



## INCLUSIVE SOCIETY INSTITUTE

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### **A TIME FOR UNITY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION – WITHDRAWAL FROM NATIONAL DIALOGUE IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE**

The Inclusive Society Institute (ISI) has noted the Democratic Alliance’s decision to withdraw from the National Dialogue, as well as their call for civil society to do the same. While we respect their democratic right to make this choice, we believe strongly that this is a time when South Africans need to come together rather than move apart.

South Africa is facing deep challenges, high levels of inequality, unemployment and social tensions. Now is not the time to step away from the conversation; it is exactly the time to lean in and find shared solutions.

The National Dialogue is a valuable opportunity to unite all parts of society, government, business, labour, faith communities, civil society organisations and ordinary people, so that we can build a new vision for the country together. The strength of this process lies in everyone taking part.

The current political posturing validates the ISI's position that the National Dialogue should **not be driven by political parties**, nor should it be dominated by any one sector. Instead, it must be a **whole-of-society-driven process**, where everyone has a voice and all interests are considered. This is the only way to ensure that the outcomes truly reflect the hopes and needs of all South Africans.

Calling on people to withdraw risks weakening a process that can help us find common ground and rebuild trust. Our history has shown us that when we choose dialogue over division, we are able to achieve extraordinary things together.

By staying engaged and actively participating, we can develop a “People’s Plan” for South Africa, a plan that belongs to every citizen and speaks to the everyday realities people face. It is through inclusive dialogue that we will find solutions that are fair, sustainable and widely supported.

We therefore call on civil society and all sectors to continue participating wholeheartedly. Let us not allow temporary disagreements to derail a national effort that has the power to change lives and move South Africa forward.

Together, we can create a stronger, more just and united South Africa, a future shaped not by political interests, but by the collective will of its people.

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