

GROUP 1 RESOLUTIONS

State of THP Practice & Policy Framework

RESOLVED THAT:

1. Government initiates a formal review of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act within 12 months, with a view to amendment or repeal to ensure alignment with indigenous knowledge systems
2. An interim regulatory framework, including a Code of Conduct, be developed and implemented to govern the sector during the legislative review process
3. A national, decentralised registration system for Traditional Health Practitioners be implemented by the Department of Health in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
4. Government allocates dedicated and targeted funding for the development of the Traditional Health Practitioners sector, including infrastructure and institutional support
5. The Traditional Health Practitioners Council be reviewed and restructured to enhance accountability, representation, and effectiveness
6. A multi-stakeholder task team comprising Traditional Health Practitioners, the Department of Health, and the CRL Commission be established to oversee implementation
7. A national training and indigenous knowledge preservation framework be developed and implemented
8. Mechanisms be introduced for the formal recognition and integration of Traditional Health Practitioners within the national health system
9. The CRL Commission monitors implementation and submits quarterly progress reports
10. Platforms be established to ensure meaningful participation and representation of Traditional Health Practitioners in governance and policy-making structures

GROUP 2 RESOLUTIONS

Autonomy, Self-Regulation and UMthetho WeShoba

RESOLVED THAT:

1. Regulatory measures governing the use of social media networks be prescribed and implemented to ensure compliance with data protection, intellectual property, and online safety standards
2. A comprehensive Code of Conduct for Traditional Health Practitioners be established to promote professional accountability, ethical practice, and transparency in service delivery
3. Measures be implemented to safeguard the dignity of traditional medicine and practitioners, including the protection of sacred regalia such as *amabhayi* against misappropriation or desecration
4. Equitable representation and inclusion of Traditional Health Practitioners within the Section 22 Committee of the CRL Rights Commission be ensured through democratic election by practitioners
5. The indigenous traditional calendar be formally recognised and promoted as a legitimate cultural and heritage system within the Republic
6. Regulatory oversight be strengthened to address illegal and unregistered practitioners operating within traditional healing spaces, in accordance with applicable laws
7. The Interim Traditional Health Practitioners Council be reviewed, with a view to restructuring or dissolution in line with sector needs
8. Collaborative partnerships between Traditional Health Practitioners and the National Department of Health be formalised, including structured patient referral systems for conditions beyond the scope of conventional healthcare
9. A regulatory framework for certification and accreditation of Traditional Health Practitioners be established to ensure quality, safety, and professional standards
10. A comprehensive and robust regulatory framework governing registration, training, and professional conduct of Traditional Health Practitioners be enacted
11. All regulatory measures and practices be aligned with the Constitution and applicable legislation, including human rights and child protection frameworks
12. Guidelines governing culturally sensitive practices be developed in compliance with constitutional and legislative protections

GROUP 3 RESOLUTIONS

Partnerships, Indigenous Knowledge and Sacred Spaces

RESOLVED THAT:

1. Partnerships between Traditional Health Practitioners and relevant Government Departments be formalised, including SAPS, Tourism, Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Basic Education, Social Development, and Municipalities
2. The South African Police Service develops and implements measures to prevent unlawful arrest and harassment of Traditional Health Practitioners
3. Sacred and heritage sites, including rivers, streams, and mountains, be formally recognised, protected, and preserved
4. Programmes be developed and implemented to promote and preserve indigenous knowledge systems and African languages
5. Collaboration between Traditional Health Practitioners and community structures, including Community Policing Forums, be strengthened to ensure safety within sacred spaces
6. Regulatory measures governing the use of social media be enforced to protect indigenous knowledge and cultural practices
7. Economic support programmes and livelihood initiatives for Traditional Health Practitioners be developed and implemented
8. Indigenous farming practices and the sustainable use of natural resources be supported by the Department of Agriculture and relevant stakeholders