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A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO RESOLVING PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES

Paper by the UK Government

1. While a number of parties indicated at the 10 June session that they were content with the proposals for the management of business set out in the 6 June papers "Scenario for the opening plenary session", "Procedural Guidelines" and "Draft Agenda", others expressed reservations. These concerns focussed (in particular) on the "Guidelines" paper setting out the procedures which would be operated by the chair during the negotiations, but also covered the appointment of chairmen and the agenda for the opening plenary session.
2. The UK Government believes that, for the orderly transaction of business, it would be beneficial to appoint Independent Chairmen as soon as possible. This appointment would however be on the basis that points of concern about the procedural guidelines would then be fully explored and resolved in an appropriate forum, and that the agenda for the opening plenary session would also be fully considered, and that pending resolution of these issues the opening plenary would not move beyond item 6 on the proposed agenda tabled on 6 June (Opening Statements).
3. The Government puts forward this proposal in order to underline that it fully accepts that the procedural and other arrangements for the opening plenary must be to the satisfaction of the participants. The proposed Independent Chairmen have also authorised the Government to make clear that they recognise that the ultimate authority in these and all other matters in these negotiations rests in the participants.
4. The Government therefore proposes that the 11 June meeting should consider the following proposal for the day's business:
 1. Appointment to chairmanships of Senator Mitchell (Plenary), General de Chastelain (Strand 2 and Business Committee) and Mr Holkeri (Alternate Chairman).

2. Introductory remarks by Chairman.
3. Participants to make formal declaration making clear their total and absolute commitment to International Body's principles of democracy and non-violence.
4. Public statement on behalf of all participants recording total and absolute commitment to principles.
5. Appointment of committee of plenary.

5. At this point the proposed Procedural Guidelines would be remitted for consideration in the committee of plenary formed for the purpose, which may also address aspects of the agenda for the opening plenary set out in the "Scenario" paper. (That agenda had itself envisaged items concerning the agenda and procedural rules.) While the "Scenario" paper itself sets out the approach the two Governments propose, it is acknowledged that each of the participants will wish to argue their own point of view and that on this, as on other issues, the negotiations will need to proceed by consensus.

6. The Government would propose that, while the committee of plenary is deliberating, the plenary itself would move on to the opening statements by participants (item 6 on the proposed agenda). When that is concluded, the next item of business would be a report from the committee of plenary (to be submitted by lunchtime on Wednesday 19 June), which the plenary would consider with a view to reaching agreement on the procedural guidelines, the rest of the agenda for the opening plenary session, and any other outstanding points.