



## MCAN Decision-making Process

We use a *consent* model to reach our decisions as a Coalition. Below is an outline of our consent decision making process. To make a Coalition-wide decision, two-thirds of member organizations eligible to participate in decision making must be present.

1. Proposal Forming
  - a. What is the issue? Outline its dimensions.
  - b. What elements do we have to consider to make this policy/ decision?
2. Proposal Shaping
  - a. Do a Round (each Member speaks in turn)
    - i. Opinions: what should we do to cover the dimensions identified above?
  - b. Organize these ideas/opinions and see if all the dimensions have been covered.
3. Consent Process
  - a. Present the proposal (write it out).
  - b. Work the proposal
    - i. Clarify any questions on it (using the Round process).
    - ii. Reactions - offer friendly Amendments.
    - iii. Consent Round
      1. "I object" Express what your concerns are and offer an Amendment to meet that concern.
        - a. After any new Amendment start another Round
      2. "I consent" expresses a Preference or a Range of tolerance
    - iv. Announce decision

### Note: Dealing with Objections

- Seek understanding
- Amend proposal - measure concerns
- Refer the proposal elsewhere - like a Focus Group to work on it
- If relevant, specify a period of time in which the decision will be tried out before it is reviewed/revisited. Sometimes objections can be addressed with a short trial period – is the decision good enough for now and safe enough to try?