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Consensus on Reforms:
evolving content through participatory process

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Power Sector Reforms and Privatisation
A High Level Policy Seminar for the South Asia Region
Organised by The World Bank Institute and Others

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Consensus on Reforms:
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- Building consensus around a model or Building a model through consensus?
- Who are the stake-holders being considered?

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What is needed for consensus?

- Open participatory process of decision
- Information about crisis, options, and their implications
- Confidence in the process and lead actors

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What really happens?

- Process
- Information
- Language
- Confidence - historical factors

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Example of Electricity 2000 Bill

- Three drafts in circulation
- Aims of Act not included with draft Act
- Envisaged structure of sector not articulated
- Options assessment not carried out
- Need for drastic action not justified

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Example of California Process

- Problem definition, possible directions Public
- Blue book: Preferred direction Public
- Procedural planning - involving stake-holders
- Presentation of proposed decision Public
- Decision + road map for transition
(Process took only 3 years)

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Conclusion

- Participatory decision process
- Sharing of information and analysis
- Confidence building measures
- Separation of “Urgent” from “Fundamental”