

16. All participants in the negotiations will take part in good faith, seriously address all aspects of the agreed agenda, and make every effort to reach agreement. They will maintain confidentiality on all aspects of the negotiations except where they may from time to time agree to publicity.

17. If, during the negotiations, any party demonstrably dishonoured its commitment to the principles of democracy and non-violence set out in the report of the International Body by, for example, resorting to force or threatening the use of force to influence the course or the outcome of the negotiations, or failing to oppose the efforts of others to do so, it would no longer be entitled to participate in the negotiations.

Format 18. Negotiations will address all three interlocking sets of relationships as a totality. Negotiations in each of the three interlocking strands will open on the same day and will proceed in parallel. However, unless otherwise agreed by the Business Committee, negotiating sessions in different strands, or within strands, will not be held simultaneously, to allow participants, if they so wish, the option of fielding the same negotiating team throughout the negotiations.

19. Negotiations on Strand One issues will involve the British Government and the political parties:

- negotiations will take place on the basis of an agreed agenda and in appropriate formations as agreed by the participants;
- formal meetings will be chaired by the British Government operating procedural rules, agreed by the participants;
- the Irish Government will be kept informed of the progress achieved in Strand One through liaison arrangements agreed between the two Governments following consultation with the parties.

20. Negotiations on Strand Two issues will involve both the British and Irish Governments and the political parties:

- negotiations will take place on the basis of an agreed agenda and in appropriate formations as agreed by the participants;
- formal meetings will be chaired by an independent Chairperson operating procedural rules, agreed by the participants.

21. Negotiations on Strand Three issues will be between the two Governments. However, with a view to providing a meaningful role for the political parties, the two Governments will, during the course of their negotiations:

- ensure regular meetings at which the political parties will be briefed and, as appropriate, consulted on progress in the negotiations, and at which they would be able to put forward their views on Strand Three issues under discussion;
- meet the political parties at their request for further discussion of Strand Three issues.

The outcome of Strand Three will be considered by all the participants alongside the outcome of the other two strands.

22. In addition to plenary sessions of the negotiations, some practical arrangements will be needed for liaison between the different elements of these complex negotiations. While the management of each strand is for its participants, a Business Committee composed of representatives of the two Governments and of the political parties, chaired by the independent Chairperson of Strand Two or, otherwise, by any person agreed by the participants, will be established to coordinate the progress and the procedures of the negotiations. The Business Committee would not deal with the substance of the negotiations but would address unresolved procedural issues. It could also determine the modalities for dealing with any issue which does not fall exclusively within any of the three strands.