The Accountable Net:
Peer Production of Governance

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First Things First

Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Thanks, Messrs. Shaw and Hill.

The contributions are impressive.

Attendance gives reason for hope.

The "risk" of a new voice.

The Public Policy Issue

Ensure public participation in any net governance scheme.

WSIS Docs

A critique: the individual is buried.

Governments, IGOs, private sector, civil society -- but not individuals.

Peer Production of Governance

Reset | default:

Where it can work, sovereigns defer to the Peer Production of Governance.

Second Choice

Otherwise, the sovereign should ensure meaningful public participation for people from all parts of the world.

1. Is Governance Needed?

The threshold question: is governance of this net issue necessary?

Of course governments (sovereigns) have a role to play in some cases.

2. Use Best Governance Mode.

Choose the most *wise, fair and effective* governance mode to address the problem.

(Some possibilities: benevolent dictator; representative democracy; or peer production of governance.)

3a. Principle: Public Participation

Ensure that whichever governance system is chosen is optimized to ensure meaningful public participation and recourse in the event of capture.

Peer production of governance is often best at ensuring public participation.

3b. Principle: Developing Countries

Ensure that whichever governance system is chosen is optimized to ensure meaningful public participation by individuals from developing countries.

Peer production of governance may be best at ensuring public participation in developing countries.

4. Defer to Peer Production.

In the context of accountable internet – in which individuals connect only with those who have shown they are worthy of trust – the peer production of governance can address some of the toughest internet governance problems (spam, spyware, certain security problems).

5. Sovereigns = Accountable, too.

The accountable net means not only that peers are accountable to one another, but that any sovereign is accountable to those by whom it been granted power to make and enforce rules.

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