Paris and then? Holding States to account

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Paris and then? Accountability in the morning(s) after
ACCOUNTABILITY

Stay on course.
Walk the walk.
Keep your commitments.
Be REAL—not fake.
Consequences:
“This dog has teeth!"
Stand and deliver.
Why look through accountability glasses?

Accountability

Effectiveness  Legitimacy
Other governments
Parliaments
Publics
Other governments

+ Reporting accepted ensuring certain degree of transparency
+ IAR and ICA can form a basis if it is used for that purpose

- Unwillingness to accept an accountability relationship
- Uncertain if and how it influences ambition and implementation
Parliaments

+ Accepted accountability relationship in many countries in principle

+ Formal procedures may be in place for following up domestic climate laws

+ Strengthens democratic or public accountability of national and global climate governance

- Often weak accountability relationship in practice around foreign policy and global governance

- Uncertain status of NDCs in domestic contexts (laws or not) influencing procedures

- Parliamentarians not sufficiently knowledgeable or interested in global climate commitments
Publics

+ Strengthening the democratic accountability of global climate governance
+ Enacting a transnational accountability relationship bypassing national sovereignty
+ Can use other data and information (including from academia) strengthening transparency
+ Potentially powerful pressure if sufficient support from domestic publics

- Informal and often unsystematic
- Weaker in implementation phase
- Some governments relatively immune (do not accept the accountability relationship)
- Partly dependent on interest from traditional media
So - who can or should we count on?

All pathways depend on:

- transparency (data on government actions)
- account holders being interested and knowledgeable and committed to their responsibility to hold governments to account over a long time span
- governments being sensitive to (social) sanctions and to some extent accepting the accountability relationship

No pathway alone is ensuring an effective and legitimate Paris agreement over time
The fourth pathway: internal accountability?
Questions for discussion

Question for discussion:

- How can either of these pathways be strengthened?
- Can we find synergies among these pathways?
- In which pathway/s can (academic) researchers play a role?