

Consensus Decision-making Process

#1
Introduce and clarify the proposal to be decided



#2
Everyone explores the proposal and looks for ideas



#3
Identify unsatisfied concerns



#4
Collaboratively discuss and modify the proposal



#5
Test for full agreement



#6
Implement the decision



Definition:

Consensus means that everyone in the group has contributed to and can agree with a final decision. "Consensus decision-making" is a unique relationship-building process that a group goes through that seeks: widespread or full agreement, thinks of the good of the whole group, in which all participants are respected and their contributions are welcome, everyone contributes to shaping a proposal and the needs of all are included.

Description:

Consensus decision-making is a group decision-making process, a way of reaching agreement between all members of a group.

Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, a group using consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with. This ensures that all opinions, ideas and concerns are taken into account.

Through listening closely to each other, the group aims to come up with proposals that work for everyone.

By definition, in consensus no decision is made against the will of an individual or a minority.

If significant concerns remain unresolved...the whole group has to work hard at finding solutions that address everyone's concerns rather than ignoring or overruling minority opinions.