the largest single umbrella body of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Southern African region with members in every corner of the country and working on all issues affecting South Africa's development.

It is SANGOCO's stated aim to support the democratic government in this endeavour. However, since the inception of the Coalition there have been a number of significant policy shifts which warranted a reassessment of its core role and function. The most important of these developments was the adoption of a macro-economic framework meant to redistribute wealth, create jobs and generate economic growth but the opposite is true because of its neo-liberal character.

SANGOCO's strength lies in the collective will and effort of its members; as a result the Coalition is a democratically constituted organisation with every member eligible to forward people to stand for office and vote in the Coalition's forums.

Our Methodology

SANGOCO is a Coalition of progressive non-governmental, civil society organisations. As such the methodology developed by the Coalition is focused on adding value to our members' work and deepening the institutional and political unity of our members and the communities they serve.

The primary methodology of the Coalition is that of co-ordination, support and facilitation. The Coalition acts through members and with members to realise the mandate given to it by members, fulfilling such functions which individual CSOs cannot by themselves achieve. The Coalition is the premier network of the NGO/CBO community facilitating information collection and dissemination, research, media and communications, programmes and campaigns, lobbying of state and donor bodies, special projects, strategic partnerships with organs of civil society, global and continental partnerships.

Our Vision is of a democratic society where poverty and inequality have been eradicated, and where ordinary men and women are able to participate in all decision-making processes that have an impact on their lives.

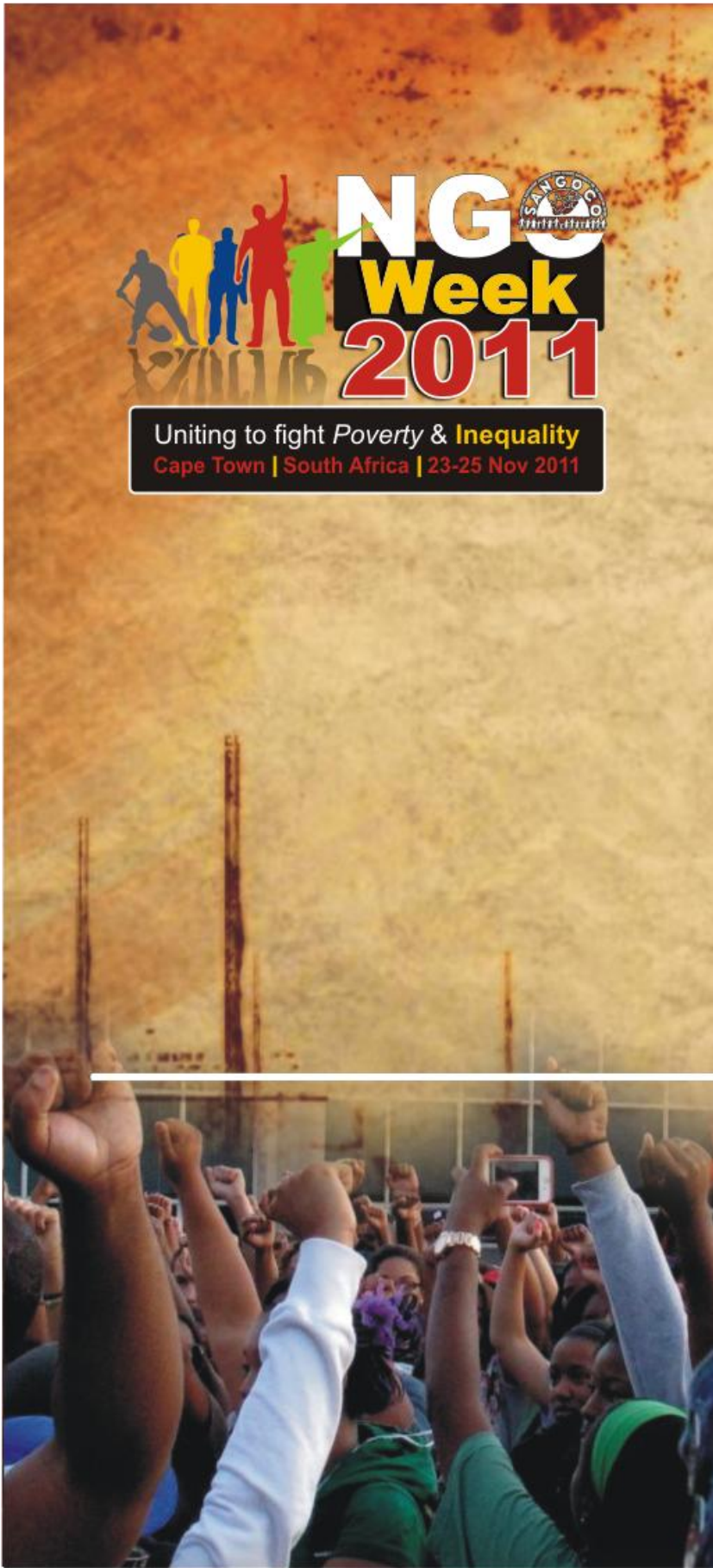
Our Mission is to promote civil society by uniting and strengthening the Civil Society sector to enable it to influence development policy and advocate for programmes that meet the needs of the poor in the best possible way, at the least possible cost.

Our Objectives to establish a strong and vibrant civil society that is well suited to serving the interests of the poor through building the capacity of the Civil Society Sector; and to influence development policies in the country, and ensure that all government programmes and policies effectively serve the needs and interests of the poor.

Our Values

As diverse as our activities are, we have common value systems. Based on the desire to advance and improve people's lives, and combat poverty and inequality, we are committed to the following fundamental values that underpin the mission and objectives of signatories. We therefore commit ourselves to:

- Respecting the rights, culture and dignity of all people within the framework of the Bill of Rights, as enshrined in the South African Constitution, and enhancing race and gender equity (adhering to the spirit of 'Ubuntu')
- Being responsive to the needs and welfare of the people of South Africa
- Accountability and transparency
- Participatory democracy
- People-centred development
- Ensuring the organisation remains true to its mission and objectives
- Promoting voluntarism, and active volunteer involvement at all levels
- Mutual co-operation, collaboration and networking with other agencies around issues of mutual concern
- Striving for excellence, including efficient and effective service provision at all levels.



**Taking 10 steps
forward:
SANGOCO
2012 and beyond!**



NGO Week 2011 Resolutions



Towards Developing a Plan of Action

Preamble

We, members of the South African NGO Coalition's National Assembly sitting at NGO week in Cape Town, Western Cape Province, and after adopting the various organisational reports as well as the President's report on the 2008 NGO Week National Assembly, deliberated on challenges facing Civil society and the Coalition in particular. We hereby reaffirmed previous NGO week resolutions and resolve further on the following matters:

Resolutions on the Eastern Cape Coalitions:

Noting that:

1. NGO week 2008 resolved on provinces to establish and strengthen provincial offices;
2. Provincial AGM's have discussed the role of provinces and resolved on these;
3. The disunity in the Eastern Cape province at present impacts on human and financial resources;
4. There is currently no standard and uniform provincial accountability systems relating to finances and programmes; and
5. The disunity impacts on communities as there is no coordination of campaigns projects and programmes at provincial level.

Believing that:

1. SANGOCO is a vehicle for unifying and strengthening the impact of NGO's and CBO's working in the interest of the poor;
2. Provinces must be the convergent point of strengthening and building the coalition;
3. Provinces are located closer to member organisations of SANGOCO; and
4. Work of the Coalition can only be taken to communities when Provinces are united and effectively resourced.

Therefore Resolve to:

1. SANGOCO working towards a united province;
2. Both structures would meet no later than 5 Feb 2012;
3. A week thereafter, the Eastern Cape NGO Coalition Director (Rooks Moonsammy) is responsible to table a report to the Executive Committee;

4. Allow both Coalitions to participate in voting on Friday but will have no voting rights;
5. Request the NDA Provincial Manager to play an active role and provide technical assistance to facilitate discussions to assist and support the province in the finalisation of this process;
6. Mandate the NEC to take responsibility and request that the NDA assist and support the process and ensure that the processes happens; and
7. At this conference the vote will be shared with one vote from each side.

Resolutions on the National Development Agency

Noting that:

1. The National Development Agency plays a critical role in building the capacity of civil society organisations;
2. SANGOCO and the NDA are two separate organisations each with its own separate mandate;
3. Building a partnership with the NDA is important for both SANGOCO and the NDA; and
4. The willingness of the NDA to provide the necessary support for SANGOCO as an organisation to play a constructive role in strengthening our democracy.

Believing that:

1. An active partnership with the NDA will facilitate the strengthening of the Coalition;
2. The NDA will partner with SANGOCO structures at national and provincial levels;
3. Much valued resources, financial and otherwise, will flow to SANGOCO as a result of this relationship with the NDA; and
4. The NDA will not impose its mandate on SANGOCO and will be a mutually beneficial partnership.

Therefore resolve to:

1. Secure SANGOCO's representation on the board of the NDA;
2. Develop a strategy to lobby for the NDA not to be located in Social Development as it needs to be located in a cross cutting portfolio such as the Presidency or Treasury;
3. Challenge the access to funding from the NDA;
4. Build understanding that the greatest challenge facing us is global capitalism and issues of funding are located within a neoliberal agenda. In our conversation about changing the NDA mandate we have to address the issue of capitalism and patriarchy;
5. Strengthen both the NDA and SANGOCO's role and partnership in peace and governance; and
6. Become true equal partners with the NDA and not projects of the NDA as our mandates are in sync (e.g. host dialogues together, work closely with provincial managers).

Resolutions on Constitutional Issues

Noting that:

1. The Constitution has not been amended since its inception;
2. Certain clauses of the Constitution are not relevant in the current environment;
3. The Constitution in its current form is unable to fulfil the needs of the Coalition as it contains many weaknesses and shortcomings;
4. The issue of the most appropriate structural model for the Coalition must be preceded by a common agreement of the organisational purpose.

Believing that:

1. The constitution needs to be reviewed and amended where necessary;
2. The constitutional amendment process is critical for the advancement of the Coalition; and
3. The Constitution lays the foundation for building democratic accountable and transparent structures and positive relations based on a shared vision and mutually agreed goals between all structures of the Coalition.

Therefore resolve to:

1. Regularly review our constitution to ensure that it is in line with our context and our practice;
2. Have a special meeting to draft amendments to the constitution;
3. Address issues pertaining to the constitution as SANGOCO has to be governed according to its constitution especially in terms of the role SANGOCO is meant to play;
4. Sectoral representation should be through provinces;
5. Each province needs to take the constitution back to the members for discussion, and proposed amendments; and
6. SANGOCO NEC has to call a meeting for provincial representatives to come together to finalise the constitution.

Resolutions on the President's Report

Noting that:

1. We have institutional, resource and leadership capacity challenges and we need to deal with this constructively;
2. The secretary has not tabled a report on the state of the organisation at NGO week 2011;
3. The treasurer has not tabled a report on the financial status of the organisation at the 2011 NGO week;
4. Funders will not support SANGOCO if our inadequate accounting matters is not resolved;
5. If reports are not submitted, the doors will remain closed;
6. Inadequate reporting impact negatively on the functioning of the Coalition and its relationship with its partners; and

7. The lack of recommendations or solutions presented in the presidential report is a challenge. More focus should be on cleaning up this house and spending less time on platforms and worrying about whether we sit in parliament etc.

Believing that:

1. The dysfunctional nature of the national executive is detrimental for the advancement of the objectives of the Coalition;
2. Adequate reporting is important for the Coalition members as well as external role players such as funders;
3. Reports of this nature must be circulated prior to for the Coalition to engage in the reports on an informed and mandated position; and
4. Government do not take the sector seriously - if we are not in the frontline making our positions heard.

Therefore resolve to:

1. Deal with our institutional, resource and leadership capacity challenges.
2. Address and finalise urgently the case involving allegations of mismanagement involving the Ex-President (Ms Raisibe of the North West) and the Ex-Treasurer (Shafiek Davids of the Western Cape).
3. Expedite a resolve to these matters as it has been outstanding for a number of years.
4. Account to funders who have provided us with resources as no reports accounting for how monies have been spent.
5. In relation to Gidani, we are expected to access these resources if our governance issues are addressed. We will be able to implement any plans if our house is in order.
6. Hold individuals and members of SANGOCO accountable who represents us in a range of fora locally and internationally and have to furnish the organisation with reports of their activities.
7. Ensure transparency and accountability in terms of who represents us and how we hold them to account as the report do not cover these issues.
8. Review the representation in the NEDLAC process. In 2005 we were still part of NEDLAC, and were requested to provide seven names to NEDLAC to be represented. We need to determine the status of this representation.
9. Clarify the issue of the bank account that is linked to SANGOCO Gauteng but not able to be accessed.
10. Have representatives on the SADEC Council - we require transparency in terms of nominations to these positions and accountability in terms of reporting in relation to this partnership.
11. Clarify and resolve the issue of outstanding monies owed to people. Mr. Hassen Lorgat claims that SANGOCO owes him R90 000.00 and Daniel Prah has been actively working in SANGOCO office in COSATU who also claims that we owe him a fair amount of money.
12. Task the NEC to resolve the issue of financial mismanagement with respect to Shafiek Davids and Raisibi. According to NGO Week report, the alleged money that was misused was already missing by the time Raisibi took office. The

Interim task team appointed in 2008 which raised the question of legitimacy of members elected to national structure from an interim structure. SANGOCO WC distanced itself from the process - If you are not a mandated representative you cannot stand for an executive position. We as provinces should be doing it together.

13. Ensure strong, accountable and transparent leadership and with basic administrative systems in place.
14. Look at resolutions outlining how provinces feed into national structures and processes.
15. Sort out the debts; we cannot do this with an interim structure with no support from the provinces. We really cannot clean up the mess from the top down
16. Legitimise our leadership through the active involvement the provinces

Resolutions on the Millennium Development Goals

Noting that:

1. The Millennium Development goals are an important achievement for our country as a whole;
2. Civil society involvement in the achievement of the MDG's are important; and
3. SANGOCO plays a crucial role in ensuring civil society participation in achieving the MDG's.

Believing that:

1. The Millennium Development goals are achievable but not within the expected timeframes;
2. More resources are required to achieve the goals; and
3. Achieving the MDG's will have a far reaching impact on poverty and inequality in South Africa.

Therefore resolve to:

1. Poverty is a cross-cutting issue across all MDGs. An assessment should be conducted in terms of the status of our vision, constitution, leadership, governance – do we have all of this in place as provinces and how do we deal and contribute to the national agenda. How can we contribute what we have as provinces to ensure we speak as one voice?
2. Deal with the issues of youth in terms of health and the need to debate these issues.