LET'S ASSESS AND IMPROVE THE INTERNET: HELP UNESCO TO DEVELOP THE TOOLS

Pls submit your written contribution at:

https://en.unesco.org/internetuniversality/consultation

AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS FROM UNESCO AND APC CONSORTIUM

In 2015, UNESCO put the concept of 'Internet Universality' at the heart of its work to promote an Internet that works for all. Internet universality points to four 'fundamental norms that have been embodied in the broad evolution of the Internet to date, and which provide a comprehensive way to understand how multiple different aspects are part of a wider whole.' These norms – known for short as the ROAM principles – are concerned with:

Rights (R)
Openness (O)
Accessibility (A)
Multistakeholder Participation (M)

In June 2017, UNESCO launched a year-long programme of consultations to develop a set of Internet Universality indicators, covering these four fundamental principles and the key cross-cutting issues. A framework of quantitative and qualitative indicators will be developed to help governments and other stakeholders to assess their own national Internet environments, and to promote the values associated with Internet Universality. Special attention will be paid to gender and to the needs and interests of children and young people.

Work on the project to define Internet Universality indicators is being led for UNESCO by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) that has put together a consortium for this purpose.

Consultation with stakeholders will play a central part in developing the indicator framework. The first phase of consultation, from June to October 2017, will be concerned with broad principles, priorities and ideas for the framework as a whole. The second phase, from November 2017 to March 2018, will be concerned with specific draft indicators.

An online consultation platform for the project will be launched at the WSIS Forum in June 2017.   It can be found at: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/internetuniversality. UNESCO and the APC consortium hope that as many stakeholders as possible will contribute their views, ideas and suggestions on this platform.

UNESCO and the consortium are also organizing panel discussions, focus groups and open meetings to discuss the indicator framework at Internet and other events during the project year. These will provide an opportunity for participants in those events to discuss the issues with one another and contribute directly to the project.

For more information contact Anriette Esterhuysen: anriette@apc.org - David Souter: david.souter@runbox.com - or UNESCO focal point Ms Xianhong Hu: x.hu@unesco.org For general enquiries and contributing written contributions, you are encouraged to consult with us via internetstudy@unesco.org.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF FIVE CATEGORIES OF INDICATORS FOR CONSULTATION

UNESCO is developing an indicator framework to help governments and other stakeholders assess the extent to which Internet Universality principles govern their national Internet environments – and help them implement those principles into the future.

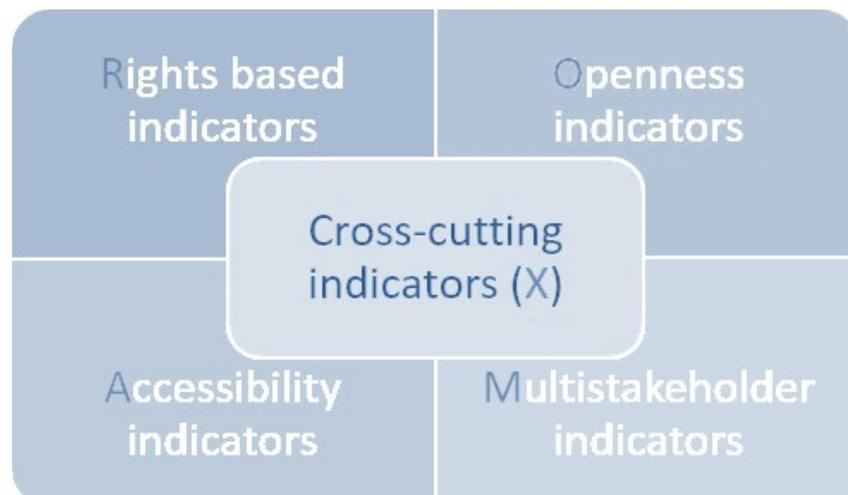The indicator framework will include five categories of indicators, concerned with:

Rights (R)

Openness (O)

Accessibility (A)

Multistakeholder Participation (M) and

Cross-Cutting Issues (X)

RIGHTS-BASED INDICATORS

The first group of indicators in the Internet Universality framework will assess how far a country's national Internet environment protects and enables human rights.

The Internet has both enabled human rights and enabled violations of human rights. This includes human rights in general – both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights – and specific rights in particular, including:

- Freedoms of opinion and expression, including press freedom
- Freedoms of association and peaceful assembly
- Rights of privacy
- Economic, social and cultural rights which are relevant to the Internet, including education and the right to cultural life

The rights of women, children and young people are affected by the Internet.

A selection of rights-based indicators will need to be developed, on which evidence can realistically be gathered and analysed with resources available in the majority of countries. This will include both quantitative and qualitative indicators.

Where possible, the indicator framework should select reliable indicators which are already regularly gathered by established organisations. Where possible, these indicators should be susceptible to disaggregation according to gender and other social/economic groups.

Indicators should be forward-looking, and capable of adapting to the very rapid changes taking place in the Internet and online services.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the most important rights issues for inclusion in the Internet Universality indicators?

2. What experience do you have of gathering and using data on rights issues on the Internet?

    a. What problems have you encountered?

    b. What data sources have you found most useful?

3. How would you make use of an indicator framework on rights once it has been developed?

OPENNESS INDICATORS

The second group of indicators in the Internet Universality framework will assess how far a country's national Internet environment reflects the openness which has been fundamental to the Internet's development.

The Internet has been built around the concept of open participation, including:

- Open standards
- Open source
- Open access to information including educational and other resources
- Open data
- Open markets

A selection of openness indicators will need to be developed, on which evidence can realistically be gathered and analysed with resources available in the majority of countries. This will include both quantitative and qualitative indicators, and will pay particular attention to the interests of women and of children and young people.

Where possible, the indicator framework should select reliable indicators which are already regularly gathered by established organisations. Where possible, these indicators should be susceptible to disaggregation according to gender and other social/economic groups.

Indicators should be forward-looking, and capable of adapting to the very rapid changes taking place in the Internet and online services.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the most important aspects of openness which should be included in the Internet Universality indicators?

2. What experience do you have of gathering and using data on openness on the Internet?

    a. What problems have you encountered?

    b. What data sources have you found most useful?

3. How would you make use of an indicator framework on openness once it has been developed?

ACCESSIBILITY INDICATORS

The third group of indicators in the Internet Universality framework will assess how far a country's national Internet environment enables access to the Internet by all.

There are a number of important aspects to accessibility, including:

- Infrastructure availability / connectivity
- Affordability
- Content
- Capabilities to access the Internet
- Resources to create content on the Internet

A selection of accessibility indicators will need to be developed, on which evidence can realistically be gathered and analysed with resources available in the majority of countries. This will include both quantitative and qualitative indicators, and will pay particular attention to the interests of women and of children and young people.

Where possible, the indicator framework should select reliable indicators which are already regularly gathered by established organisations. Where possible, these indicators should be susceptible to disaggregation according to gender and other social/economic groups.

Indicators should be forward-looking, and capable of adapting to the very rapid changes taking place in the Internet and online services.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the most important aspects of access that should be included in the Internet Universality indicators?

2. What experience do you have of gathering and using data on access issues on the Internet?

    a. What problems have you encountered?

    b. What data sources have you found most useful?

3. How would you make use of an indicator framework on access once it has been developed?

MULTISTAKEHOLDER INDICATORS

The fourth group of indicators in the Internet Universality framework will assess how far a country's national Internet environment is multistakeholder in character.

The Internet has been built around the concept of multistakeholder participation, including governments, intergovernmental and international organisations, the private sector, civil society and the technical and professional community. Each of these stakeholder groups is itself made up of diverse stakeholders.

A selection of indicators on multistakeholder participation will need to be developed, on which evidence can realistically be gathered and analysed with resources available in the majority of countries. This will include both quantitative and qualitative indicators.

Where possible, the indicator framework should select reliable indicators which are already regularly gathered by established organisations. Where possible, these indicators should be susceptible to disaggregation according to gender and other social/economic groups.

Indicators should be forward-looking, and capable of adapting to the very rapid changes taking place in the Internet and online services.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the most important aspects of multistakeholder participation that should be included in the Internet Universality indicators?

2. What experience do you have of gathering and using evidence on multistakeholder participation on the Internet?

    a. What problems have you encountered?

    b. What information sources have you found most useful?

3. How would you make use of an indicator framework on multistakeholder participation once it has been developed?

CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS OF THE INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

The fifth group of indicators will assess the relationships between the four categories of rights, openness, accessibility and multistakeholder participation. It will also address gender inclusion and the inclusion of children and young people in the Internet environment.

A selection of indicators will be developed for each of these, on which evidence can realistically be gathered and analysed with resources available in the majority of countries. This will include both quantitative and qualitative indicators. Where possible, they will be susceptible to disaggregation according to gender and other social/economic groups.

Some of the indicators will already be gathered by established organisations, while others will be new to the UNESCO framework. Indicators should be forward-looking, and capable of adapting to the very rapid changes taking place in the Internet and online services, so that they remain current over the next decade.

Particular attention will be paid to gender issues and to the needs of children and young people.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are your priorities for UNESCO work on Internet Universality?

2. What experience do you have of gathering and using Internet indicators within your country/area of work?

3. What experience do you have of gathering and using indicators concerned with gender aspects of the Internet, and of the Internet's impact on children and young people?

   a. What problems have you encountered?

   b. What information sources have you found most useful?

4. How would you make use of an indicator framework for Internet Universality once it has been developed?

5. How do you think UNESCO should make use of the framework once it has been developed?