

COPAC

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Declaration of Commitment to Build South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC)

COPAC is a grassroots NGO that has been working in cooperative development for 16 years, and more recently has been supporting the emergence of a solidarity economy movement (SEM) in South Africa. We have been active in promoting and organising the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC), as part of the Solidarity Economy Movement. We support its aims to mobilise communities, grassroots movements and organisations to fight hunger and the corporate power and state complicity that stands behind it.

We believe the SAFSC as a campaigning alliance is crucial to build unity amongst popular and working class forces, advance a people driven just transition to survive the climate crisis and confront the many inter-linked food crises facing South Africa.

Generally, we commit the following to the campaign:

- National organising capacity
- Popular education work, through development of materials, holding of activist schools etc
- Management of social media and communications of the campaign
- Committing funding to the campaign to ensure key campaigning activities take place

In 2016 we specifically commit to the following:

- Development of a campaign brief on the climate and food crises
- Development of popular pamphlets on the climate and food crises and alternatives: seed banking and sharing, sustainable water use, agroecology, worker cooperatives, solidarity economy and just transition
- To develop a seed saving and banking tool and to hold an activist workshop on seed saving and banking
- Supporting learning exchanges and grassroots mass campaigning.
- Supporting a train the trainers activist school on agroecology in January 2016

- Support a grassroots process to develop a Food Sovereignty Act. This process will involve grassroots engagement through dialogues in order to develop an Act proposal that presents people's needs and desires to end hunger and build food sovereignty. It will be a proposal that lays out actions that the state should be taking to support and secure food sovereignty in South Africa.
- Short movies on GMOs and the climate crisis for educational and mobilisation purposes
- A popular book on food sovereignty aspirations in South Africa
- Support the South African Waste Pickers Association (SAWPA) in holding a workshop with its members on food sovereignty and worker cooperatives
- In the context of the drought currently hitting South Africa and especially its agricultural production, we are hosting a hotline for small farmers to phone in and report the impacts that the drought is having on them, their fellow small farmers, and communities. This information will assist in gathering information for the SAFSC's campaigning work on climate change and support to small scale farmers. **The hotline number for small farmers to phone and report their experiences is 011 447 1013.**

COPAC endeavours to ensure consistent communication and report-back to the SAFSC, and affirms its commitment to building the SAFSC as it tackles one of the most pressing issues confronting South Africa today. Forward to the SAFSC! End hunger through food sovereignty now!