



# WS149: Finding ways to build confidence in stakeholder legitimacy

IGF 2016

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Workshop Room 7

# What is legitimacy?



Legitimacy can manifest through *input* legitimacy or *output* legitimacy.

- Input legitimacy refers to perceptions of a fair process:
  - the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders on equal footing
  - a shared understanding of the procedural rules
- Output legitimacy:
  - the quality of the output of a process ensures it is seen as legitimate among stakeholders, even if some stakeholders feel disenfranchised by the process

U Gasser, R Budish, S Myers West (2015) "Multistakeholder as Governance Groups: Observations from Case Studies",  
[http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2014/internet\\_governance](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2014/internet_governance)

# What is legitimacy?



“Legitimacy becomes most important when conflicts arise during the multistakeholder process. In these instances, the groups had to assert stronger forms of legitimacy.

“Where there was broad approval of the process and its objectives, “lighter” forms of legitimacy tended to be more accepted.”

U Gasser, R Budish, S Myers West (2015) “Multistakeholder as Governance Groups: Observations from Case Studies”, [http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2014/internet\\_governance](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2014/internet_governance)

# Changes in Internet governance landscape over the years



- Originally:
  - Small groups of individuals well-known to each other
  - Fairly uniform culture amongst participants
  - A culture of volunteerism
- Now:
  - Many processes, many issues, many people who don't know each other
  - Wide range of highly diverse positions and needs
  - Increasing professionalisation in participation



# So what now?

- Diverse positions & needs, more participants  
→ harder to establish informal trust networks that drove early Internet processes.
- Multistakeholder model is about ensuring the Internet isn't dominated or captured by any particular actor.
- Trust in stakeholders/actor actions and intentions → sense that their input is “legitimate” → coordinated output is “legitimate”

# Topic groups for today



1. Is there a need to prove the legitimacy of stakeholder groups and their members, and if so, what are ways that legitimacy can be established?
2. Stakeholder groups and their configurations
3. Levels of stakeholder representation  
(individuals through to aggregated groupings)
4. How do stakeholders manage the participation of entities or individuals that are not deemed to have a high level of legitimacy in a process?