

SPEAKING NOTE FOR SENATOR MITCHELL

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBGROUP OF THE PLENARY TO CONSIDER CROSS-STRAND ISSUES

The Independent Chairmen propose the establishment of a Subgroup of the Plenary to consider the cross-strand issues identified in the Comprehensive Agenda and any other issue not falling exclusively within the remit of any one strand. The establishment of the Subgroup shall be in accordance with Rule 5 of the Talks' Rules of Procedure which provides that "other committees and subcommittees of the of the negotiations may be established among the participants in the format to which the subgroup relates".

The Cross-strand Subgroup will deal only with issues which do not fall exclusively within any of the three strands. Issues falling exclusively within a particular strand will be dealt with within that strand by the relevant participants as defined in the Rules of Procedure.

The frequency of meetings of the Cross-strand Subgroup shall be subject to the views of the Business Committee in accordance with Rule 11 and the agenda for meetings of the Subgroup shall be settled by the participants on the basis of proposals put forward by the Chairman in accordance with the overall agenda and taking into account the advice of the Business Committee, as provided for by Rule 19.

In accordance with Rule 3 and Rule 17 the negotiations on Cross-Strand issues will involve the British and Irish Governments and the political parties. If during discussion of cross-strand issues, a matter is raised which falls exclusively within the remit of a particular strand, the Chairman, if requested by a participant, shall ask non-participants in the strand in question to refrain from contributing to the discussion of that matter.

Other points

Specify the subject for discussion at the first meeting and suggest a date.
Suggest the level of representation and the two plus two format.

Indicative List Of Issues Which Fall Exclusively To Strand One

Strand One

Detail and shape of new Institutions:

- electoral systems
- nature, size and duration of any Assembly
- operating procedures for the Assembly
- devolved responsibilities
- legislative responsibilities
- the allocation of executive power
- financial arrangements for the devolved government