

The issues of *self-determination* and *consent* will be crucial in determining the nature and extent of constitutional change.

The Forum believes these principles and requirements should apply:

- It is for the people of Ireland alone, North and South, to determine their own future — by agreement and consent, and without external impediment.

- The imperative for a new, agreed accommodation is driven by these twin realities.

*a)* a majority on the island as a whole would prefer a united Ireland, *but* that would not command the consent of a majority within Northern Ireland;

*and*

*b)* the present status of Northern Ireland reflects the wish of the majority there, *but* that status does not command the consent of a substantial minority there.

- The central task of the comprehensive talks envisaged above in paragraph 5 must therefore be to reach agreement on *how the right of self-determination can be exercised so as to earn and enjoy the allegiance of the different traditions on the island.*