

# Herding Schrödinger's Cats:

*Some conceptual tools for thinking about  
Internet governance*

Don MacLean

Independent Consultant

Ottawa, Canada

[donjmac@sympatico.ca](mailto:donjmac@sympatico.ca)

# The Internet Governance Challenge

- “Herding cats” = an impossible task
- “Schrödinger’s cat” = principles that work at the micro level do not necessarily work at the macro level
- “Herding Schrödinger’s cats” = achieving consensus between different players with conflicting views and no global framework is a challenge!

# Mandate of UN Secretary-General's Working Group on Internet Governance

*Inter alia,*

- develop a working definition of Internet governance
- identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance
- develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations
- prepare a report to WSIS Phase II

# The Internet Governance Challenge



# Outline of the Paper

- What are we talking about?
  - Internet
  - Governance
  - Internet + Governance = ?
- Internet governance issues and fora
  - What's there?
  - What's missing?
- Internet governance capacity (*alia*)
  - In international organizations
  - In developing countries and regions
- Conclusions

# Methodology

- Adapt and apply conceptual tools originally developed to:
  - analyze historical patterns and current trends in governance of global electronic networks
  - map international ICT issues and decision-making fora
  - evaluate developing country participation in international ICT decision-making

# Internet Governance – A Simple View

	Government	IGOs, IOs, & other Fora	Private Sector	Civil Society
Issue 1				
Issue 2				
Issue 3				
Issue n				

# Internet Governance According to WSIS: Not So Simple

## Internet Governance Institutional Framework

“The international (governance) of the Internet should be:

- multilateral
- transparent
- democratic
- with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations”

## Internet Governance Policy Framework

### Goals

- An equitable distribution of resources
- Facilitate access for all
- Ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, with multilingualism

### Roles

- States: public policy
- Private sector: technical & economic development
- Civil society: community development
- Intergovernmental orgs: facilitating coordination of public policy issues
- International orgs: development technical standards and relevant policies

## Information Society Governance Issues

- Partnership among all stakeholders
- Access to infrastructure and services
- Access to information and knowledge
- Capacity building
- Confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- Enabling environment
- Social and economic applications
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Freedom of communication media
- Ethical dimensions
- International and regional cooperation

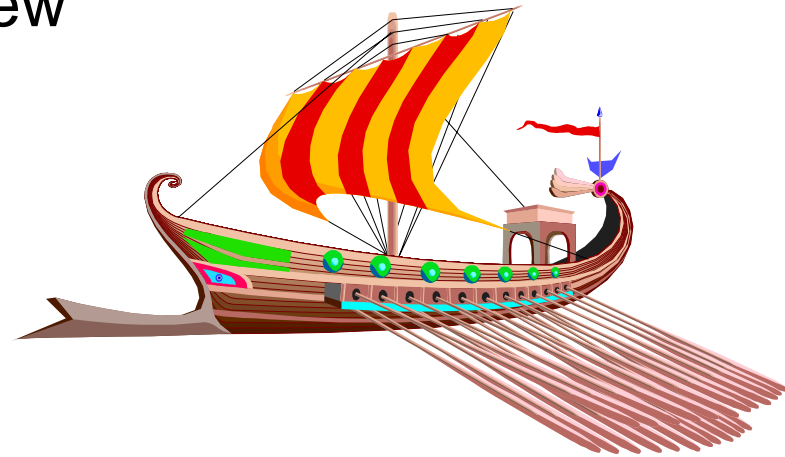


# Internet Governance – A Complex Challenge

- *What is the Internet?*
  - The “nethead” view
  - The telecoms/broadcasting/media view
  - The network transformation view

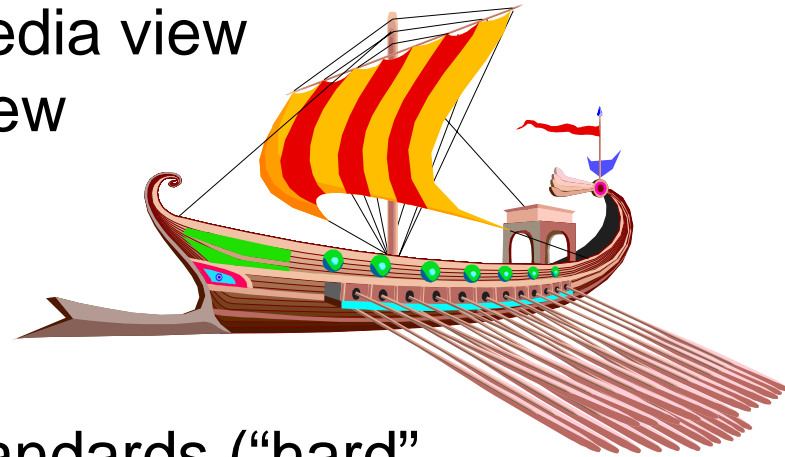
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# Internet Governance – A Complex Challenge

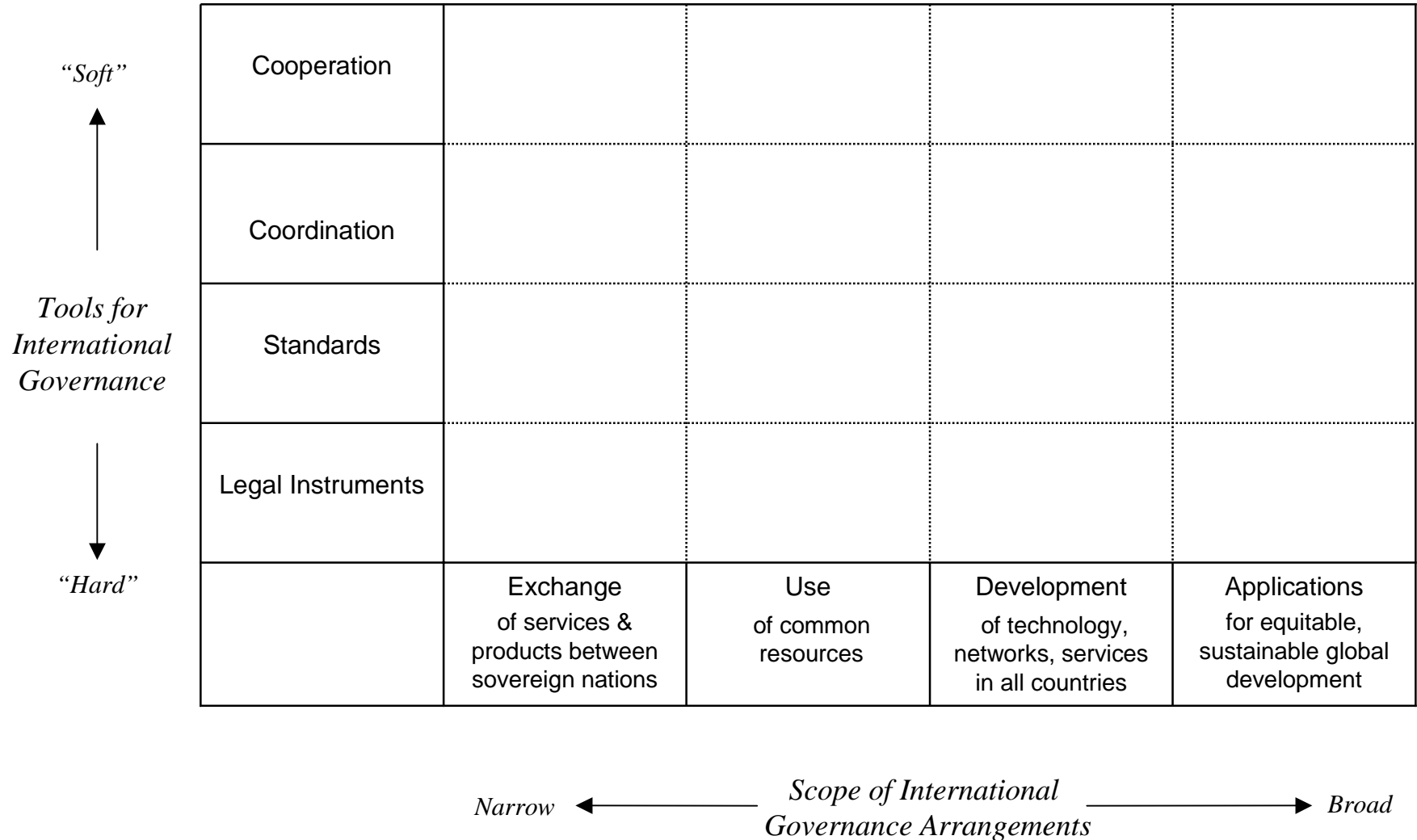
- *What is the Internet?*
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- *What is governance?*
  - “Steering, not rowing”
  - Only laws, regulations, and standards (“hard” governance)? Or policy coordination and cooperation too (“soft” governance)?
  - Only sector-specific measures? Or generally applicable measures too?



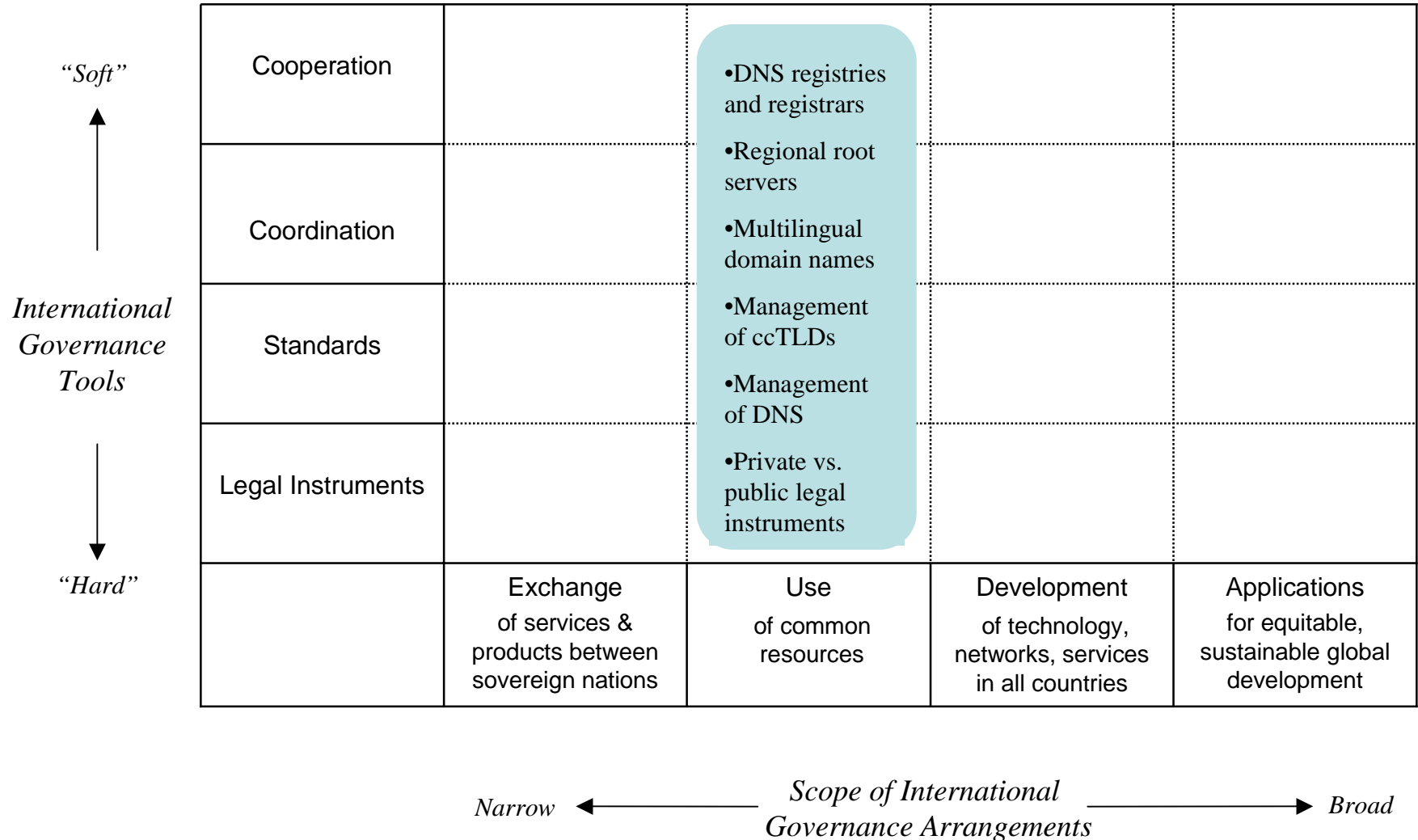
# Internet + Governance = ?

- Key to the success of the Secretary-General's working group
- Begin with a broad approach to mapping the terrain
  - Network transformation view
  - Hard and soft governance tools
  - Full range of issues
- Identify top priorities and focus efforts

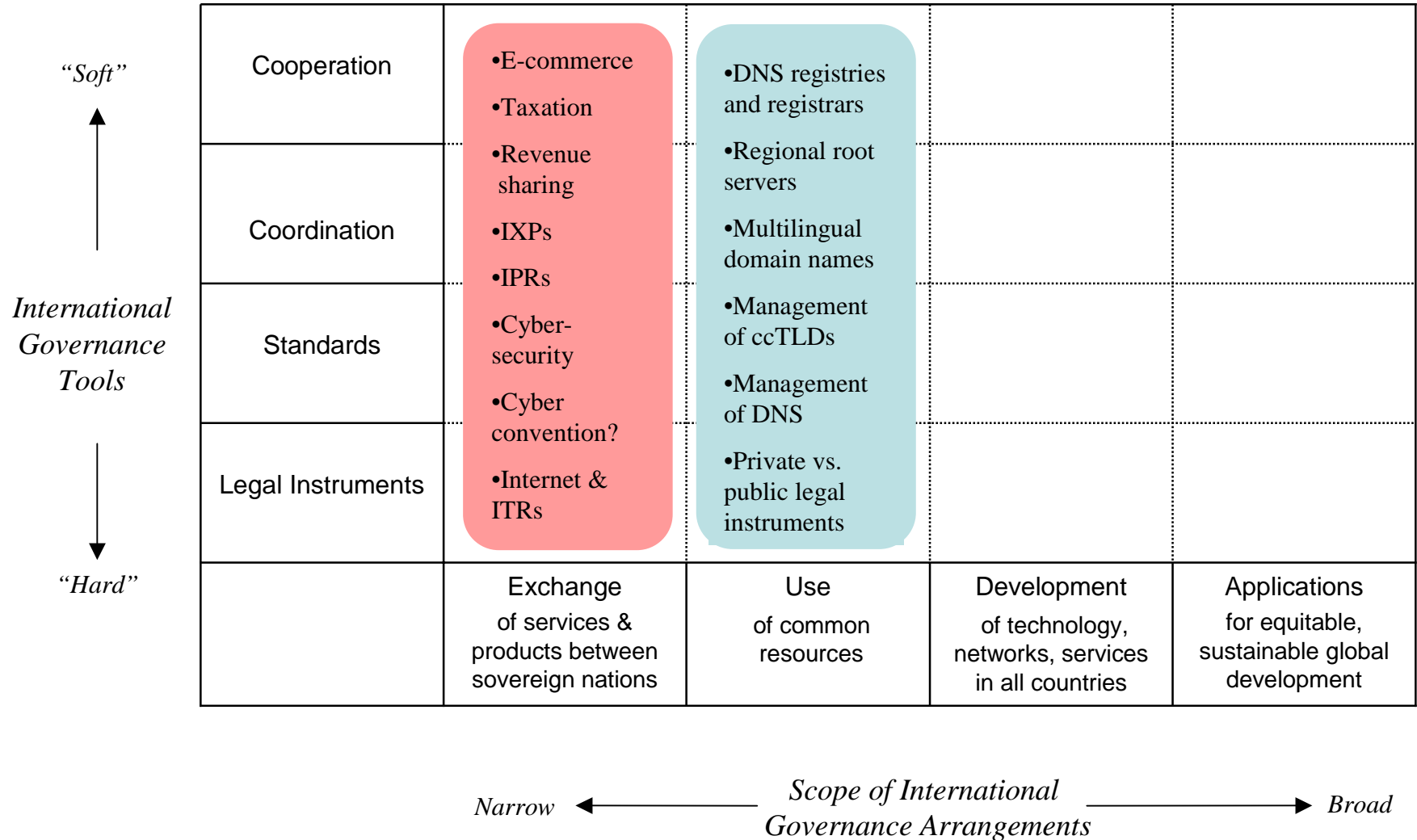
# Mapping International Internet Governance



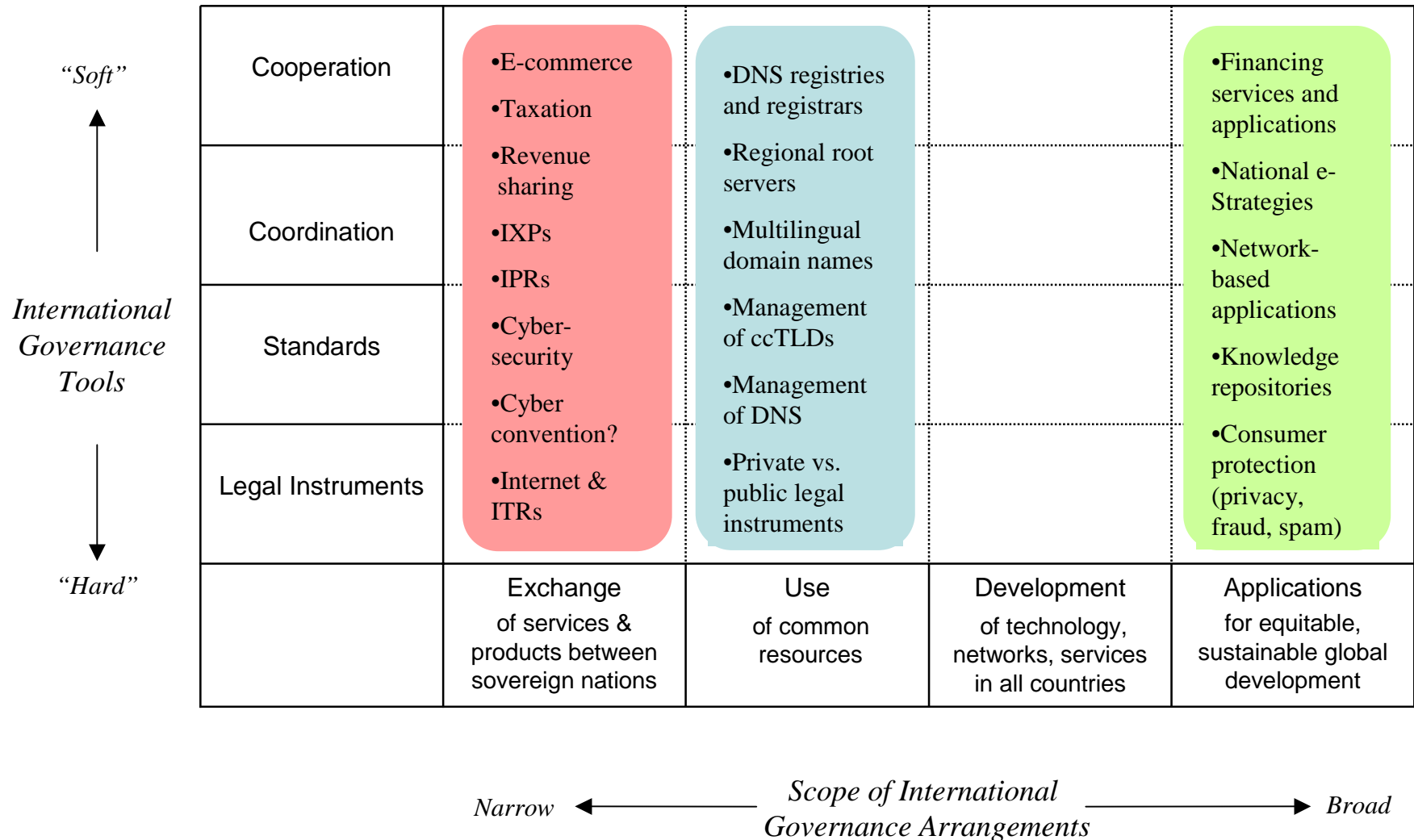
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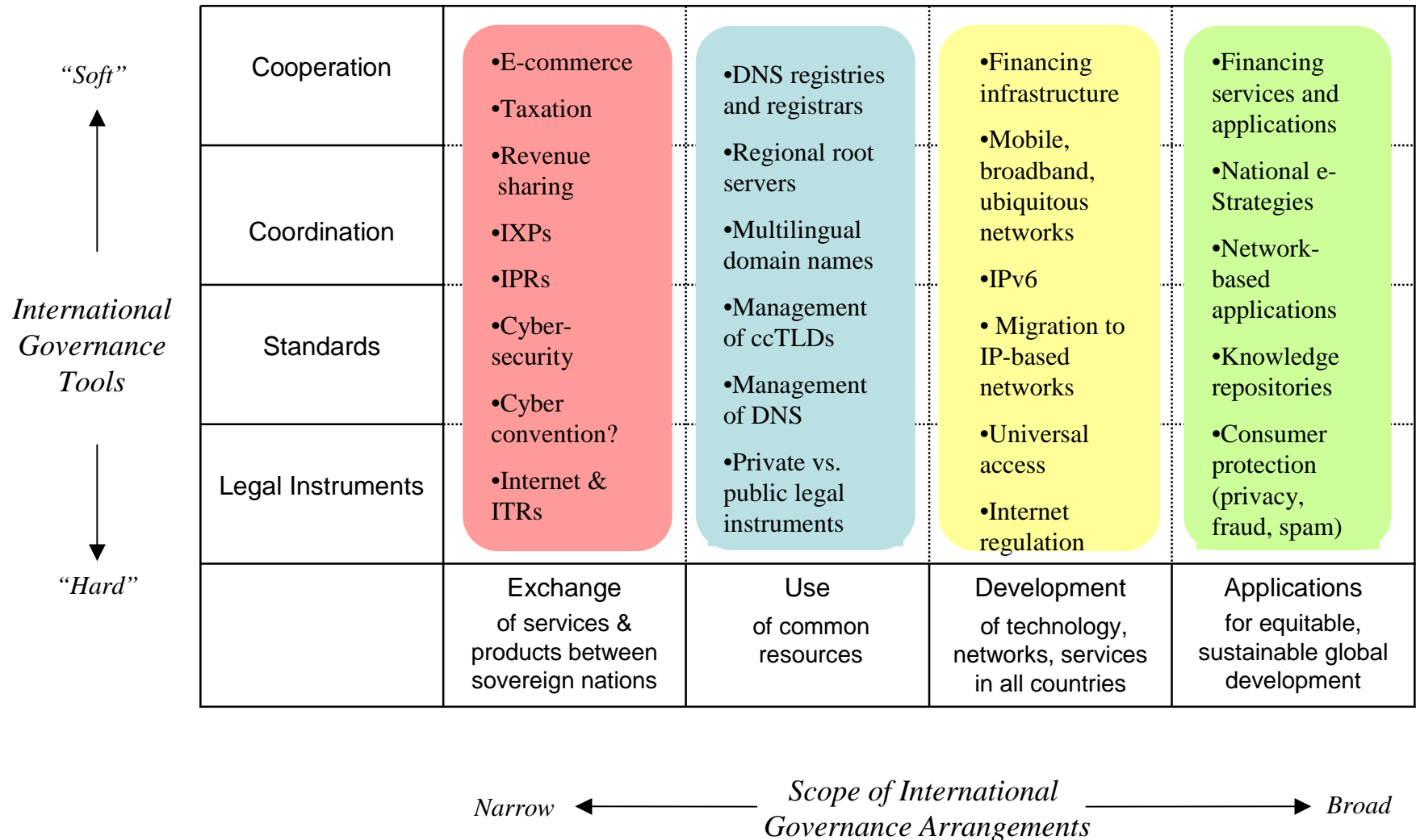


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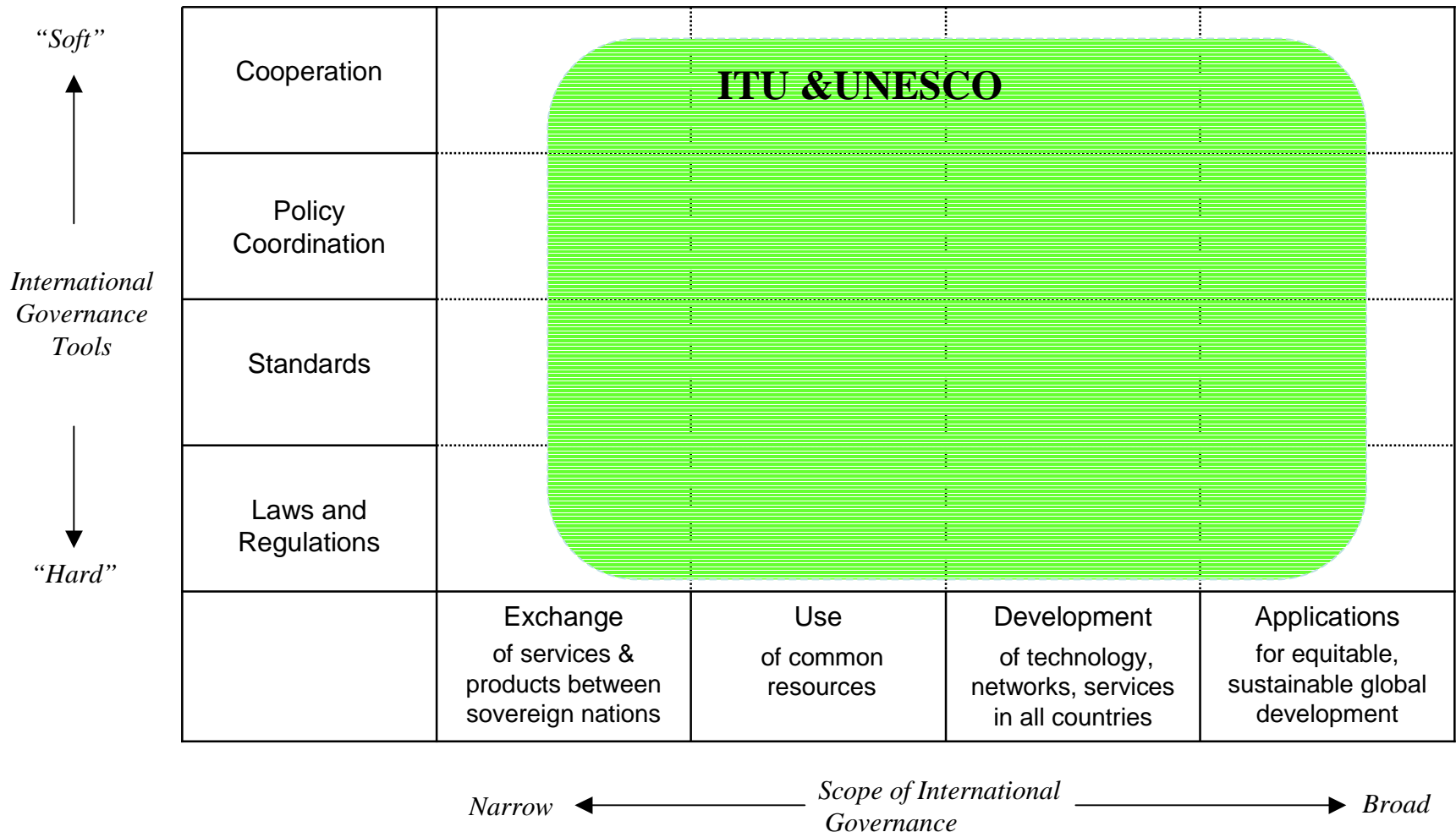




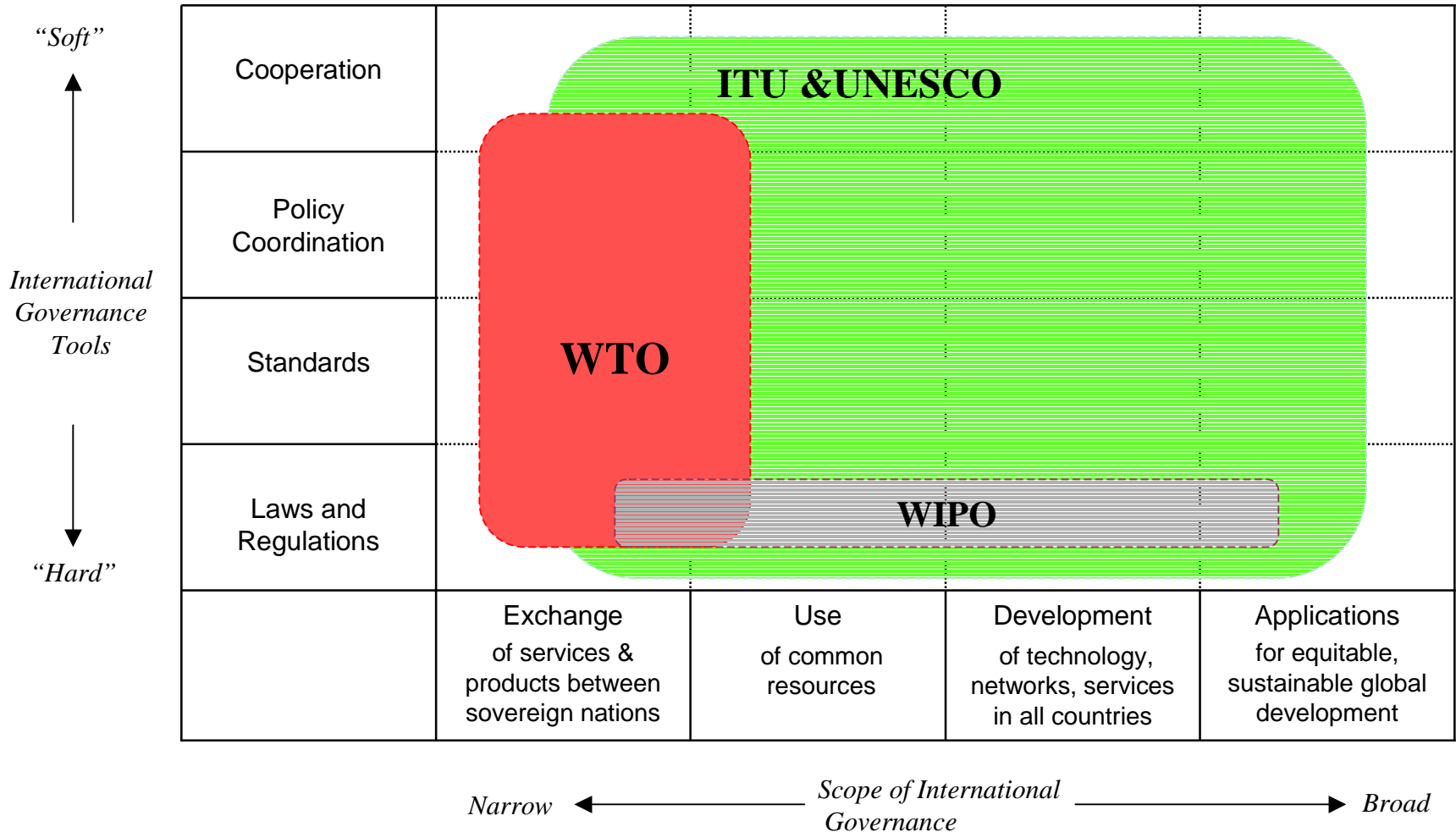
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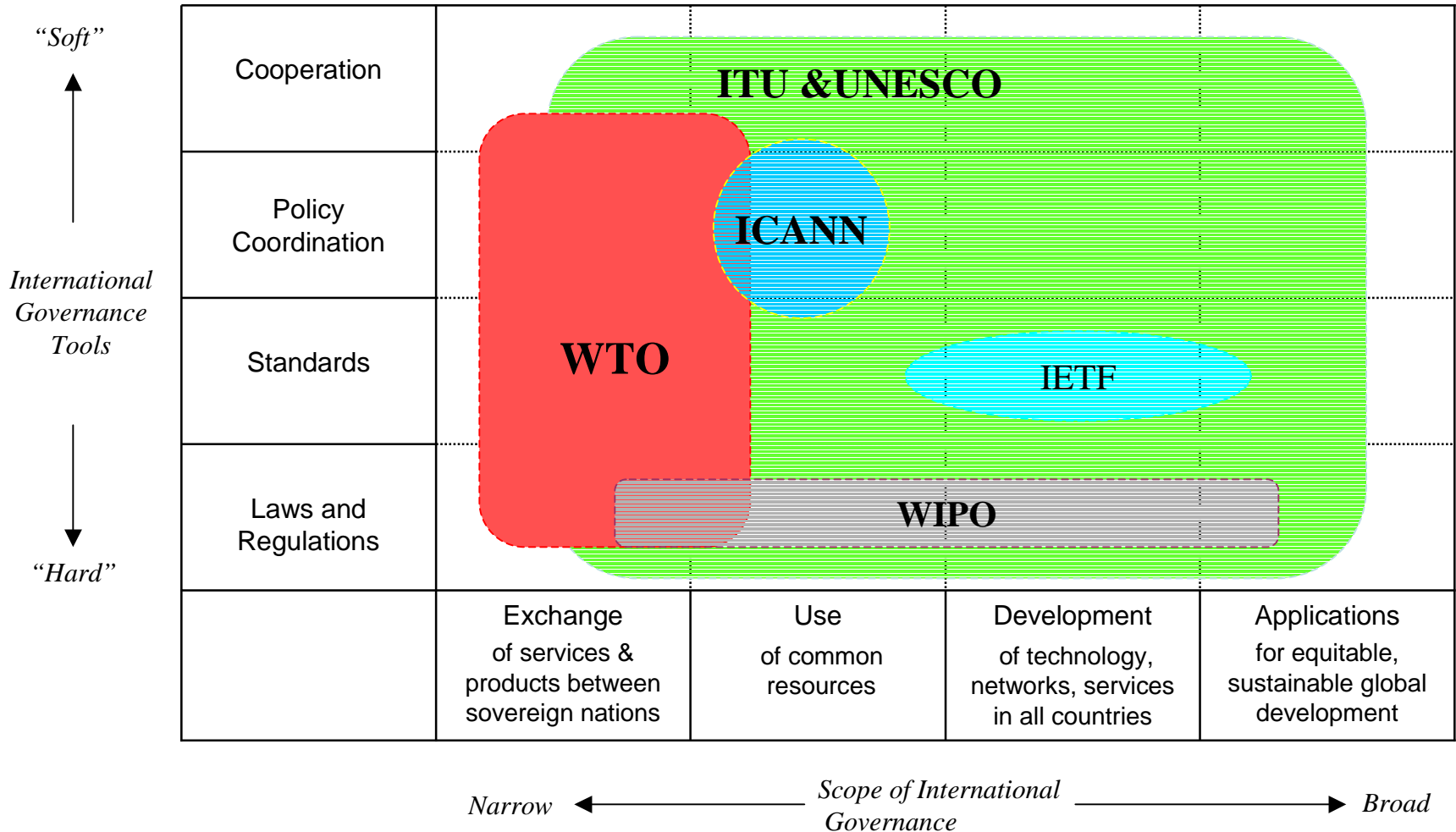
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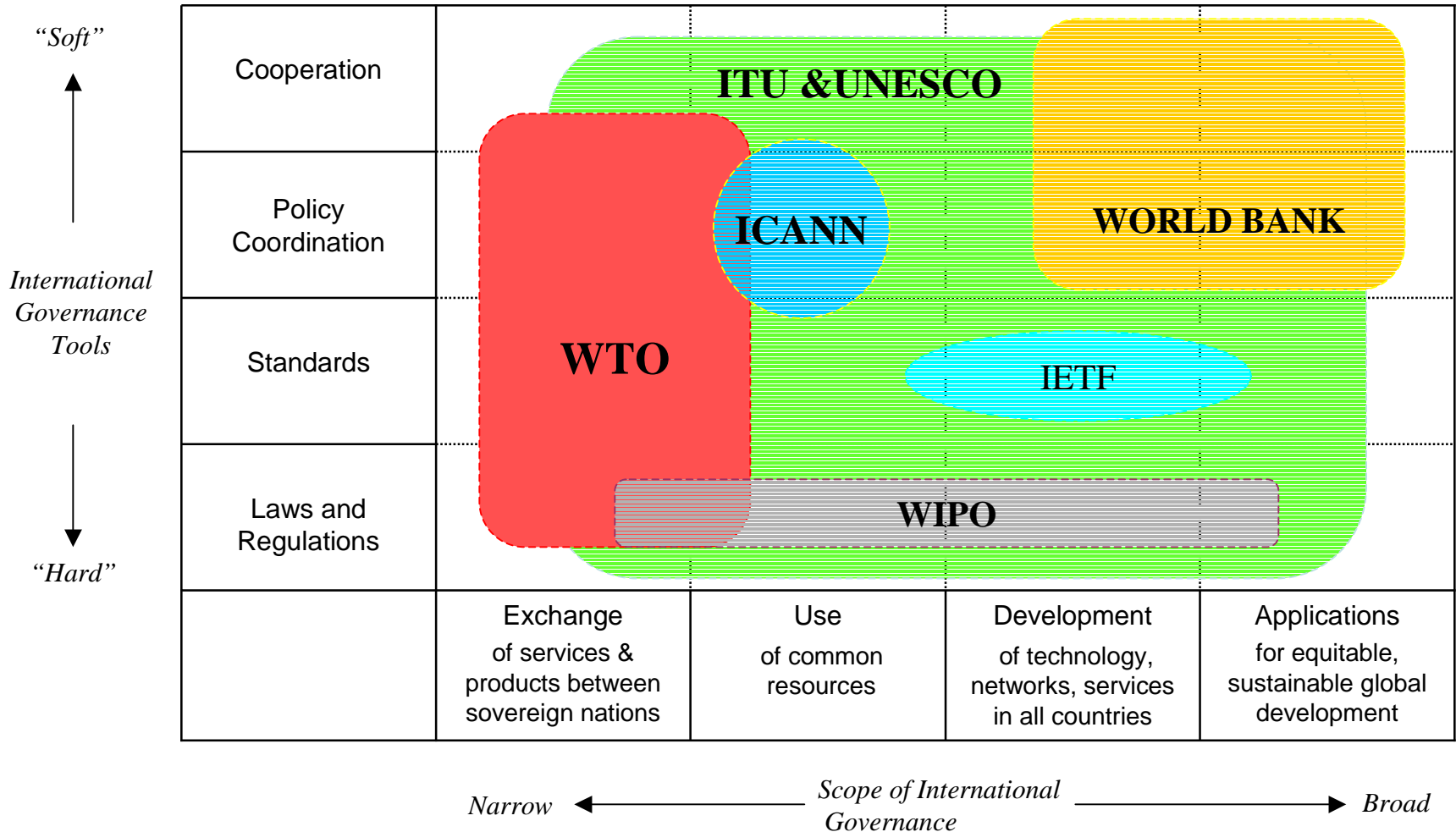
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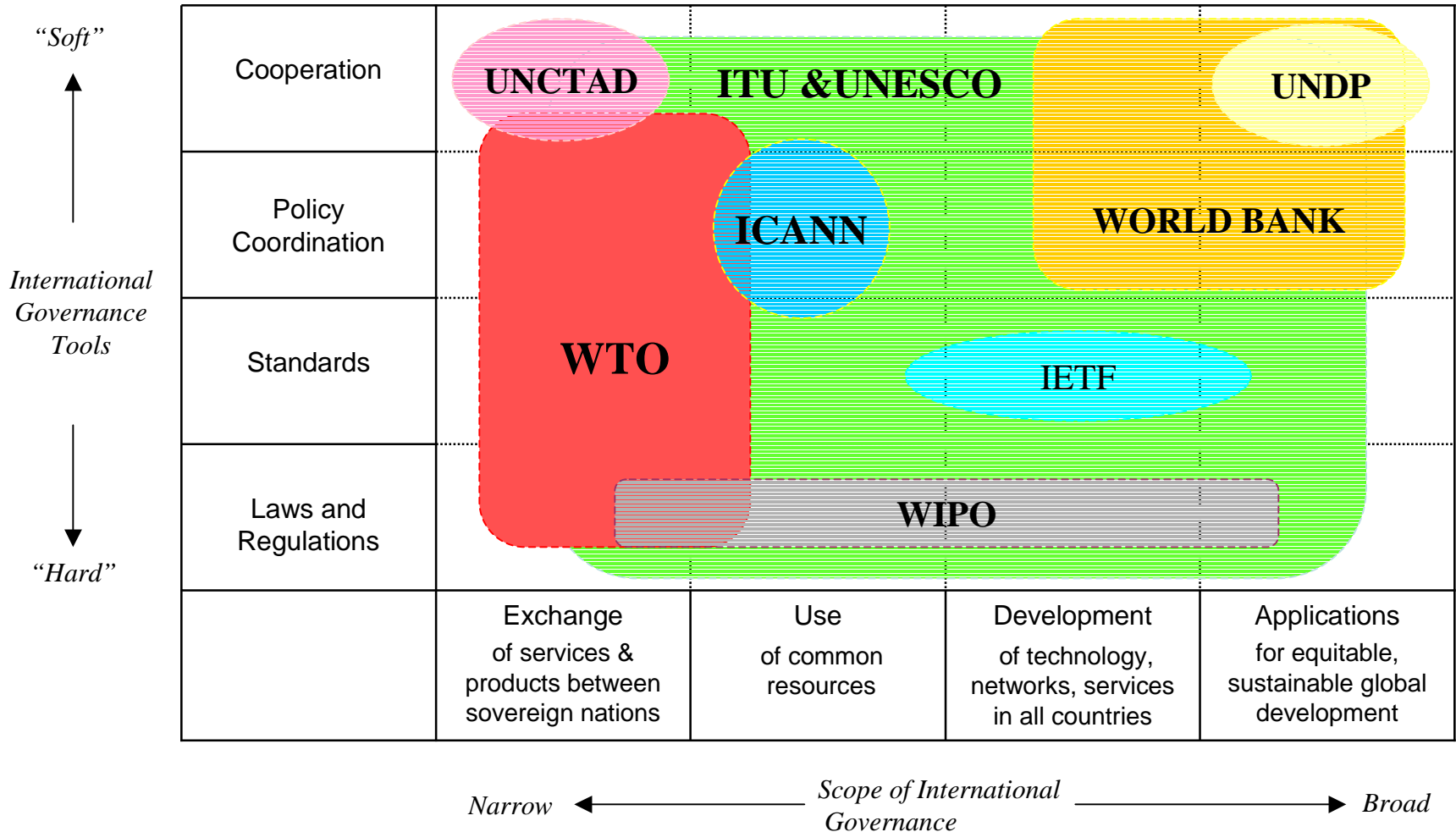
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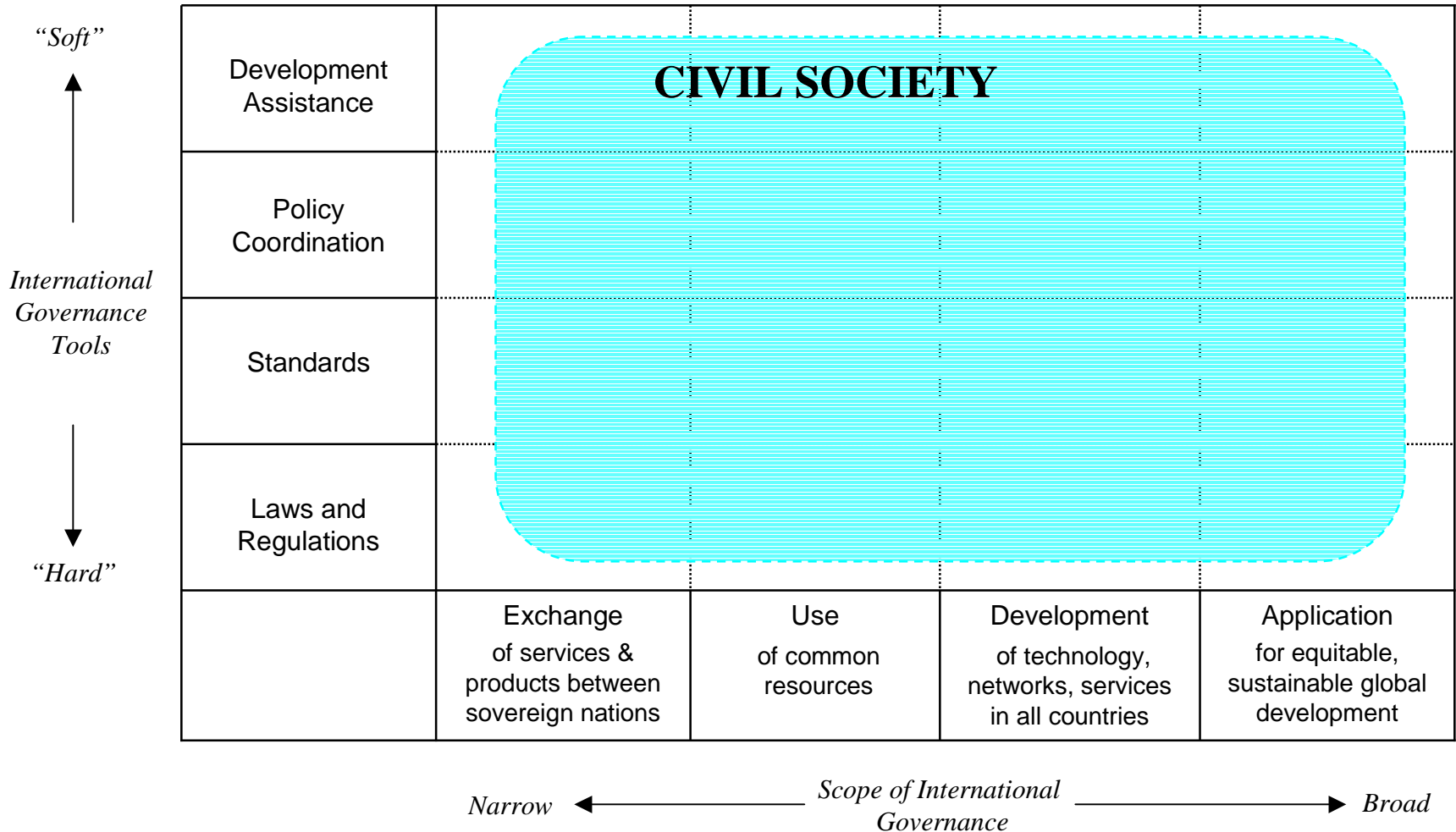
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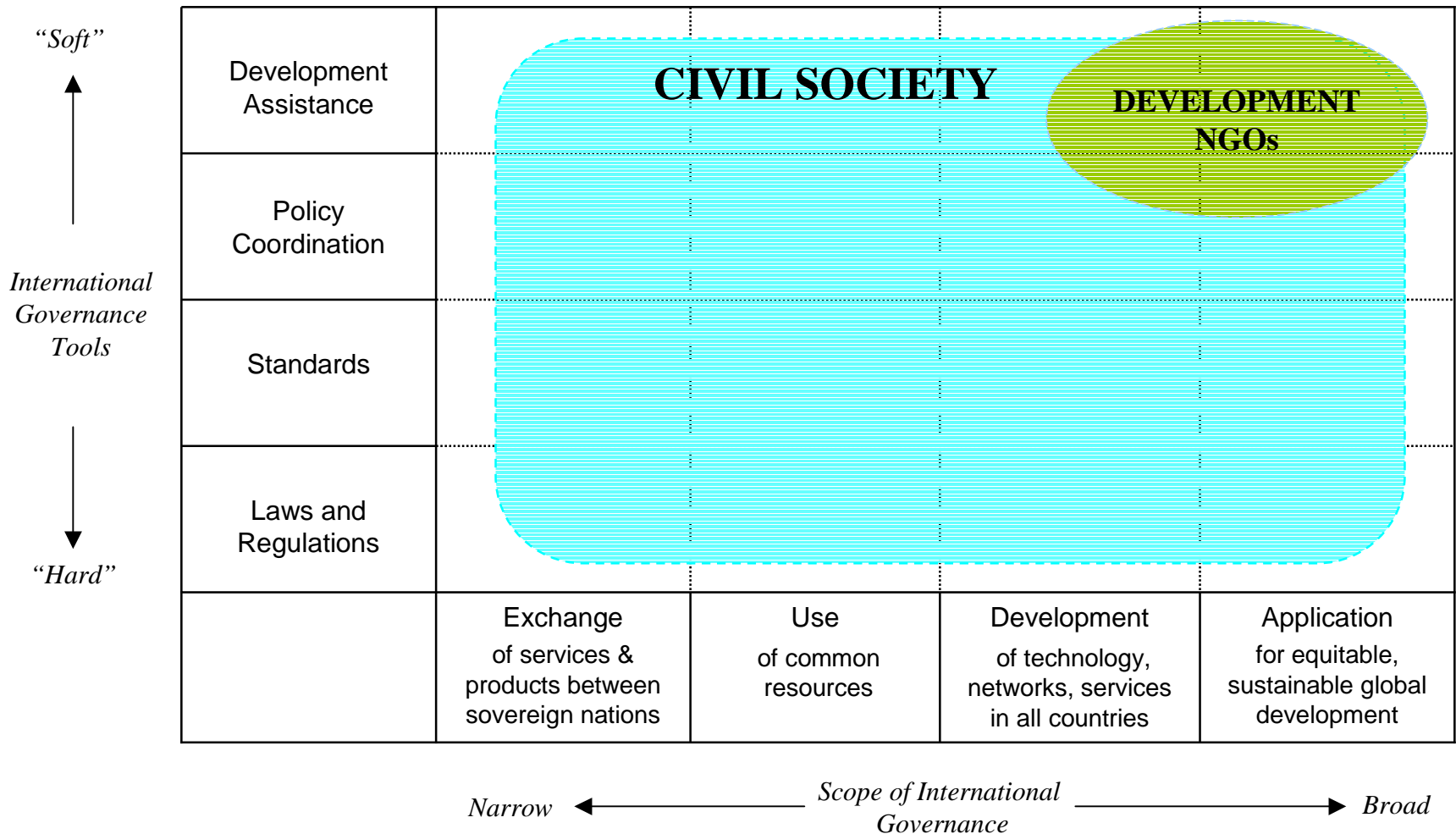
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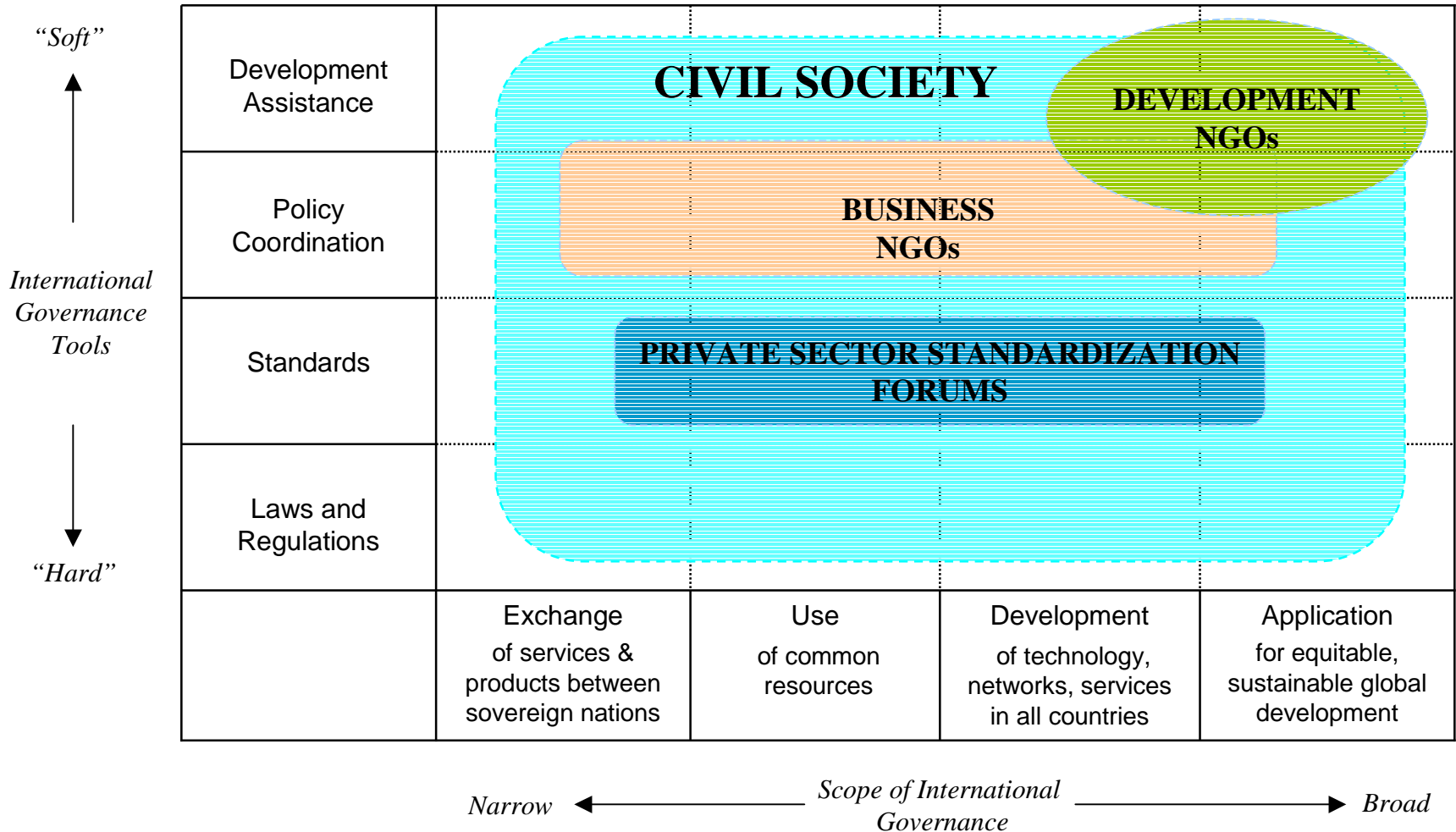


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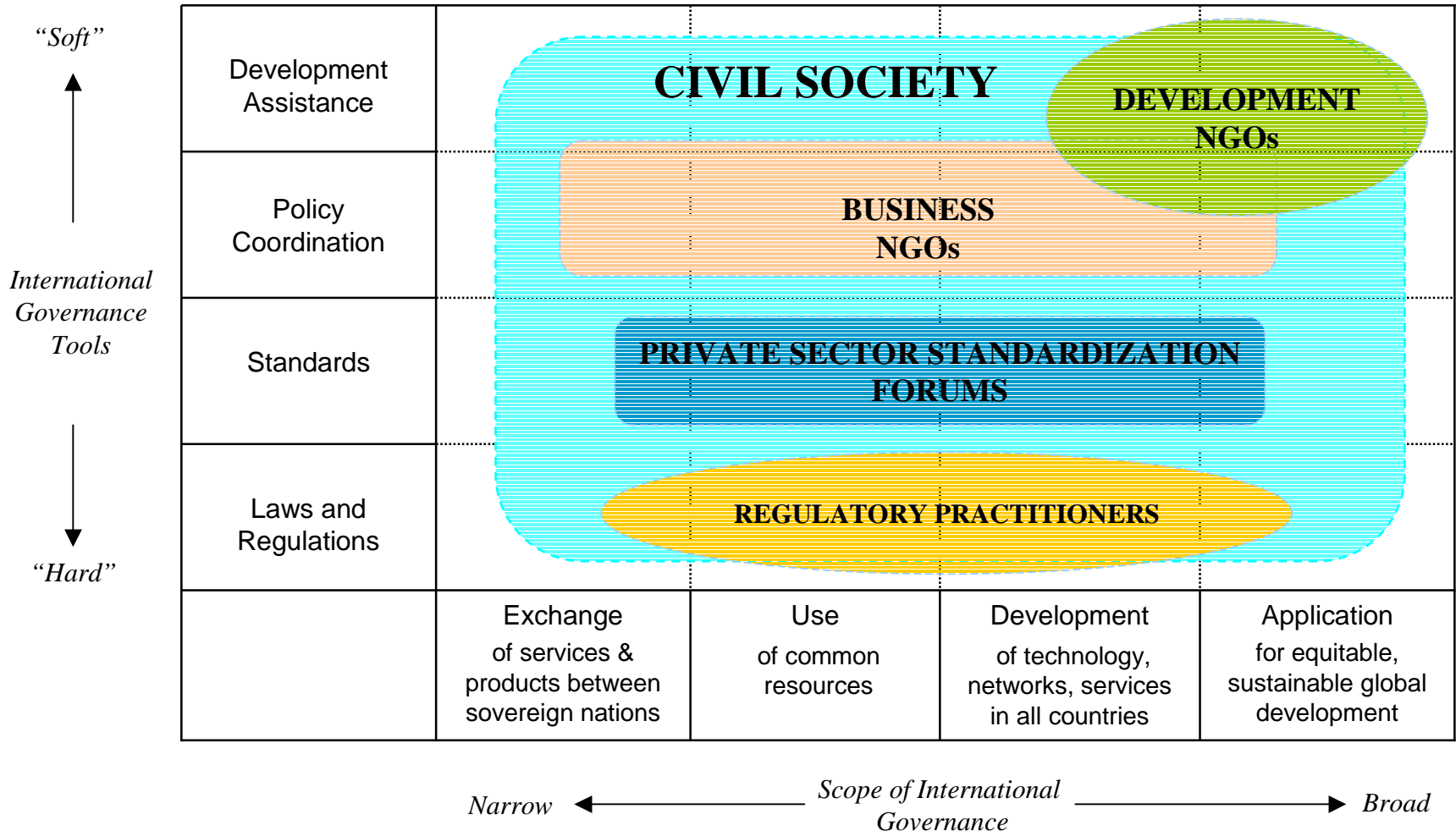




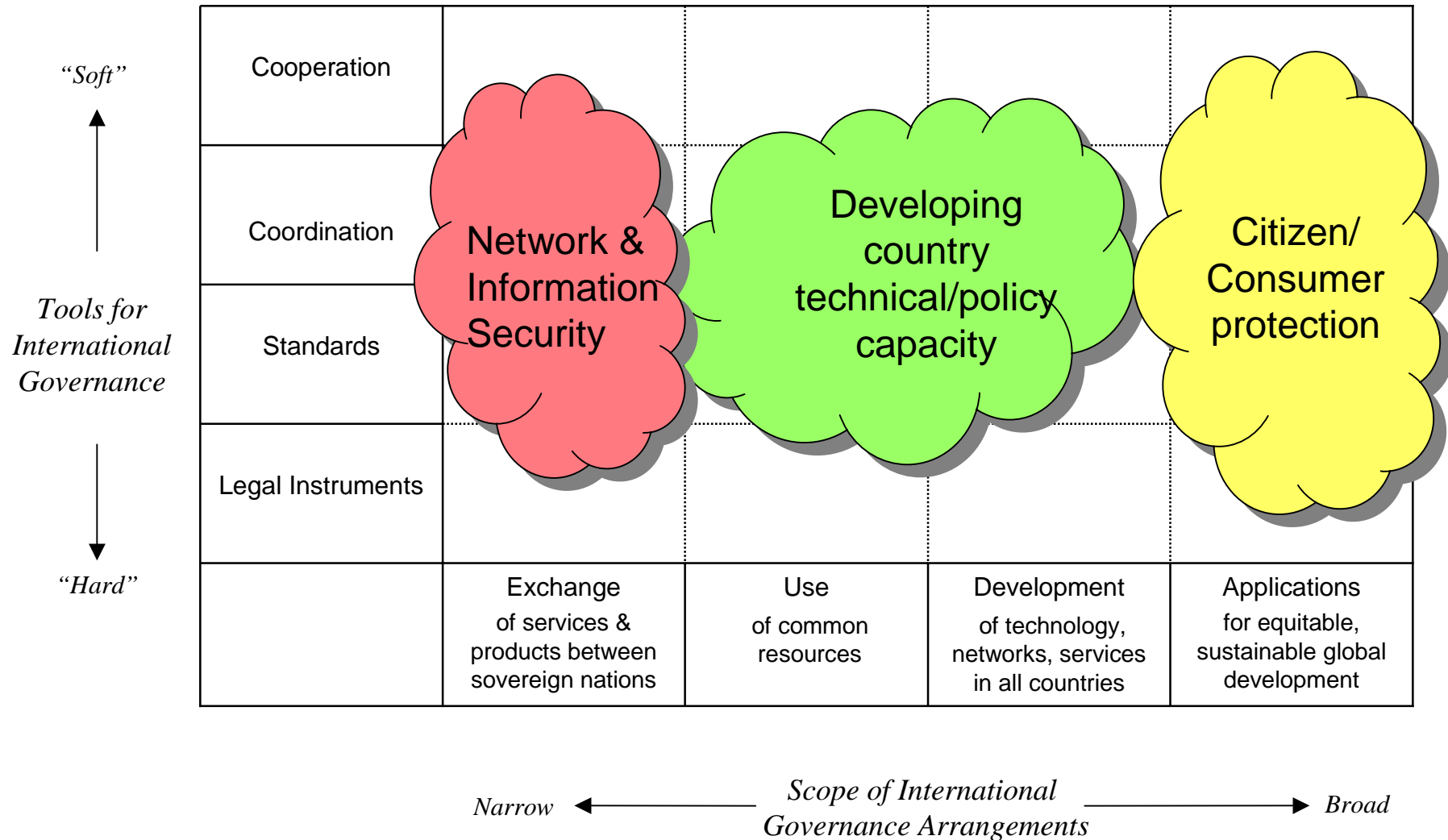
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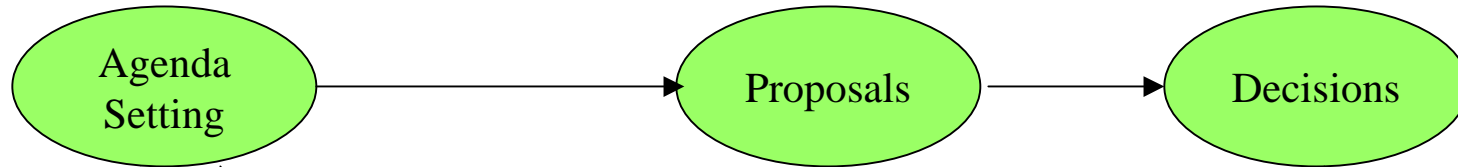


# Internet Governance Holes

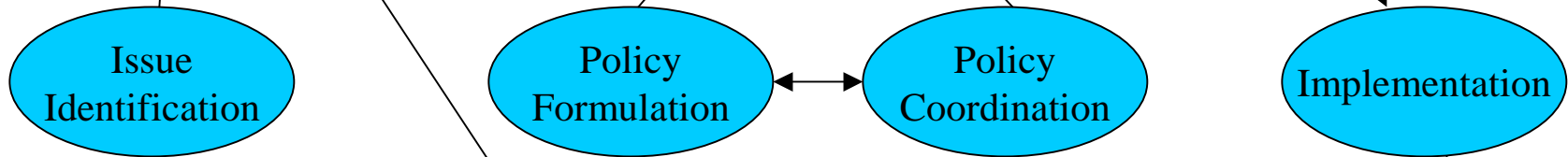


# The International ICT Governance Process

## INTERNATIONAL DECISION-MAKING



## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY FORMULATION



## DEEP POLICY STRUCTURES



# Obstacles to Inclusive Governance

- International level
  - Lack of easy, affordable and timely access to information
  - Structure, functioning and working methods of international fora
  - Ineffective use of financial resources available for participation
- National and regional level
  - Lack of awareness among decision-makers
  - Lack of technical and policy capacity on ICT issues
  - Weaknesses in national and regional ICT policy processes and institutions

# Conclusions

- The paper presents 9 conclusions. The most important are:
  - In designing governance arrangements, let “form follow function”
  - It is critically important to fill governance gaps in the areas of information and network security, and protection of citizen rights and consumer interests
  - Efforts to develop inclusive Internet governance arrangements will be ineffective unless parallel measures are taken to build capacity in developing countries, under “southern” leadership

# Herding Schrodinger's Cats

