

NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S COALITION

STRAND 2 - NATURE, FORM AND EXTENT OF NEW ARRANGEMENTS

1. Northern Ireland arrangements should be formulated with a clear understanding that they will be central to proactive North/South co-operation, development and action; proactive regional co-operation, development and action with Scotland, Wales and England; and direct liaison between Northern Ireland and the European Union.
2. North/South bodies should respect the full and equal legitimacy and worth of the identity, allegiance, aspiration and ethos of both Unionists and Nationalists.
3. North/South bodies should be established to enhance and enable co-operative and constructive relationships between political representatives, civic leaders and people on the island of Ireland.
4. Such bodies should take account of the opportunity to address matters together and the synergistic benefit which will be gained by joint work.
5. North/South bodies should have delegated powers consistent with political and financial accountability in each jurisdiction.
6. Such bodies should seek to build on the benefit to both the North and the South of economies of scale and avoidance of duplication.
7. These bodies should be charged with developing strategic frameworks for economic and social development, joint action on shared natural and physical assets, and implementing EU policy on inter-regional development and harmonisation.
8. These North/South bodies should have decision-making powers based on sufficient consensus.
9. Participation in North/South bodies should be drawn from both chambers of the Northern Ireland Political Forum/Assembly, and should ensure balanced representation of political and sectoral diversity and gender.
10. Northern Ireland will be involved in developing East/West relations with the regions of Scotland and Wales. North/South arrangements should play their part in weaving a web of North/South and East/West relationships in these islands. Opportunities for participation in Inter-Governmental arrangements and Anglo-Irish fora should be taken up. Such arrangements should be broadened to take account of regions within the UK and Ireland.

11. There should be compliance with EU and other international obligations and protection for civic, political, social and cultural rights. The two governments should have joint responsibility for citizenship and for protection of individual and collective rights.

12. There should be a transition period of some 4 - 5 years during which the arrangements should be monitored. A report should be published on their operation and their ability to manage further development and change.

27th October, 1997