

2-4-8 Negotiation & Consensus Building Exercise

“Creating Common Agendas”

The example and Facilitation Plan below is using the theme “Decentralization and Local Governance—National Perspective Context and Challenges”

Objective: To contribute to the shared information in our program, and further the dialogue and work toward consensus related to local governance and decentralization in the country.

Timing	Process	Content	Anticipated Response	Preparation/ Materials
5 min	Orientation/ Clarification	<p>Introduce the objective and structure of the activity: The objective is as above and we will be identifying the issues that the participants consider relevant and important to Local Governance and Decentralization in the country.</p> <p>The question to be considered is: <i>What are 4 key issues confronting local governance and decentralization in your country?</i></p> <p>Let the group know that each member will have an opportunity to answer this first for themselves and then with others in the group in a structured format. Each person will meet with a constantly increasing number of other participants finally arriving at 4 issues that all members of the group consider important.</p> <p>Overall instructions: On a single piece of paper, list your 4 answers to the question. Answers should be formed as words or brief phrases that make the point, no more than 4 words/phrases. You have 5 minutes to make your list. Once you have done this you will be given further instructions.</p>		<p>Questions on flipchart.</p> <p>At least 6 colors of paper for each phase of the activity.</p> <p>Dots for Dotmocracy activity</p>

Timing	Process	Content	Anticipated Response	Preparation/ Materials
40 min	Experience	<p>1. Individually answer the question putting your 4 answers on a piece of paper (Blue). 5-10 min.</p> <p>2. With your answers, get together with one other person (from another organization) and share your key issues. After sharing your issues and understanding what each means, you are asked to create a new list of 4 key issues from both your lists.</p> <p><i>Rules: You must use the same words, not create new combined versions. So generally you are choosing from the 8 words/phrases a list of 4 that you can both agree are most important among the 8. (we were not strict on this)</i></p> <p>3. Put your new list of 4 on a new piece of paper. (Yellow) 5-10 min.</p> <p>4. Next, you and your partner are asked to find another pair and repeat the process. You bring your new list of 4 key agreed issues and they bring theirs. Your job is to share both lists, make sure you understand each issue, and then create a new list of 4 from your 8 that all 4 of you can agree are most important. You will put your new list on a new sheet of paper. (White) 10 min</p> <p>5. Next, your group of 4 will meet with another group of 4 to create a new list of the top 4 from your group of 8 people. Remember to share both lists and discuss, make sure you understand what is meant by each word/phase and take from the list 4 that you all agree are most important. (Pink) 15 min</p>		

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		<p>6. Last round, if needed: Your group of 8 will meet with another group of 8 for the last round. (orange) 15 min</p> <p>Groups present their final lists and as a plenary, we will make sure we understand the issues by checking for clarity and repetition among the issues on the lists. Then, we will create a final list of the 4-6 key issues on a flipchart by using a Dotmocracy for last round. Participants will choose the 3 most relevant issues from the list for their project. Facilitators collect dots with letters of selected issues, post them, and add up the totals to get an idea where the most relevant issues to their project. Choose the top 4-6. 15 min.</p>		
10 min	Reflection	<p>Discussion in large group: What was this experience like for you—from the time you identified your first 4 through the discussions with increasing larger groups. Which experience did you find easiest? Which the most difficult? Why?</p>		
10 min	Generalization	<p>Discussion: From this experience, what can be learned about the process of identifying the issues related to local governance and decentralization? What can we learn about involving increasing larger numbers of people?</p>		
10 min	Application	<p>How can/should we use this information in developing a program strategy for the country?</p>		