### ICANN LEGITIMACY

#### INITIAL FINDINGS OF LEVELS AND PATTERNS

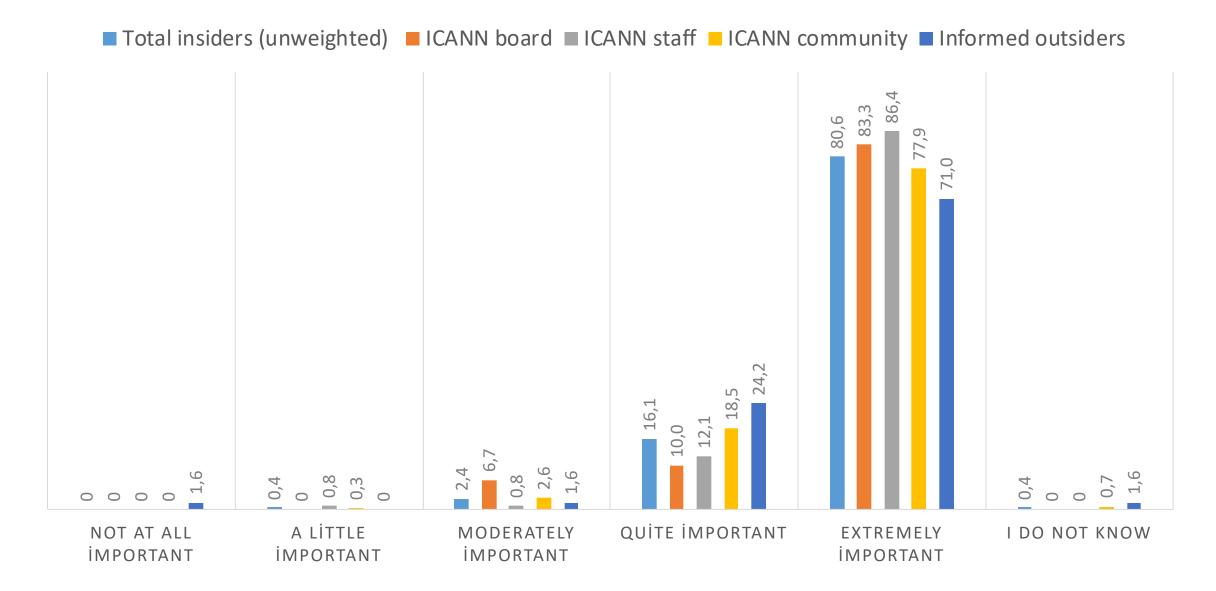
Presentation for GAC 4 November 2019

Hortense Jongen and Jan Aart Scholte University of Gothenburg

### PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1. intro to the study (academic & independent)
- 2. ICANN's legitimacy: the outside picture
- 3. ICANN's legitimacy: the inside picture
- 4. what your constituency finds most/least important at ICANN
- 5. what your constituency thinks ICANN achieves most/least

### LEGITIMACY IS IMPORTANT: YOU THINK SO



### **OUR EVIDENCE BASE**

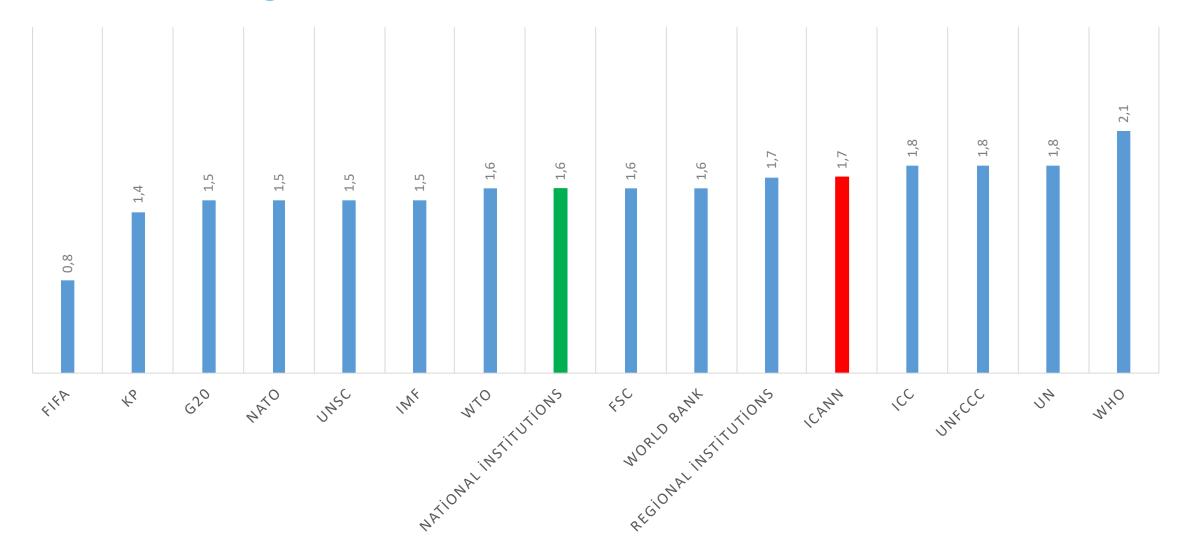
#### 'Insiders'

- ICANN board (30, response rate 100%)
- ICANN community (305, response rate 41.2%)
- ICANN staff/org (132, response rate 72.5%)

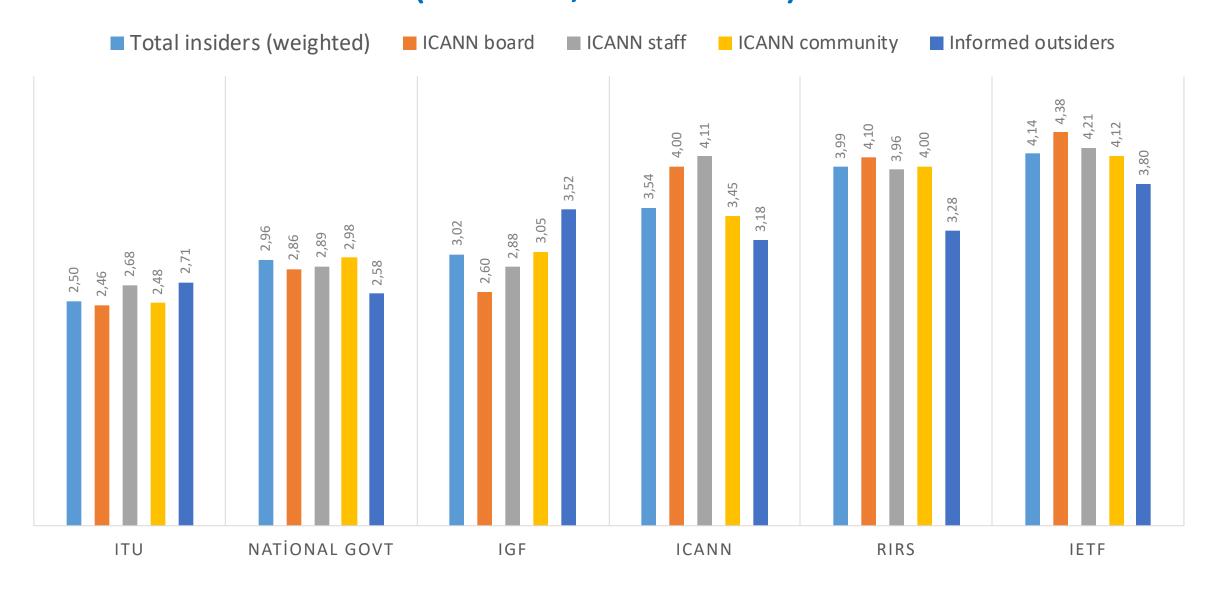
#### 'Outsiders'

- non-ICANN Internet governance (62, response rate 34.4%)
- general elites around the world (860, response rate 31.8%)
- no public opinion survey (awareness of ICANN too low)

# Confidence in Global Governance Institutions among General Elites (Means, 0-3 scale)

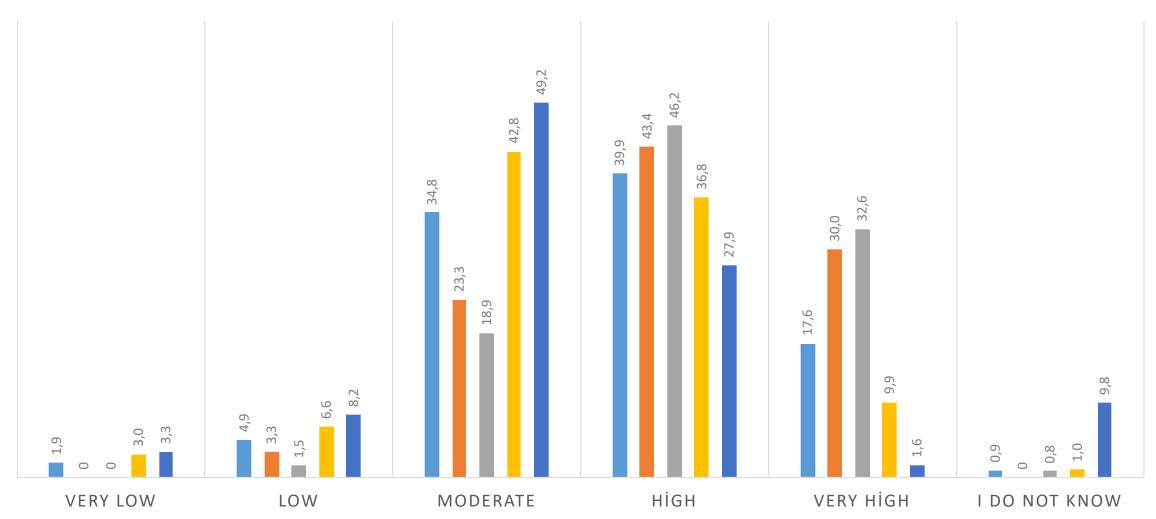


## Confidence in Various Internet Governance Organizations (Means, 1-5 scale)

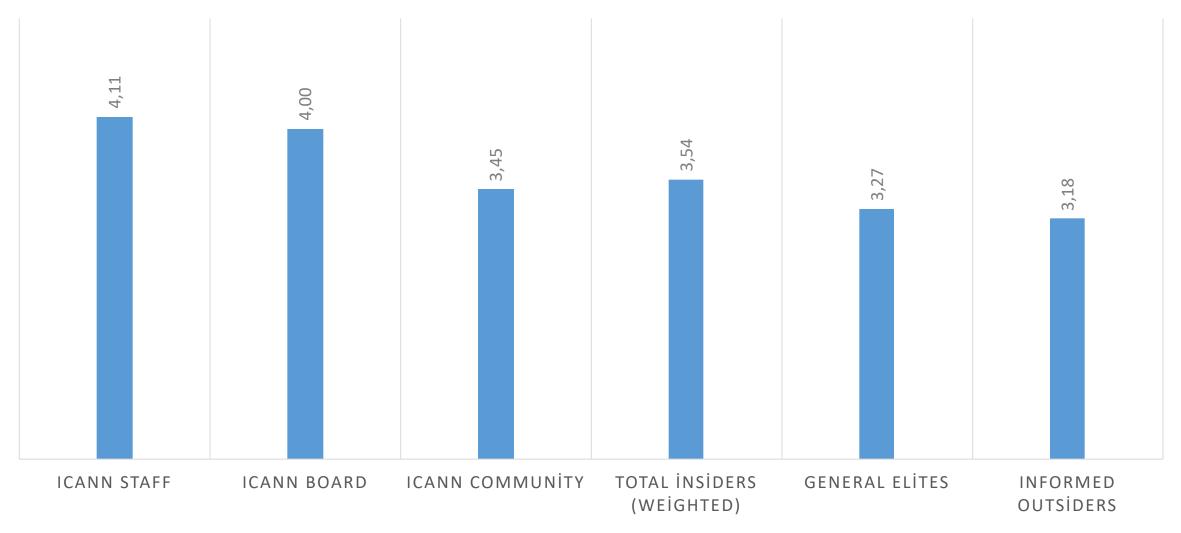


### Confidence in ICANN Overall (in %; N=527)

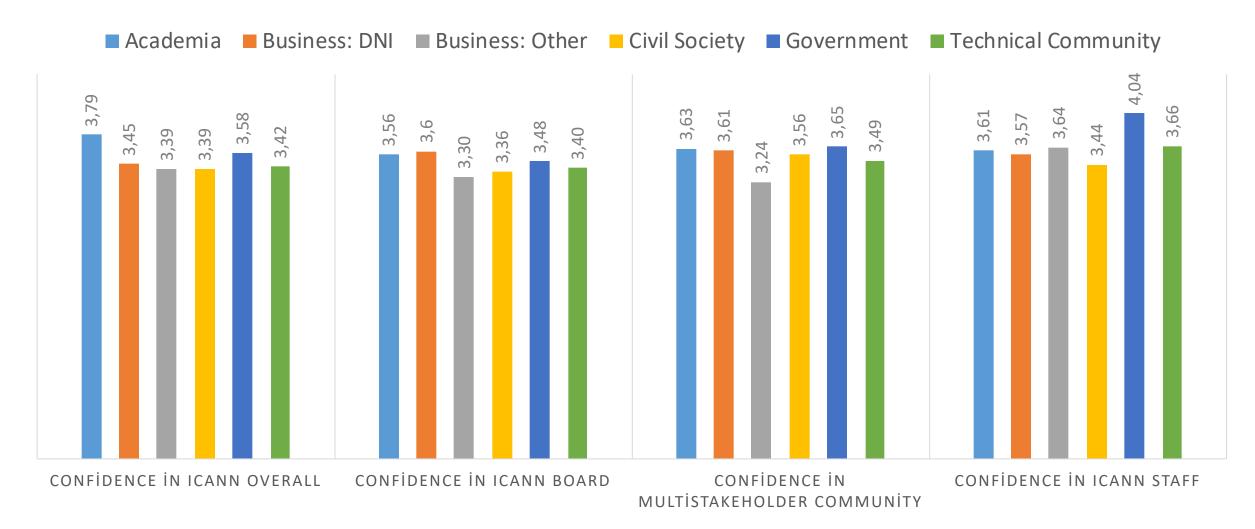
■ Total insiders (unweighted) ■ ICANN board ■ ICANN staff ■ ICANN community ■ Informed outsiders



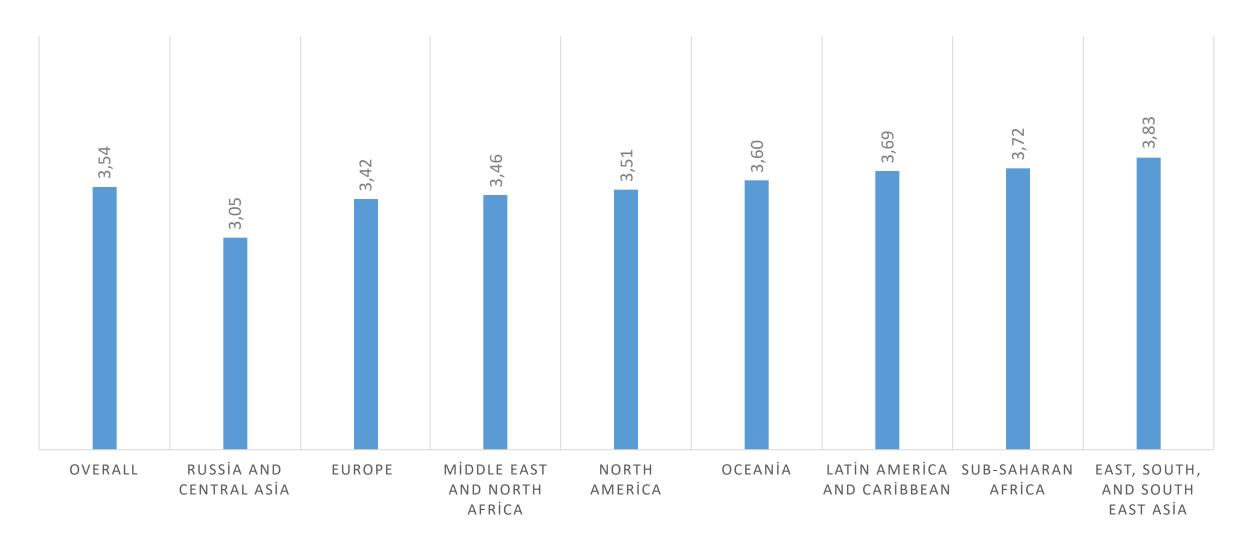
# Confidence in ICANN Overall (Means, 1-5 scale; N=527)



# Confidence in ICANN by Stakeholder Group (Means, 1-5 scale)



# Confidence in ICANN by Region (Means, 1-5 scale)



### Confidence in ICANN by Social Group

- almost no variation in average confidence by gender: 3.56
  for men and 3.48 for women
- little variation by age group, with 0.25 separating the highest (3.66 for 51-60 band) from the lowest (3.41 for under 30s)
- native English speakers give lower average confidence (3.43)
  than persons with medium-to-no English (3.53)
- The largest social group variation occurs by race, with lowest average among whites (3.44), middle for black/African descent (3.76) and highest average among Hispanics (4.05)

## WHAT PRINCIPLES YOUR CONSTITUENCY CARES ABOUT AT ICANN (MEANS, SCALE 1-5)

- 1. promote technical stability (4.98 overall 4.87)
- 2. transparency (4.90 compared with overall community average 4.86)
- 3. accountability (4.90 overall 4.64)
- 4. promote technical security (4.90 overall 4.75)
- 12. promote competition in the DNI (4.06 overall 3.84)
- 13. promote human rights in the DNS (3.92 overall 3.53)
- 14. promote human rights in ICANN operations (3.81 overall 3.74)
- 15. promote democratic values in wider society (3.51 overall 3.12)

# WHAT PRACTICES YOUR CONSTITUENCY RATES AT ICANN (MEANS, SCALE 1-5)

- 1. technical stability (4.49 compared with overall average 4.35)
- 2. technical security (4.34 overall 4.19)
- 3. takes decisions on best available expertise (4.08 overall 3.62)
- 4. opportunities for stakeholder participation (3.82 overall 3.82)
- 12. promotion of democracy in the DNS (3.32 overall 3.19)
- 13. promotion of human rights in ICANN operations (3.32 v. 3.15)
- 14. promotion of democratic values in wider society (3.12 overall 2.80)
- 15. promotion of fair distribution costs and benefits DNI (3.03 v. 2.86)

### **NEXT STEPS**

- This presentation has only covered descriptives: levels and patterns of legitimacy toward ICANN.
- Next we need to develop explanations: what makes the legitimacy beliefs have those levels and patterns?
- Drawing on these explanations we could think about what kinds of reforms could raise legitimacy beliefs higher.
- If interested we can report on these issues at ICANN67 Cancun.