

Abstract: Governing the Internet through South-Based Regional Private Regimes. Legitimacy at AFRINIC, APNIC, and LACNIC

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This paper examines levels and patterns of legitimacy for three Regional Internet Registries based in the global south. These organizations in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America-Caribbean are unique in governing a key global resource in a south-centred, regional, and multistakeholder manner. How far does such an approach to Internet governance attract foundational confidence and approval from affected constituencies? The current draft of the paper introduces the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC), the Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), and the Latin American and Caribbean Network Information Centre (LACNIC) and how legitimacy is important for their operations. Data from still ongoing interviews will show how far AFRINIC, APNIC, and LACNIC currently attract legitimacy beliefs and how those levels vary between stakeholder groups, geographical regions, and social categories such as age, gender, and language.