

The Internet As a Global Public Resource

by

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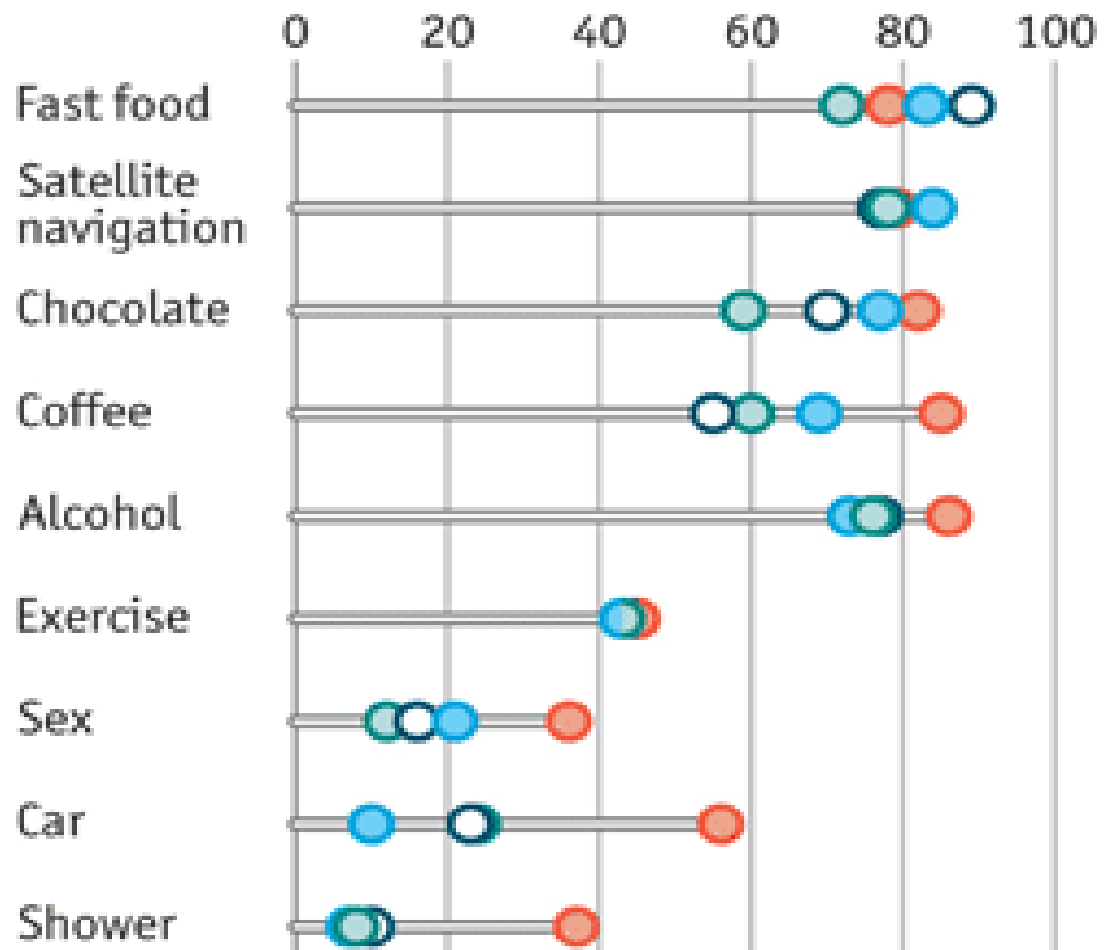
WSIS Forum (29 May 2015)

Why is the Internet
a global public good?

A key part of life

Percentage of respondents willing to give up a lifestyle habit for a year instead of the internet 2012

● United States ● China ● Germany ● Brazil



Source: Boston Consulting Group

Why consider the Internet as a global public good

- supported by all stakeholders (possible consensus area?)
- reflects major opportunities and risks on the Internet (public goods and public bads)
- addresses development aspects

Why – framing the discussion

The Internet as a global public good **per se**.

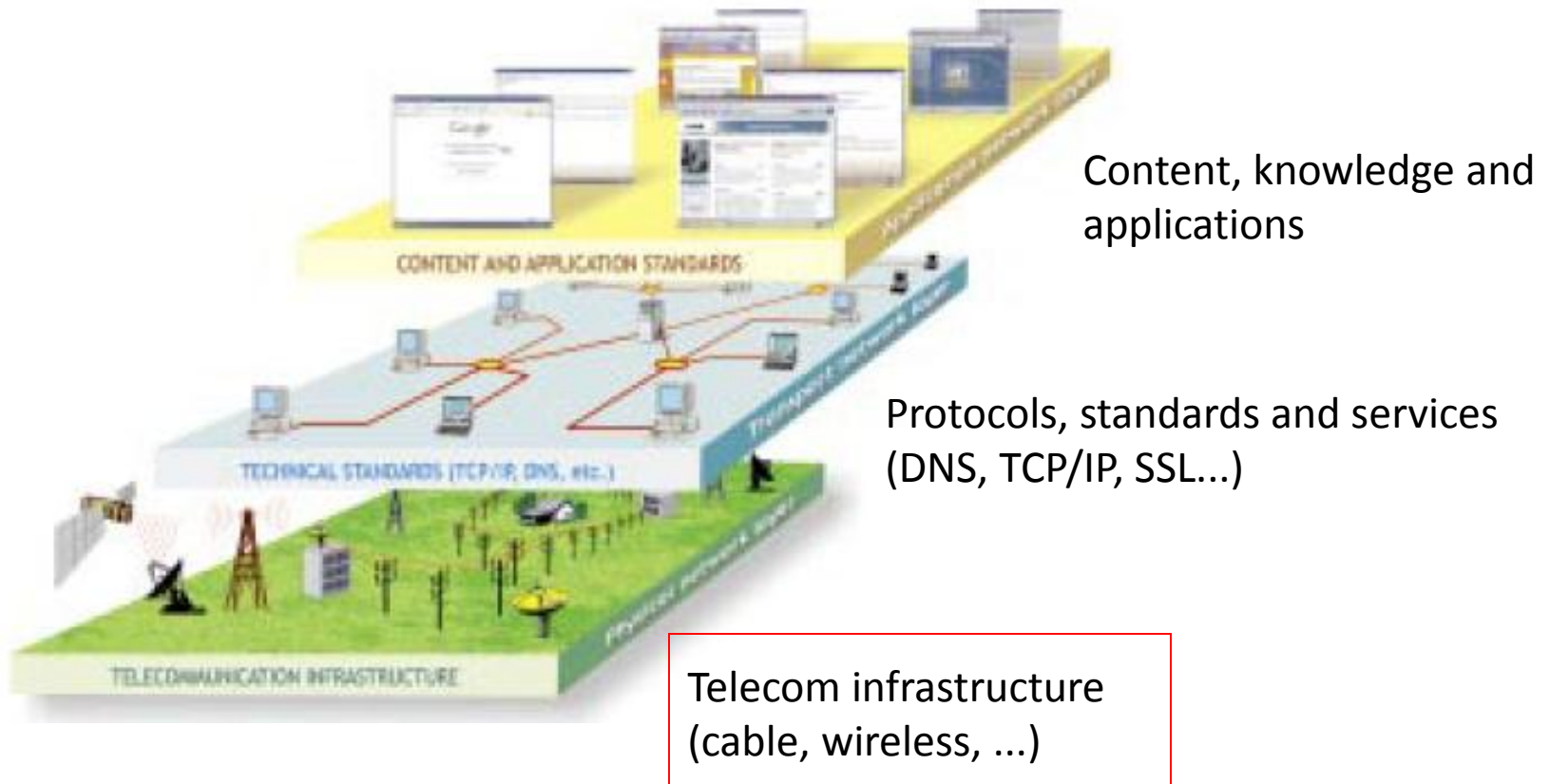
The Internet as **an instrument** for providing other global public goods.

What is a global public good?

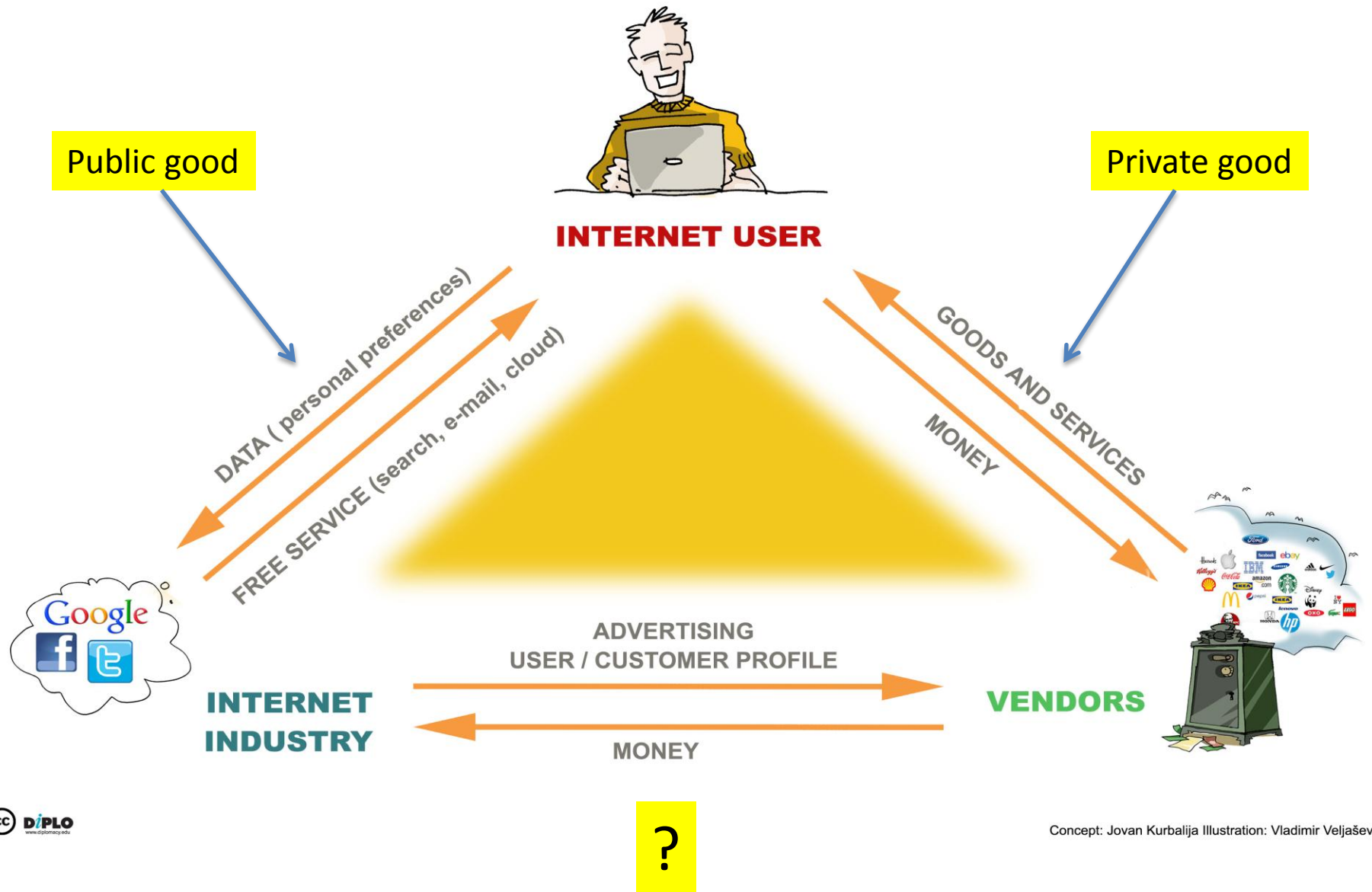
Non-excludable (no one can be barred from consuming)

Non-rivalrous (can be consumed by many without becoming depleted)

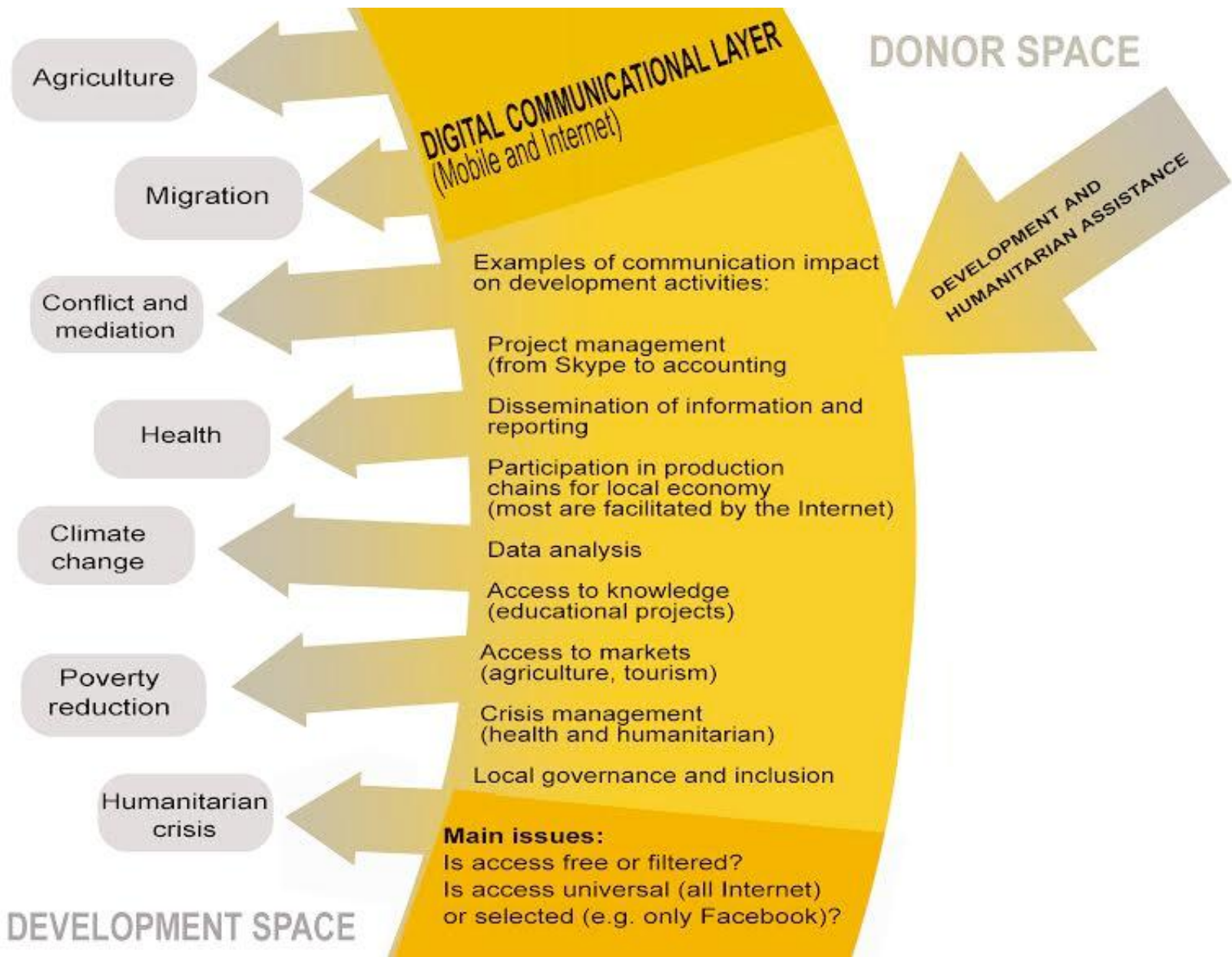
What should be considered as a global public good



What – Internet business model and public goods



What – the Internet as an INSTRUMENTAL global public good



What – Externalities

How to foster **positive** externalities (economic growth, education, social inclusion)?

How to contain **negative** externalities (e.g. cybercrime)?

How — Three Major Gaps

Participatory Gap

Jurisdiction Gap

Incentive Gap

How – Main Challenges

Aim for win-win solution

If not – strike right balances (efficiency vs equity)



Main challenges: **Free rider problem,**
Weakest link

How — Some Approaches

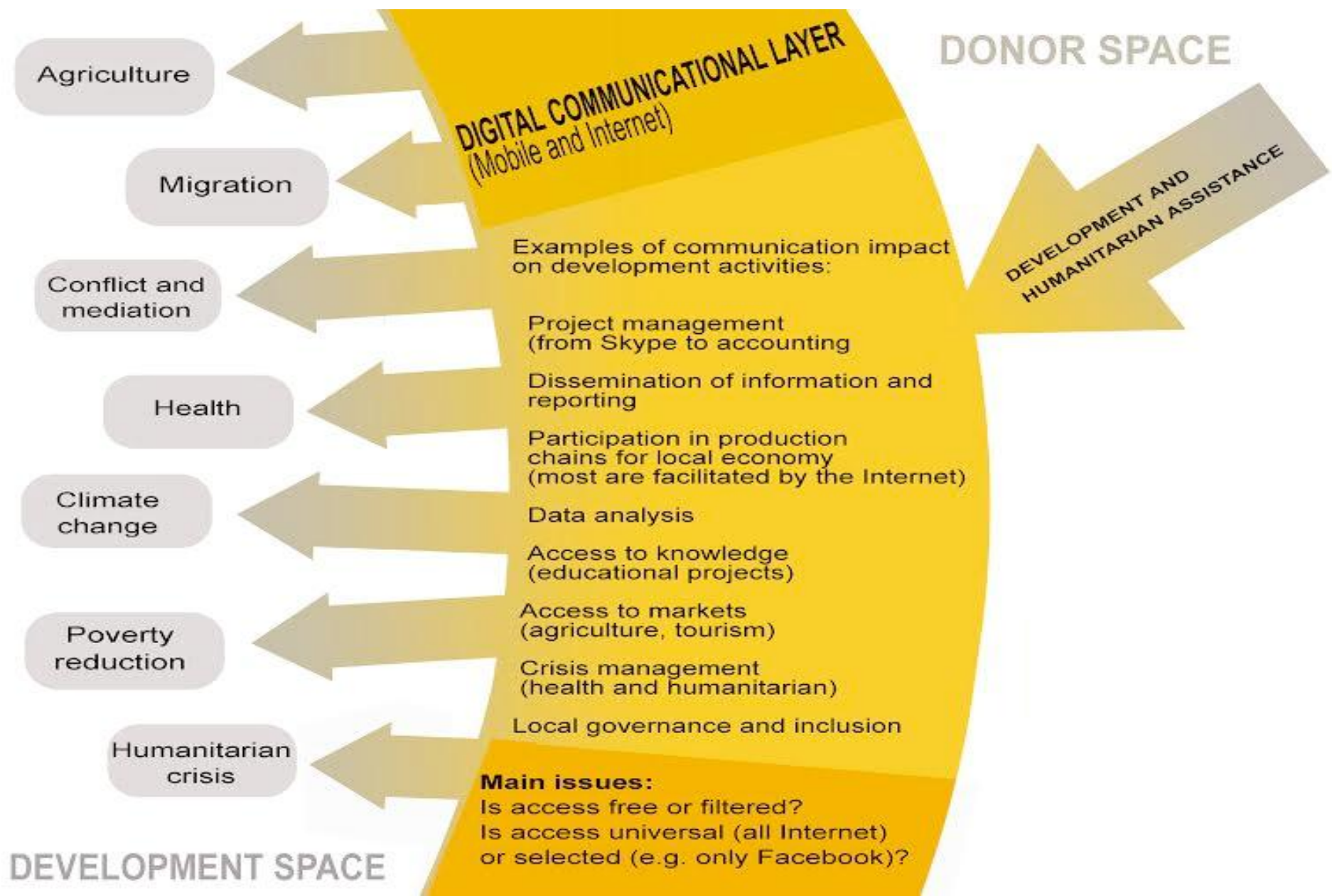
Common concern

Global public good

Res communis omnium

Common heritage of mankind

How – Internet for Development



Join

**Policy research and discussions
on Internet as a Global Public Resource**

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