

2 *Principles and Requirements of Institutions and Arrangements*

- 2.1 Any institutions and arrangements must be capable of interfacing with, and developing a constructive and developmental relationship with the regions of the United Kingdom, Ireland and the European Union.
- 2.2 The agreed institutions and arrangements must be inclusive in nature, ensuring the representation of all traditions on the island.
- 2.3 North/South institutional arrangements should specifically address the need to establish common principles of civil, religious and human rights, rooted in the concepts of equity and pluralism.
- 2.4 Any new arrangements must ensure that gender equality is secured through new electoral arrangements and appropriate support for equity in representation.
- 2.5 Any new arrangements should entail decision-making structures that are closer to people and local communities.
- 2.6 North/South bodies should have appropriate decision-making powers to enable them effectively to develop strategic frameworks for economic and social development; joint action on shared natural and physical assets, and the implementation of EU policy on inter-regional development and harmonisation.
- 2.7 There must be compliance with E.U. and other international obligations and protection for civic, political, social and cultural rights. The British and Irish governments should have joint responsibility for citizenship, and for protection of individual and collective rights.
- 2.8 Structures and arrangements should be developed to facilitate the weaving of a web of relationships on an East/West basis as well as North/South. A Council of the Regions of Britain and Ireland might be considered.
- 2.9 Within Northern Ireland, the Coalition envisages the establishment of a Northern Ireland Assembly comprising of

a) an elected chamber of directly elected politicians;

b) a civic chamber comprised of business, trade union, community and voluntary sector interests indirectly elected through electoral colleges.

The electoral system chosen should deliver 50/50 gender balanced arrangements in both chambers.

2.10 The Inter-Governmental Conference should continue in existence and should help to manage a recognised transition period which will include

i) immediate change arising out of the agreement;

ii) management of potential further development and change

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