

Good decisions need several things

If the actions described in Strategy Notes 287 and 288 don't result in reasonably easy agreement, then help people get what they need for making more difficult decisions:

- Accurate, comprehensive, relevant information, especially the information desired by the people in the discussion.
- Ability to participate fully using their favorite language and their amount of literacy.
- Time to discuss the information well in order to understand it.
- Time to offer, to hear others offer, and to discuss questions, ideas, arguments, and proposals.
- Time to think alone about the topics.
- Time to trade equal listening time with a trusted peer to think aloud about the topic with those thoughts kept confidential.
- When opposing opinions exist, a clear and respectful debate.

The more of these things available, the more democratic the discussion possible. Good discussions of big topics can require time, especially when they include many people.

Some union constitutions require making decisions by using Robert's Rules of Order. Those rules have some democratic measures but seek a mere majority-rule version of democracy. We often can make Robert's Rules a bit more democratic by first having discussions as described in these last few Strategy Notes.

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