

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

Submission from Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

1. The Coalition believes that the North/South relationship must be placed within the context of a web of relationships which will draw on East/West elements as well as North/South and which will be capable of winning the allegiance of all citizens of Northern Ireland and commanding widespread support.
2. The Coalition has proposed the idea of a North/South Forum for Social and Economic Co-operation, which should be composed of elected representatives drawn from both chambers of the Northern Ireland Political Forum/Assembly and from the Dial/Seanad. This Forum will have appropriate decision making powers based on sufficiency of consensus. As such the members of this North/South Forum should have clear lines of reportage to Committees on North/South co-operation attached to the legislative houses both North and South.
3. The Inter Governmental Conference should be required to report to the North/South Forum for Social and Economic co-operation on relevant issues.
4. The North/South Forum should have clear links to the relevant agencies/representatives of the European Commission in order to promote the implementation of E.U. policies of inter-regional development and harmonisation.
5. The core North/South Forum for Social and Economic Co-operation, should be augmented by an Assembly which brings together representatives of the business, trade union, community, voluntary and other relevant sectors to explore potential areas of co-operation on a consultative and advisory basis. This body should relate to other appropriate fora that may exist on a regional level within both the North and South of Ireland, eg the National Social and Economic Forum in Republic..