

NORTHERN IRELAND: HEADS OF AGREEMENT

- No change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland without the consent of the people of Northern Ireland;
- a Northern Ireland Assembly to administer the 6 Northern Ireland departments; elected by a system of proportional representation.
- Assembly to have administrative and, probably, legislative powers, extent of both to be defined;
- a Council of these islands, including the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland administration, and representatives of devolved institutions in England, Scotland and Wales;
- the Assembly and the Irish Government to appoint representatives to North-South cooperation structures [a North-South Cooperation Council] with significant purposes and powers on issues of mutual interest, exercisable only if both the Assembly and Irish Government representatives agree;
- Standing Intergovernmental machinery (between the Irish and British Governments) to discuss and resolve issues of mutual practical interest, including in relation to Northern Ireland but not limited to that;
- Constitutional change, based on commitment to the consent principle and including changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution (the territorial claim) and to British legislation as necessary;
- provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland and address equality and justice issues.