

DRAFT AGENDA FOR SUBSTANTIVE ALL-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS

1. Paragraph 14 of the Ground Rules for Substantive All-Party Negotiations provides that the opening plenary session of the negotiations will adopt a comprehensive agenda for the negotiations which will:

- be in accordance with the necessity for confidence building measures as spelt out in paragraph 12 of the joint Communiqué adopted by the two Governments on 28 February 1996;
- provide reassurance, both in terms of addressing the report of the International Body and ensuring that a meaningful and inclusive process of negotiations is genuinely being offered; and
- include all the significant items which the various negotiating teams consider relevant and which will, therefore, have to be addressed in the search for an agreement.

2. Paragraph 3 of the Ground Rules provides that any participant in the strand in question will be free to raise any aspect of the three relationships, including constitutional issues and any other matter it considers relevant.

3. The attached draft agenda is intended to be compatible with the requirements of paragraph 14 of the Ground Rules and is without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 3. Consideration of the agenda, therefore, is not at this stage intended to determine whether or not a particular matter should be on the table, but rather to facilitate agreement on an efficient structure for discussion of all the relevant issues which does not prejudice a fair hearing for any of them.

4. A preliminary list of issues which the two Governments consider it necessary, as a minimum, to include on the agenda is attached. (The list of Strand 1 issues for inclusion on the agenda is suggested by the British Government alone.)