Submission # 3

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How would you define the stakeholder community or communities to which you belong?
Academic

Are there any suggestions that you wish to make in respect of the proposed themes, questions and indicators which are included in the framework as it stands?

The term used throughout this document of issues or indicators being "consistent with international agreements" is a catch-all escape clause. The internet offers an original platform, where new approaches are possible, and where it is not necessary to be "consistent" with anything else. For example, the Rights indicator C1 relating to access to information aims to be "consistent with international rights agreements". This is not strong enough. Some knowledge is essential to human development (UNESCO calls for "equitable and affordable access by all citizens to information infrastructure (notably to the Internet) and to information and knowledge essential to collective and individual human development". This should refer to UNESCO's "Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf /ifap2003_draft_recommendation.pdf)