**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF COMMON CAUSE SOCIETY HELD ON JANUARY 29, 2011**

**Venue:** Common Cause House

**Participants**

Mr. Vikram Lal                               President

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) J.P. Gupta           Vice President

Dr. Divya Jalan

Dr. Ashok Khosla

Mr. Prakash Singh

Ms. Madhu Kishwar

Dr. B.P. Mathur

Mr. Lalit Nirula

Mr. Kamal Kant Jaswal Director

Mr. Sarvesh Sharma Special Invitee

Mr. K.K. Jhingan Special Invitee

Mr. N.S. Chawla Special Invitee

Mr. Vikram Tandon Special Invitee

**1. Confirmation of the minutes.**

Minutes of the Governing Council meeting held on November 27, 2010 were confirmed after rectification of typographical errors. Minutes as approved are enclosed.

**2. Confirmation of circular resolution.**

Circular resolution dated January 12, 2011 regarding reinvestment of funds was confirmed.

**3. Presentation of the Society’s activities**

The Director reviewed the progress made since the last meeting in regard to the thrust areas of the Society’s activities. The Council was gratified to note the new sense of purpose and doggedness displayed by the Supreme Court in ensuring that its directions on Police Reforms are effectively implemented by the states. A similar determination is in evidence to uncover the material facts in regard to the acts of corruption and abuse of executive discretion highlighted in the PILs on the appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner and allocation of 2G Spectrum and grant of UAS licences. The Supreme Court has also given an indication of its resolve to bring about a radical improvement in the system of dispensation of justice and liquidate the backlog of court cases. As a co-petitioner in all these PILs, Common Cause would continue to assist the court in every possible way to realize its objectives.

The Council endorsed the proposal that Common Cause should volunteer to assist the government of Uttar Pradesh in drafting a new police law incorporating the directions of the Supreme Court and the essential features of the Model Police Act on the lines of the civil society initiative on the draft Delhi Police Bill.

**4. Review of progress on key initiatives**

**Combating corruption**

The Council noted with satisfaction the developments in the PILs filed by the Society to expose malfeasance and promote probity in public life. The support extended by the Society to the India Against Corruption campaign was also commended. It was decided that Common Cause would participate in full strength in the rally at Ramlila Maidan and the march to Jantar Mantar on January 30, 2011.

**RTI Portal**

Mr. Sarvesh Sharma briefed the Council about the deliberations of the stakeholders meeting held on January 27, 2011. The Council welcomed the interest evinced by Tata Consultancy Services in participating in the development of the portal. NASSCOM Foundation has undertaken to prepare a preliminary project proposal/business plan for the portal by the third week of February 2011.

**Democratic Decentralization**

The Council was informed that after a detailed study of the situation of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Uttar Pradesh, a draft PIL has been drawn up to seek judicial intervention for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. The Council advised that the government of Uttar Pradesh may be approached to amend the extant legislations to bring them in accord with the provisions of the Constitution and if there is no positive response, a PIL may be filed in the High Court of Allahabad.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Vikram Lal)

President