

VALIDATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

1. The two Governments shall as soon as possible sign a new British-Irish Agreement replacing the Anglo-Irish Agreement and incorporating the relevant understandings reached in the agreement among the participants in the negotiations.
2. There shall be referendums both North and South on [22 May 1998]. [Subject to Parliamentary approval, a consultative referendum in Northern Ireland, organised under the terms of the Entry to Negotiations Act, 1996, shall address the question: "Do you support the agreement reached by the British Government, the Irish Government, [names of parties] at the conclusion of the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland?"]. The Irish Government shall introduce and support in the Oireachtas a Bill to amend the Constitution as described in paragraph X and in Annex ?, as follows: (a) to amend Articles 2 and 3 as described in paragraph 7 above and (b) to amend Article 29 to permit the Government to ratify the new British-Irish Agreement. On passage by the Oireachtas, the Bill will be put to referendum.
3. If majorities of those voting in both North and South support this agreement, the Governments shall then as soon as possible introduce and support, in their respective Parliaments, such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to all aspects of this agreement, and shall take whatever ancillary steps as may be required. On the passage of the necessary legislation, they shall then ratify the new Agreement between them. It is the intention that new institutions shall come into being on [earliest date].
4. In the interim representatives of the two Governments and all parties supporting this agreement shall form a steering committee, under the chairmanship of the Independent Chairman of the Plenary, which will meet regularly to review all aspects of the implementation of the agreement, and to consult and offer views on all matters relevant to the establishment of lasting peace and a political settlement.
5. Arrangements and procedures for the review of certain individual aspects of the agreement are contained in relevant sections. In addition, the Intergovernmental Conference shall have, as stated in paragraph X above, a role in regard to the overall workings of the agreement and the institutions established under it. As specified, an annual report on the working of the new agreement shall be published and a full review shall be carried out after three years.