

## Submission # 15

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**Country/Region:**UAE

**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?**

Ownership: internet companies such as Google and Facebook cannot be considered private companies and enjoy the privileges of private companies in terms of autonomy in decision making. These are platforms that serve billions of people and have therefore global power that affect the lives of billions of people. The question of public interest is very important here. The threat they represent is that they keep getting bigger. They keep acquiring new tech companies and start-ups to stay on top and to fend off any potential competition.

**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?**

These internet giants must be held accountable to some global non-profit institution that looks after the public interest. There has to be some oversight. The institution could be a mix of intergovernmental and civil society organizations. I always thought ICANN or UNESCO as good institutions that could play a role in the formation of such global institutions.

The alternative to the status quo is nationalising the internet so that states can preserve some sovereignty over the internet and be able to protect their citizens from the dangers these internet giants represent. I am against nationalizing the internet but it seems like a viable option if the status quo is maintained.

**What sources and means of verification would you recommend, from your experience, in relation to any of the questions and indicators that have been proposed?**

We need to create a typology for tech companies based on how much control and power they have and decide on indicators to distinguish between private companies that deserve autonomy and companies that must be subject to oversight.