



Social Cohesion Framework

Need for a focused, concrete, all of society endeavour



CONTENT

- Conceptualizing South African approach to Social Cohesion
- Factors impacting Social Cohesion
- Focusing on the immediate as a bridge to the future
- Coordinating mechanisms
- Monitoring social cohesion
- Immediate steps



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CONCEPTUAL CLARITY

- ‘**fragmented**’ view of what social cohesion is: ‘**absence of conflict or crime** (Durkheim 1897), **a desire for affiliation** (Festinger, Back, and Schachter 1950), **a degree of stability** (Parsons 2013), **the strength of connections** (Braaten 1991), as a **transient** state/process (Jeannotte 2003), and the same as **good relationships or a national identity** (Alaluf 1999).
- **lack of consensus on defining values and factors** related to the construct of social cohesion. A number of definitions that relate to **economic aspects** of society, such as **general well-being and equal representation/ opportunities in society** (Jeannotte 2003; OECD 2011) adopted worldwide e.g. in European Union, Canada and Australia.
- Such definitions have commonalities such as **well-being** of the members of the group, **shared values** such as **trust, and equal opportunities** in society.

Xavier Fonseca, Stephan Lukosch & Frances Brazier (2019) Social cohesion revisited: a new definition and how to characterize it, Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, 32:2, 231-253, DOI: 10.1080/13511610.2018.1497480
To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2018.1497480>

FACTORS IMPACTING SOCIAL COHESION IN SOUTH AFRICA

- **Few unifiers**

- Lack of uniting symbols
- Constitution as starting point
- Need better tax compliance

- **Racism**

- Not dealing with racial acts
- Black people not out of poverty
- Inequality still racially defined

- **State capacity**

- Need capable, willing state
- Govt depts not aligned
- Lack of follow up TRC reparations
- Bureaucratic response to migrants

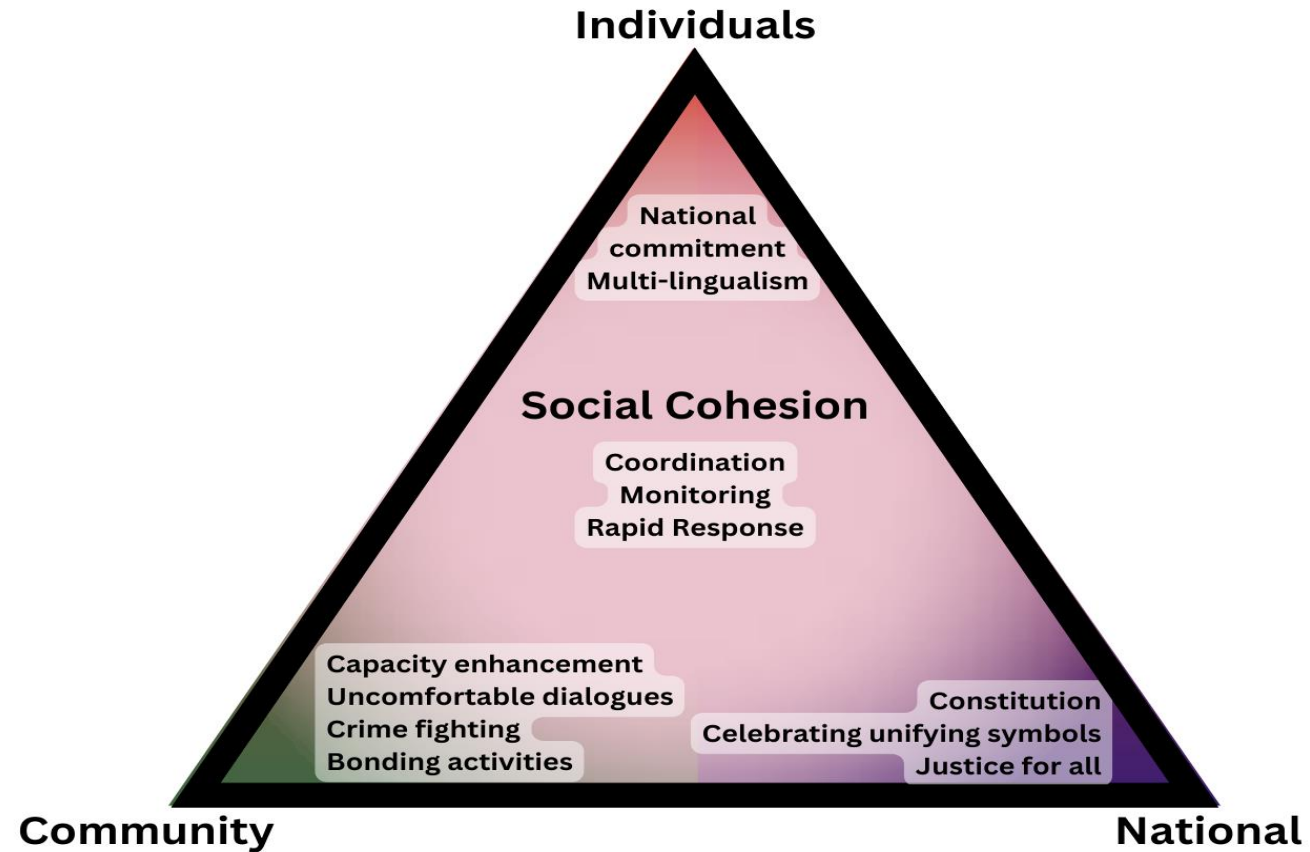
- **Dysfunctional communities**

- Crime, violence esp GBV
- Rise of ethnic/linguistic tensions
- Some languages privileged
- Attitudes towards illegal migrants

- **State of our democracy**

- Distance between elected and the electorate
- Electoral participation esp Youth
- Communities excluded from participating in processes

POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK



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SOCIAL COHESION INITIATIVES: FROM THE IMMEDIATE TO THE FUTURE

1. Community level

1. Community capacity enhancement model
2. Uncomfortable dialogues at community level across race and nationalities
3. Crime fighting
 1. Anti GBV campaigns
4. Democracy builders
5. Bonding activities:
 1. sports tournaments; coaching; festivals; book clubs
 2. Celebrate local heritages/art projects
6. Thuthuzela Care Centres
7. Connection between people's representatives and communities

2. Individuals

1. National commitment from Codesa on SC
2. Campaign for all South Africans speak more than one official language

3. Institutional/national

1. Constitution as starting point civic education
2. National community service
3. Anti-racism week
4. Better use of social media
5. Inclusive celebration of national days/symbols
6. Use Social Cohesion Advocates better
7. Ensure access to justice for all
8. Address electoral system
9. Public transport campaigns
10. Addressing tender system
11. Reducing poverty, unemployment and inequality
12. Just transition

ALL SOUTH AFRICA EFFORT: KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- **State/SoEs/Chapter 9 Institutions**

- Public servants
- Parliament
- Political parties
- Criminal Justice System esp magistrates
- SAHRC/PANSALB/CGE
- Key departments – DBE, DSAC, COGTA,
- Traditional leadership
- Brand SA
- SALGA, councillors

- **Business and Labour**

- Taxi industry
- Informal traders
- BUSA and affiliated bodies, BLSA
- Trade union movements

Misc:
Development
agencies, Media etc

- **CSOs/Social Movements**

- Social cohesion focused organisations
- Student organisations, youth focused
- NGOs eg Albino, Deaf SA, Blind SA
- Environmental organisations



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COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Social Cohesion & Reconciliation Committee:

multiparty, small Secretariat (2-3)
Identify, address gaps in social cohesion
released Annual Social Cohesion Gauge

Social Cohesion & Reconciliation Council

meets regularly (quarterly, six monthly)
Composition:
NGOs, relevant research organizations,
O Dep Pres, key depts and Section 9
institutions
Labour and business reps

Focused on encouraging local activities

Programme of uncomfortable
conversations
Dealing with acts of racism, and other
chauvinism
Fighting Crime, esp GBV



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MONITORING MECHANISMS: A GAUGE LINKED TO ACTIONS

- **Key principles:**

- Steered by **what needs to be measured**, guided by what we need to focus on
- **Synchronise** research, not integrate
- Need to consider setting **milestones** to NDP 2030
- **Combine** subjective and objective indicators
- Acknowledge geographical diversity

- **Many tracking devices already available:**

Election indicator reports,
National Minimum Wage Reports,
Tracking TRC proposed reparations,
GCRO Quality of Life Survey,
Social Cohesion Radar,
Indlulamithi Barometer,
Afrobarometer,
HSRC,
StatsSA,
Govt departments
Global/international benchmarking studies



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NEXT FEW STEPS: URGENCY AND AGENCY

- **Formal processes:**

- After NPC plenary discussion, note prepared for Chair to brief DSAC Minister and Deputy President
- Presentation to Speaker and NCOP Chair
- Establishment of SC&RC

- **NPC processes**

- Commissioning review of all monitors, tracking devices, indicators and barometers
- Develop proposal on Social Cohesion & Reconciliation Gauge
- Host first meeting of SC&RC Council



Thank you