



## Advantages of consensus:

1. It requires sharing of information, which leads to mutual education, which, in turn provides the basis for crafting workable and acceptable alternatives.
2. It promotes joint thinking of a diverse group, which leads to creative solutions.
3. Because parties participate in the deliberation, they understand the reasoning behind the chosen solution and are willing to support its implementation.



## The principles of consensus:

A number of essential principles underlie the practice of consensus and contribute to its success.

- To achieve consensus, everyone in the group must actively participate.
- To participate fully and freely, all group members must have a common base of information and keep up to date on the progress of the group.
- The group must create and maintain an atmosphere in which everyone feels free to state his or her views and to disagree.



## The principles of consensus: (continued...)

- Disagreements should be respected; they can illuminate unrecognized problems and serve as a catalyst for improving the decision.
- When someone objects or disagrees, the goal of the group is to discover the unmet need that has produced the objection and to find a way to meet that need in a revised agreement, rather than to suppress the objection.