

## FINAL DECISION MAKING

The Forum has decided that its final report will include recommendations through the following procedure:

- The Forum will discuss the proposals emanating from the Working Groups as distilled into the Chair's proposals.
- At all times the Forum will strive for consensus on each proposal.
- Where consensus is not reached, it will strive for the highest level of support.
- Where consensus is not possible, alternative proposals will be discussed where presented by a Forum member in advance in writing by 5pm Thursday, 27 March.
- Where consensus is still not possible, there will be no voting for inclusion or exclusion of the final form of proposals.
- All proposals will be recorded, in final form, with the rationale for inclusion.
- Attached to each proposal will be a record of those in support, those who reserve their position or abstain, and those who are not in support. Where an alternative proposal has been presented, parties and sectors may indicate their preference between the proposals and both proposals will be included in the report. Parties or sectors not in support of a proposal are encouraged to supply brief text clarifying their position for inclusion in the report by 5pm Friday, 28 March.
- There will be no commentary about the level of support or dissent attaching to a proposal (i.e. there will be no references to majorities or 'most of the Forum').

It was further agreed that

- a) the process of striving for consensus will be genuine and will not be allowed to lead to acceptance of the lowest common denominator or to the diminution of international standards
- b) given that votes are not now for inclusion or exclusion, one party member can speak for the entire delegation and
- c) if a member of civic society is unable to attend a specific meeting, he or she can submit in writing that sector's position on a proposal discussed at that meeting, by a specified deadline, for inclusion in the final report.