



AGENDA

A MULTISTAKEHOLDER GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AGENDA: WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

October 26–28, 2016
Airlie Center
Warrenton, Virginia
USA

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I. Multistakeholder State-of-the-Art: An Assessment
In the last two decades, multistakeholder approaches have made significant impact on global governance challenges—and on the way states and nonstate actors think about organizing to deal with problems. What do we know now about multistakeholderism that we didn't know even a year ago—and where do the trend lines suggest it will go next?
II. How is the global loss of trust in governance affecting multistakeholderism?
The proliferation of multistakeholder coalitions and initiatives has been paralleled by the growth in global public skepticism about the efficacy and legitimacy of governance of any kind, including governance that transcends borders. Are they part of the solution to the global crisis of institutional legitimacy?
III. Is there a central knot of challenges—and a central cast of necessary participants for response?
Many see that stovepiped responses continue to be one of the main obstacles to international cooperation on key interrelated challenges of our time. Some have argued for developing explicit linkages in cooperative multistakeholder action among, for example, human rights, corruption, internet freedom, and corporate social responsibility in extractive and agriculture sectors, and climate change. To what degree are these issues interdependent? Does global inability to make progress on them have any connection to the crises many national and supranational institutions are experiencing? Are multistakeholder approaches a solution, fuel to the fire, or both? Is there a limit to how expansive multistakeholder projects can, or should, become? Will we see a counter-trend of “small is beautiful”?
IV. Opportunities for Convergence
Are multistakeholder initiatives converging around certain venues and challenges? What can multistakeholder approaches learn from each other? What opportunities are there for multistakeholder approaches to work together? What can global governance institutions do to support multistakeholder approaches?