

ICANN LEGITIMACY

INITIAL FINDINGS OF LEVELS AND PATTERNS

Presentation for ALAC

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. introduction to the study
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

AIMS OF OUR STUDY

1. How much legitimacy is there: to measure levels and variations of legitimacy beliefs toward ICANN
2. Where does legitimacy come from: to determine the drivers of legitimacy beliefs toward ICANN
3. How does legitimacy matter: to assess the consequences for ICANN of having or lacking legitimacy
4. The bigger picture: to consider implications for multistakeholder global governance more generally

LEGITIMACY: THE CONCEPT

- in academic language, the belief that a governor has rightful authority and exercises it appropriately
- more plainly, the belief and perception that ICANN has the right to rule
- legitimacy is about deeper confidence in and approval of a regime itself; thus more than mere 'support' for certain policies or people, but trust for an institution

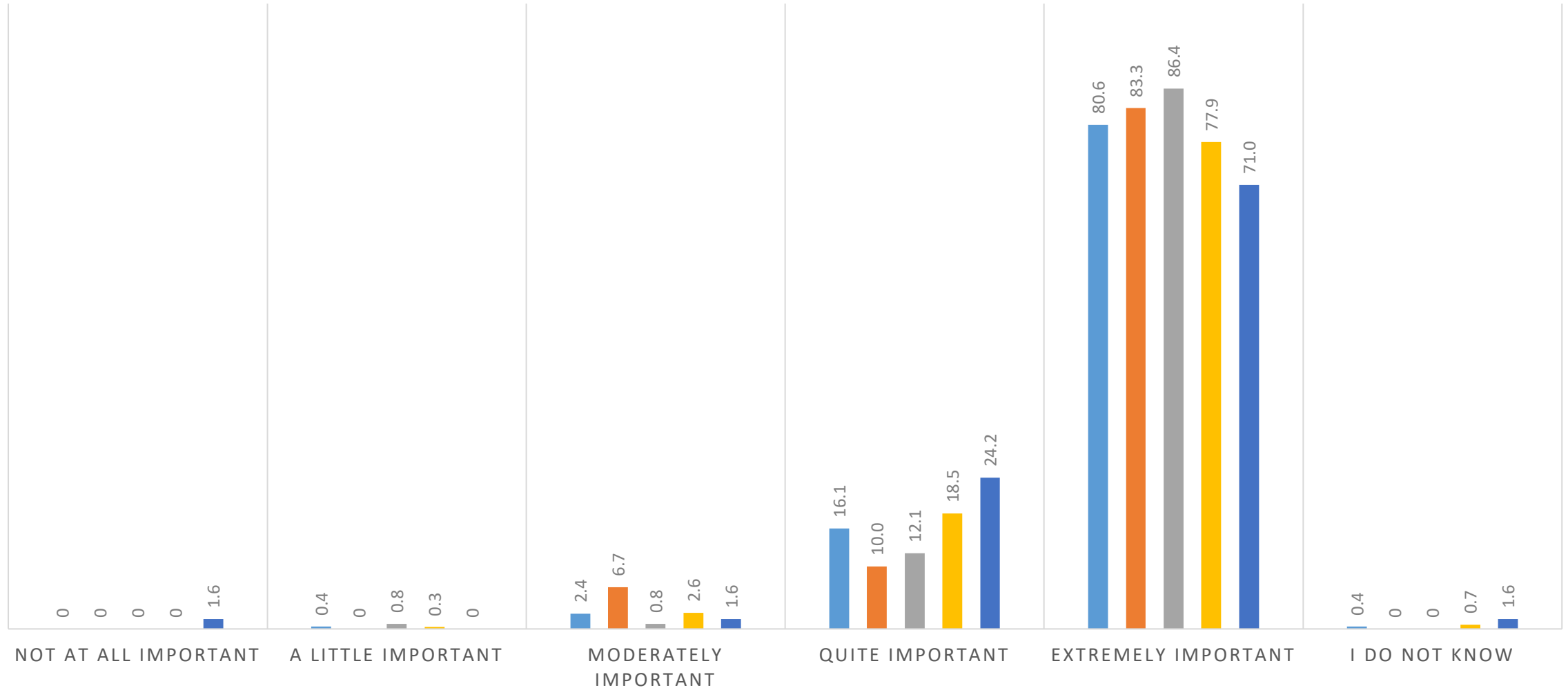
LEGITIMACY IS IMPORTANT: THEORY SAYS SO

Helps a governing institution to:

- secure its mandate
- obtain resources
- attract participation
- take decisions
- achieve compliance
- advance problem-solving
- hold off potential competitor institutions

LEGITIMACY IS IMPORTANT: YOU THINK SO

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



OUR EVIDENCE BASE

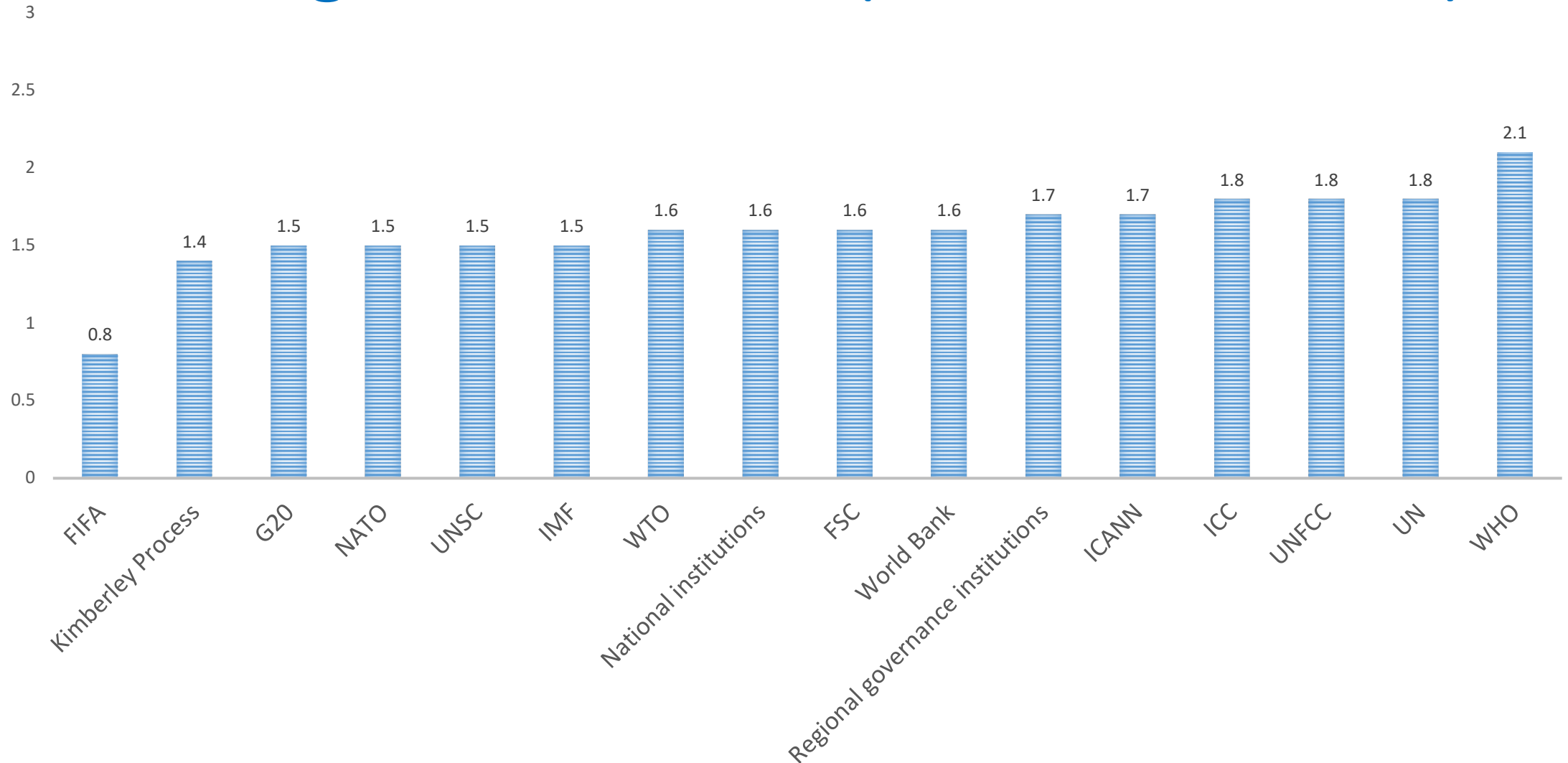
'Insiders'

- 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)

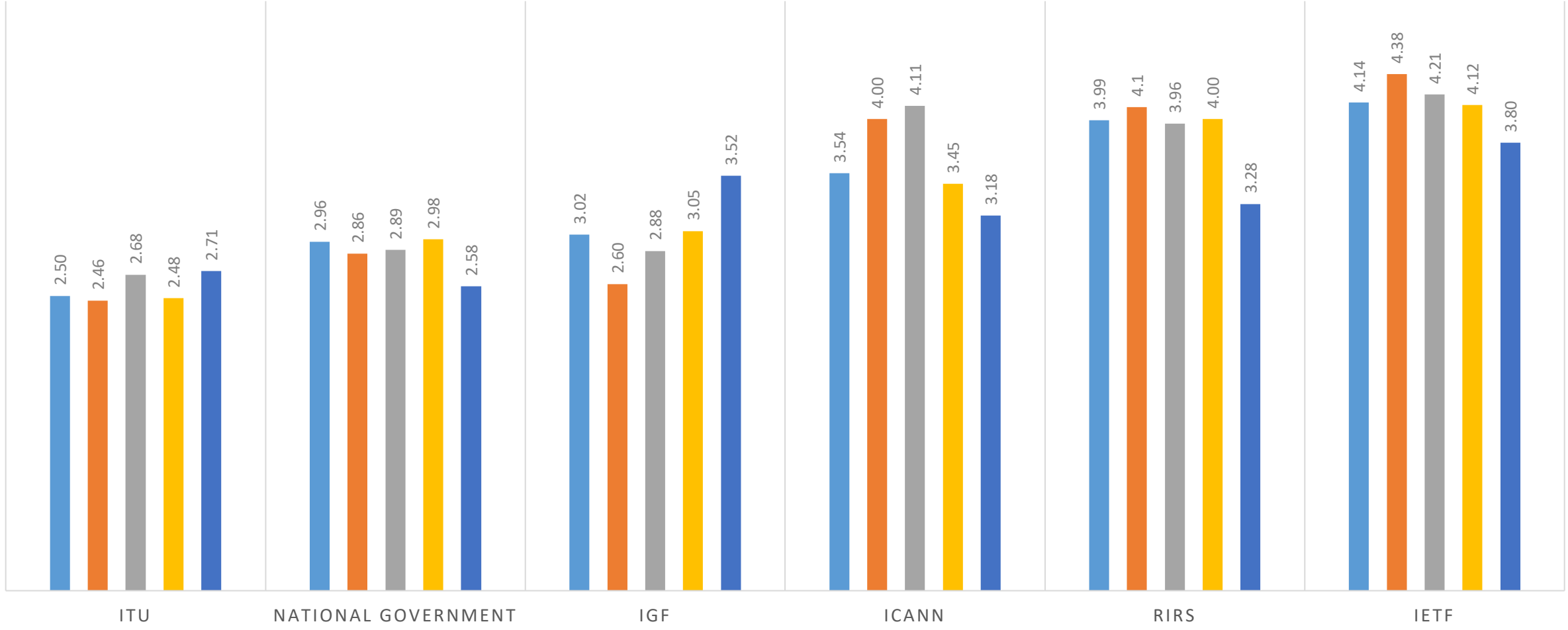


General Elite Confidence in ICANN

- + confidence in ICANN is generally at a similar or higher level compared with 10 multilateral institutions, as well as national and regional governance
- + ICANN attracts the highest confidence of the four nongovernmental global regimes considered
- the average of 1.7 (near midpoint of 0-3 scale) suggests only moderate/lukewarm elite confidence for ICANN
- 49.7% of general elites did not know of ICANN or did not answer
- plus very low public awareness makes for narrow legitimacy base

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

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

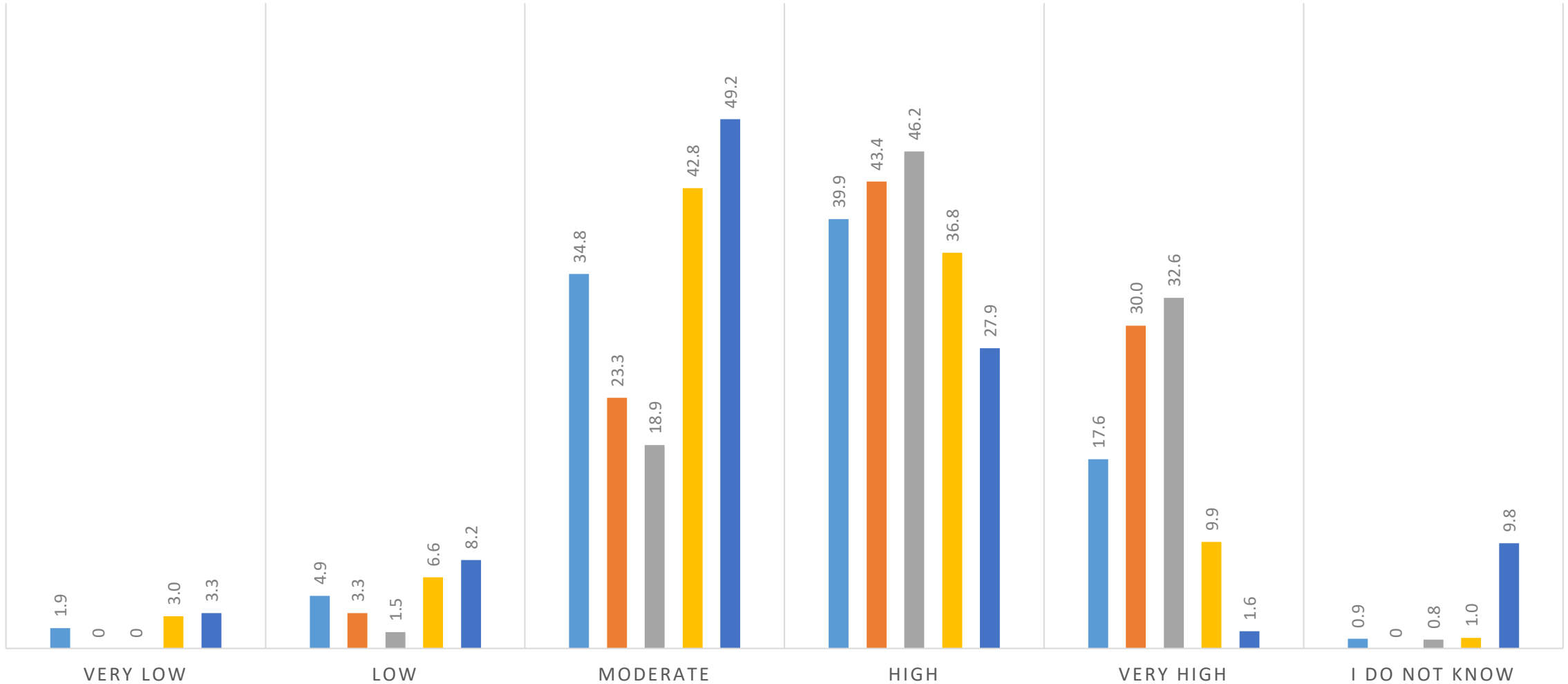


ICANN AND OTHER INTERNET GOVERNANCE

- IETF and RIRs attract higher average confidence than ICANN
- IGF, ITU and national governments attract lower average confidence than ICANN
- Levels of confidence are generally higher the less the state is involved, especially among ICANN insiders
- Informed outsiders give IETF, RIRs and ICANN somewhat lower confidence scores than insiders, but still higher than scores for IGF, ITU and national government.

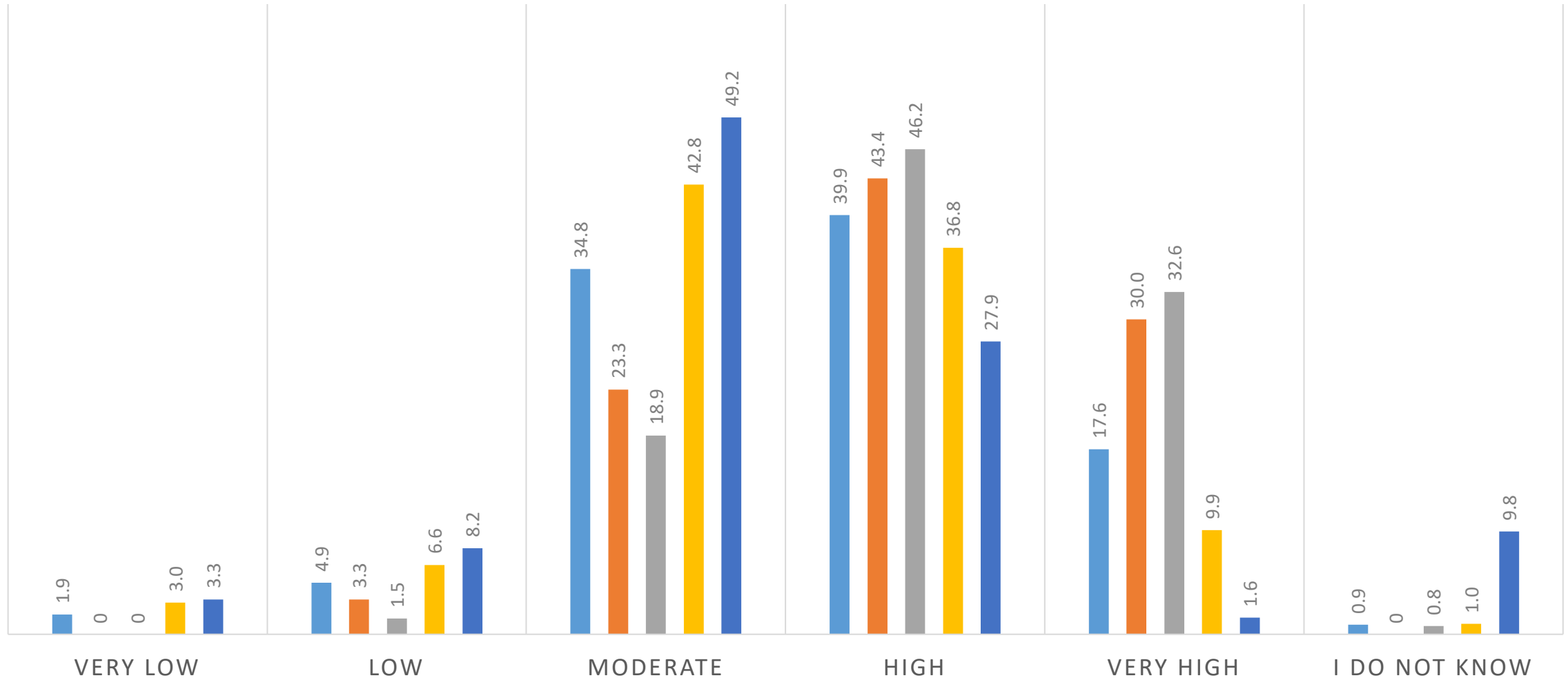
Confidence in ICANN Overall (in %; N=527)

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

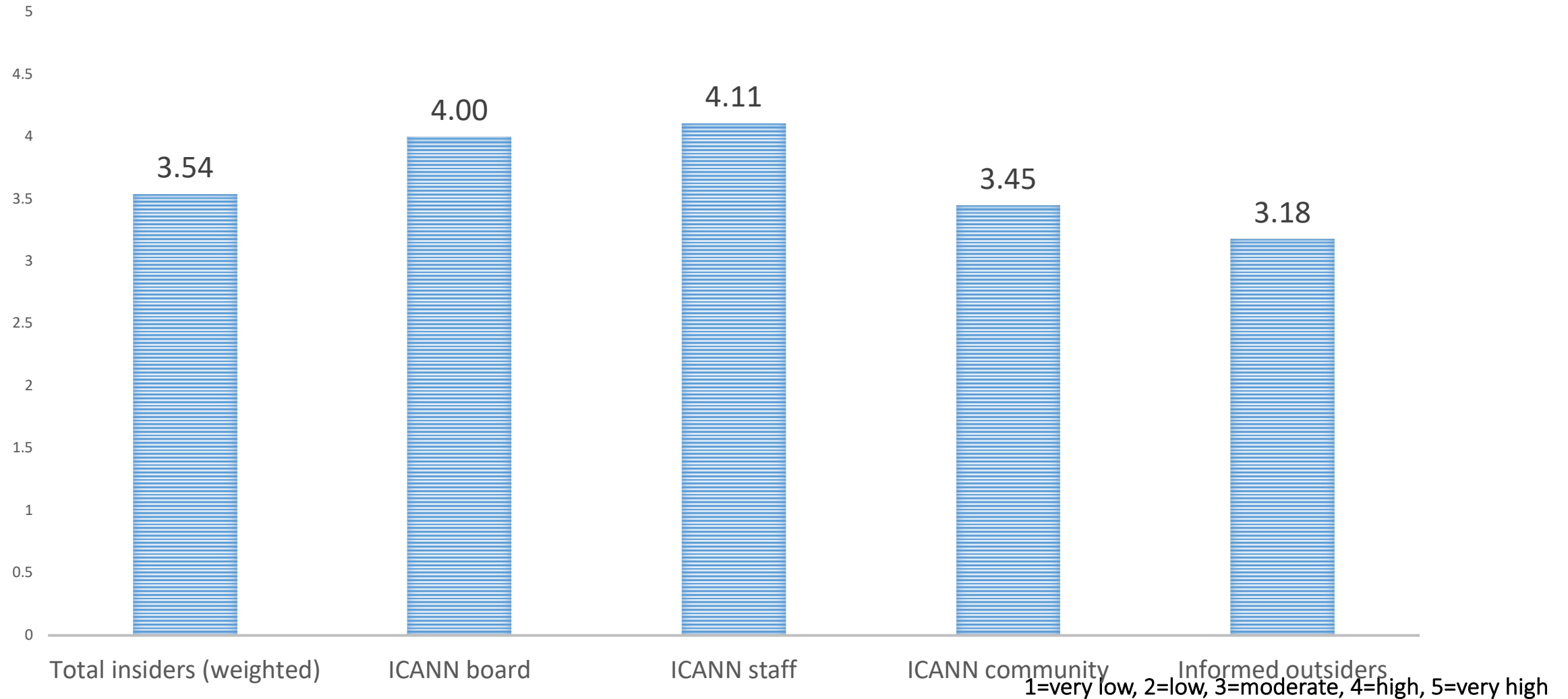


Confidence in ICANN Overall (in %; N=527)

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



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

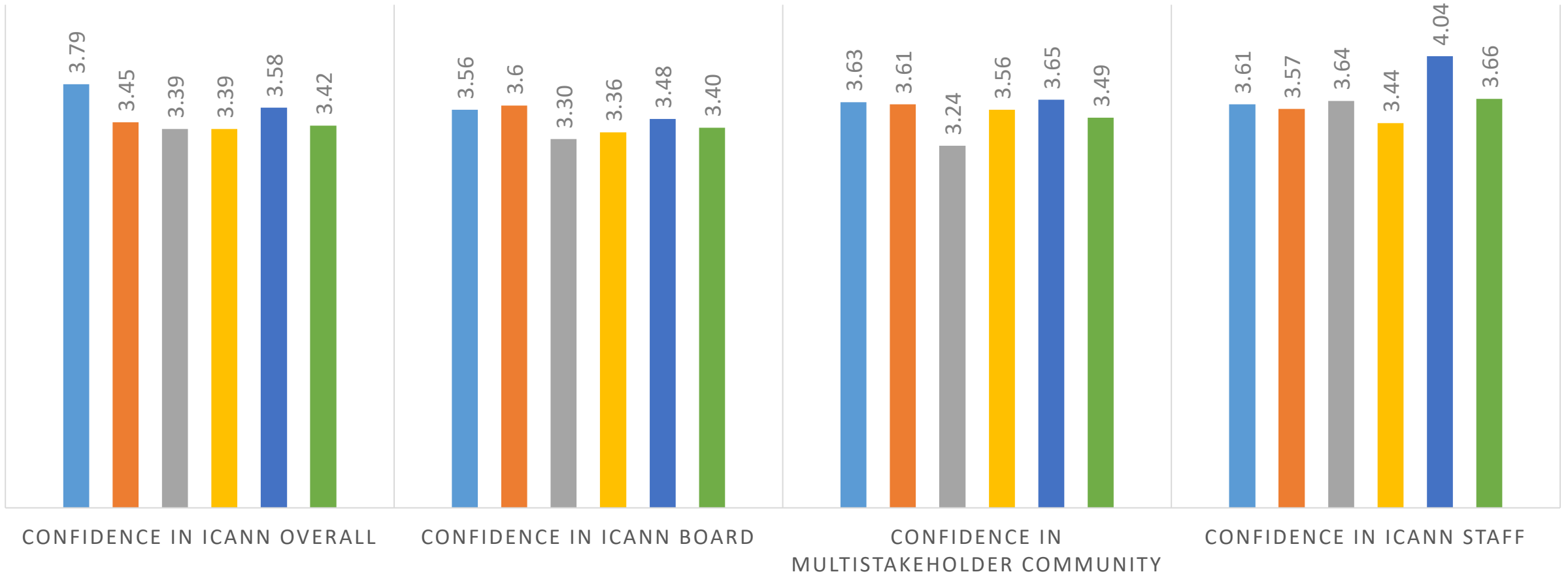


Confidence in ICANN Overall

- Over 90% of Internet governance participants have ‘very high’, ‘high’ or ‘moderate’ confidence in ICANN
- Average confidence levels tend to correlate with closeness to the ICANN regime, so 4.11 for staff/org, 4.00 for board, 3.45 for community, and 3.18 for informed outsiders
- Over half of ICANN community participants express ‘moderate’ (42.8%), ‘low’ (6.6%) and ‘very low’ (3.0%) confidence in ICANN, often coupled with pointed criticisms

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

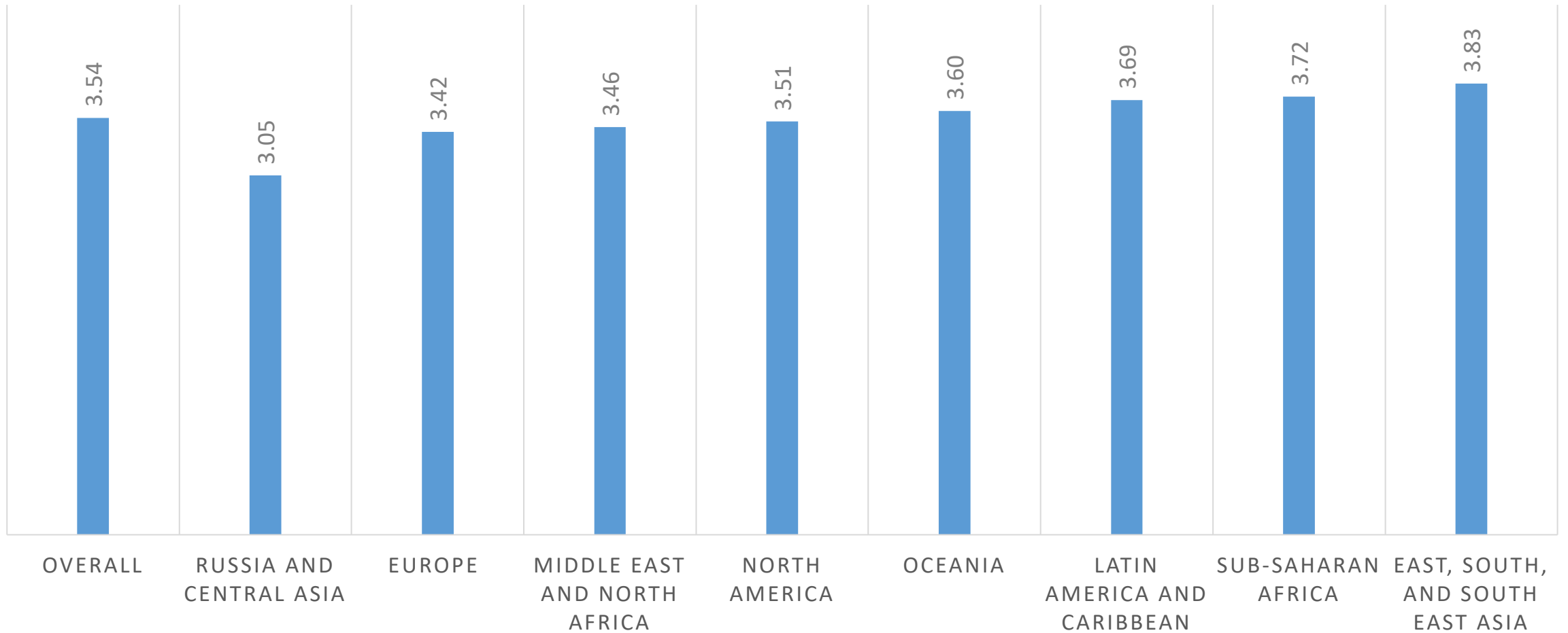
Academia Business: DNI Business: Other Civil Society Government Technical Community



Confidence in ICANN by Stakeholder Group

- Little variation in confidence for ICANN by stakeholder group, around the community average of 3.45
- A slightly higher average confidence for ICANN staff/org (3.70) than for community (3.56) and board (3.54)
- A few lower scores such as Business: Other confidence in ICANN community (3.24) and Civil Society confidence in ICANN board (3.36)
- A few higher scores such as Academia confidence in ICANN overall (3.79) and Government confidence in ICANN staff/org (4.04)

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



Confidence in ICANN by Region

- More variation by region than by stakeholder group
- Quite some spread between the low average of 3.05 for Russia/Central Asia and the high average of 3.83 for East/South/Southeast Asia
- No striking 'North-South divide'; if anything rather lower average confidence in Europe and North America as compared with Africa, Asia and Latin America.

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. transparency (4.94 – compared with overall community average 4.86)
2. accountability (4.89 – overall 4.80)
3. give all stakeholders the opportunity to participate (4.89 – overall 4.64)
4. takes decisions on best available expertise (4.83 – overall 4.79)

12. promote fair distribution costs/benefits DNI (4.14 – overall 3.78)
13. promote human rights in ICANN operations (4.03 – overall 3.74)
14. promote competition in the DNI (3.83 – overall 3.84)
15. promote democratic values in wider society (3.65 – overall 3.12)

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

1. technical stability (4.35 – compared with overall average 4.35)
2. technical security (4.29 – overall 4.19)
3. opportunities for stakeholder participation (3.81 – overall 3.82)
4. promotes competition in the DNI (3.60 – overall 3.52)

12. taking decisions in a timely way (2.95 – overall 2.69)
13. promotion of fair distribution of costs/benefits of DNI (2.87 v. 2.86)
14. promotion of human rights in the DNS (2.84 – 2.94)
15. promotion of democratic values in wider society (2.82 – 2.80)

IN SUMMARY

- Average legitimacy beliefs toward ICANN are neither high enough for complacency nor low enough for alarm. The overall verdict is moderate and 'room for improvement'.
- Legitimacy beliefs toward ICANN generally correlate with closeness to the regime: so highest with staff/org and lowest with elites outside Internet governance. The overall situation is: fairly secure on the inside; and rather more wobbly on the outside.

IN SUMMARY

- Several exceptions aside, legitimacy beliefs within the ICANN sphere (board, community, staff/org) show limited variation by stakeholder group, by geographical region, or by social category. It's pretty consistent on the whole.
- Civil society constituencies have fairly similar rank-order priorities to others, but attach more importance to promotion of human rights and democratic values.
- Civil society constituencies have similar judgments of ICANN practices to other groups.

NEXT STEPS

- This presentation has covered descriptives: levels and patterns of legitimacy.
- Our data analysis has not yet gone into explanations: what drives the legitimacy beliefs and what reforms could raise them higher?
- If interested we can report on these issues at ICANN67 Cancun.