

## SUGGESTED POLICY FOR DEALING WITH PETITIONS TO THE NAC

Only those petitions would be taken up for consideration by the NAC that met with ALL the following conditions:

1. That the subject matter of the petition was linked to the CMP in terms of highlighting its violation or suggesting methods for its furtherance.
2. That the petition did not deal with a problem or issue of an individual, but with those that affected a class or category of people, or affected the country as a whole.
3. That the petition was sent not by one or two individuals but by either a large number of people or by representatives of mass movements and/or of credible NGOs/people's organisations.
4. That one or more member(s) of the NAC owned the petition and were willing to pursue the issues contained in it.

Once a petition has been accepted for consideration, an appropriate process would be followed, which could include the concerned member(s) of the NAC working with the NAC secretariat, between meetings, and having the matter properly examined, getting appropriate responses from the concerned agencies and departments and, where considered necessary, setting up small fact finding groups, by involving persons other than NAC members, where required. However, in all such cases the concerned NAC member would be the convenor of this group. The recommendations that emerged out of this process would be put to the NAC for its consideration and approval and, based on such an approval, sent to the government for necessary action.

However, where a matter requires urgent action, the NAC could authorise the concerned member to formulate the recommendations and have them communicated to the government, after approval of the NAC Chairperson, provided that the recommendations so approved would be reported to the NAC at its next meeting.

It would be the responsibility of the NAC secretariat to monitor the status of all such recommendations, to keep the concerned members of the NAC informed accordingly, and to report on the progress made at each subsequent meeting of the NAC.