

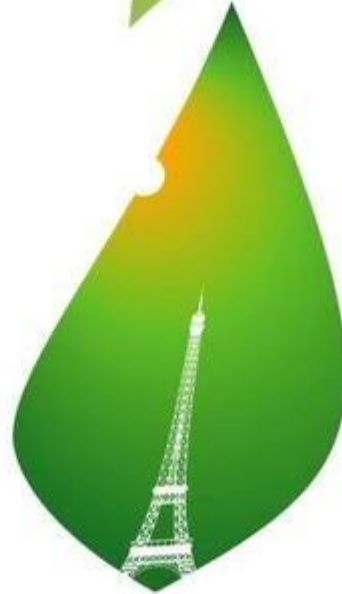
# Four pathways for accountability – challenges and opportunities

Side-event in the Netherlands Climate Pavilion at COP21  
9 December 2015

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# Accountability after Paris?



**PARIS2015**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
COP21·CMP11

Stay on  
course

Walk  
the

walk

grow

# ACCOUNTABILITY

Keep  
your  
commitments

Be REAL -  
not fake

Consequences

"This dog  
has  
teeth!"

Stand and deliver



**Who?**

**About what?**

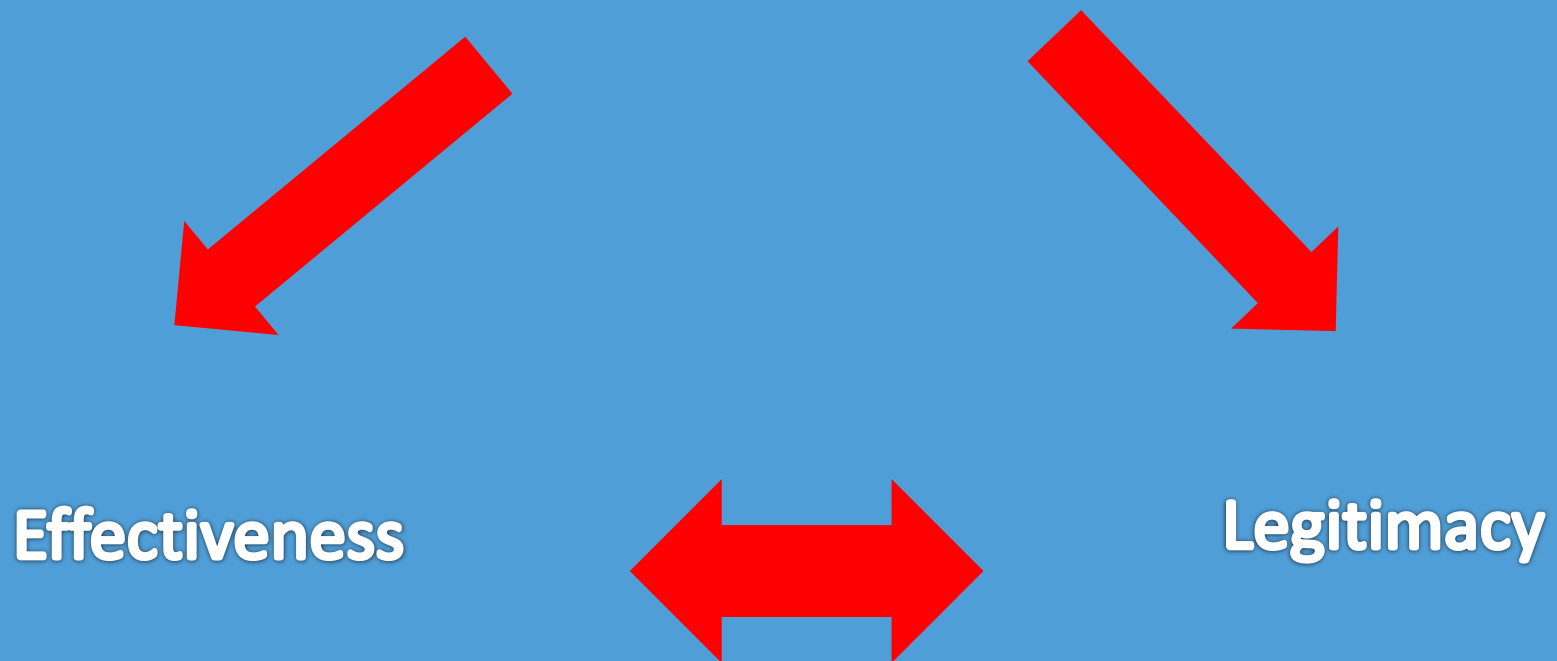
**How?**

**By what standards?**

**With what effects?**

# Why look through accountability glasses?

## Accountability of States signing the Paris Agreement



**Other  
governments**



**National institutions**

**Publics**

**States**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**



# Other governments – formal mechanisms in the international regime

- + Verified reporting increasingly accepted ensuring certain degree of transparency
- + Current processes (e.g. multilateral assessment) can form a basis
- + Not necessarily linked to legal form
- Unwillingness to accept individual accountability relationship for:
  - ambition in NDCs (ex-ante)
  - Implementation (ex-post)
- Uncertain if and how it has influence on state behaviour







# National institutions

+ Accepted accountability relationships in theory towards the parliament, audit offices and courts in many countries

+ Formal procedures may be in place – but will vary with legal form and with political-legal system

- Often weak accountability relationship in practice on international commitments and global governance broadly
- Parliamentarians and public officials not always sufficiently knowledgeable or interested in global climate commitments



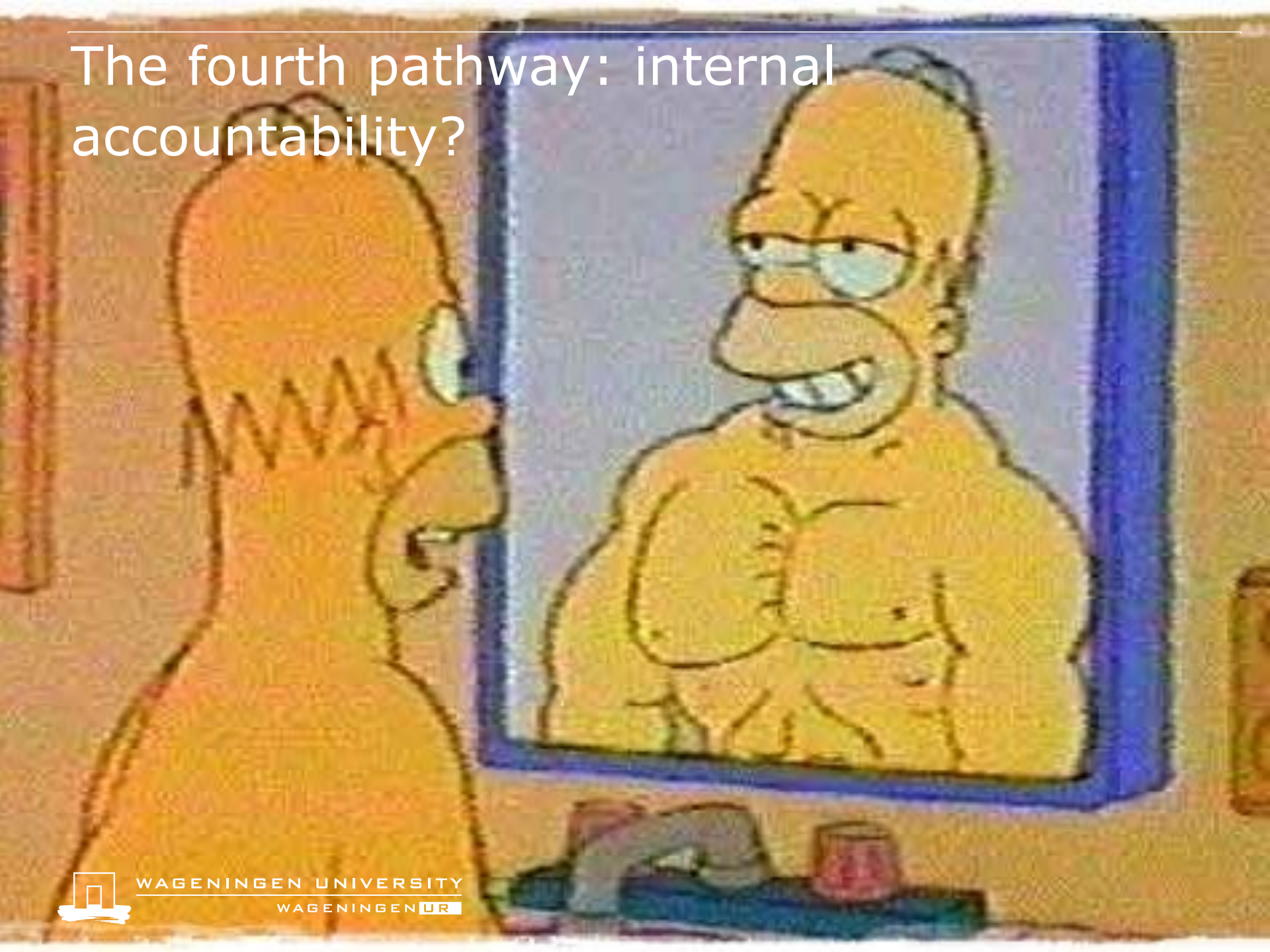


# Publics

- + Strengthens the democratic accountability of climate governance
- + Potential for trans-national accountability relationship bypassing national sovereignty
- + Can use more data and information strengthening transparency
- + Potentially powerful pressure
- Informal and often unsystematic
- Weaker in implementation phase
- Some governments relatively immune (do not accept the accountability relationship)
- Partly dependent on traditional media



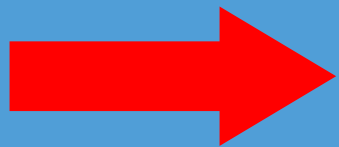
The fourth pathway: internal accountability?



# So - who can or should we count on to be accountholders?

All pathways depend on:

- Transparency – access to data on government action
- actors that feel responsible and have enough knowledge and commitment to hold governments to account - over a long time span
- governments being sensitive to public/institutional sanctions and accepting the accountability relationship
- A supportive public opinion



No pathway alone is ensuring an effective and legitimate Paris Agreement over time



# Who will...?

Who **will** hold governments to account for the promises they make in Paris? Let's discuss!

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