

# AGENDA FOR NEGOTIATIONS

## 1. A NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

One Chamber or two, method of election, legislative/administrative, subjects to be transferred and how quickly (see security below)

Devolution provides the right framework for all citizens of Northern Ireland to work together. Only devolution has substantial support right across our divided community. In order to give this body significance and impact, and to attract responsible people into participation it should have both legislative and executive functions.

## 2. EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The method of selection and modus operandi of those who take executive responsibility.

Majority and minority representatives must work and build together at the highest level of Government.

## 3. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

There must be effective participation by elected representatives in the scrutinising of the operation of the Executive.

## 4. TEST OF ACCEPTABILITY

Any new administration must be widely accepted if it is to work. There may need to be an institutional definition of acceptability.

## 5. CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

All citizens must be confident that their essential civil and political rights will be protected.

## 6. CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

Cross-border co-operation over issues of joint interest, and especially economic development, is ever more crucial to the well-being of citizens throughout the island. A clear institutional definition is now required.

## 7. ANGLO-IRISH CONTEXT

Good working arrangements with both London and Dublin are essential for a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland. Relationships with London and Dublin may need clearer redefinition.

## 8. SECURITY CONTROL

Any political accommodation will come under threat from terrorists and paramilitaries. The question of security control will be a difficult one, but it is hard to see how a local administration could retain credibility without an input into the control of security. Full control however raises enormous and possibly initially terminal questions.

## 9. RELATIONS IN EUROPE

As a part of an increasingly integrated Europe the people of Northern Ireland should have their interests represented, in so far as possible, by their own elected politicians.

## 10. THE PERMANENCE OF ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

If it is not publicly accepted by all parties as having foreseeable permanence, then it has reduced stability.