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# Standards Harmonization Readiness Criteria

## TIER 1

Revised February 20, 2006

HITSP Standards Harmonization Criteria Committee

# Caution – Preliminary Document

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- This is a preliminary committee work product which has not yet been approved by HITSP.
- The Readiness Criteria presented here are “Tier 1” or the highest level and require further definition and detail before meaningful use.
- Thus we anticipate significant change and welcome feedback.

# Foundation for Standards Harmonization

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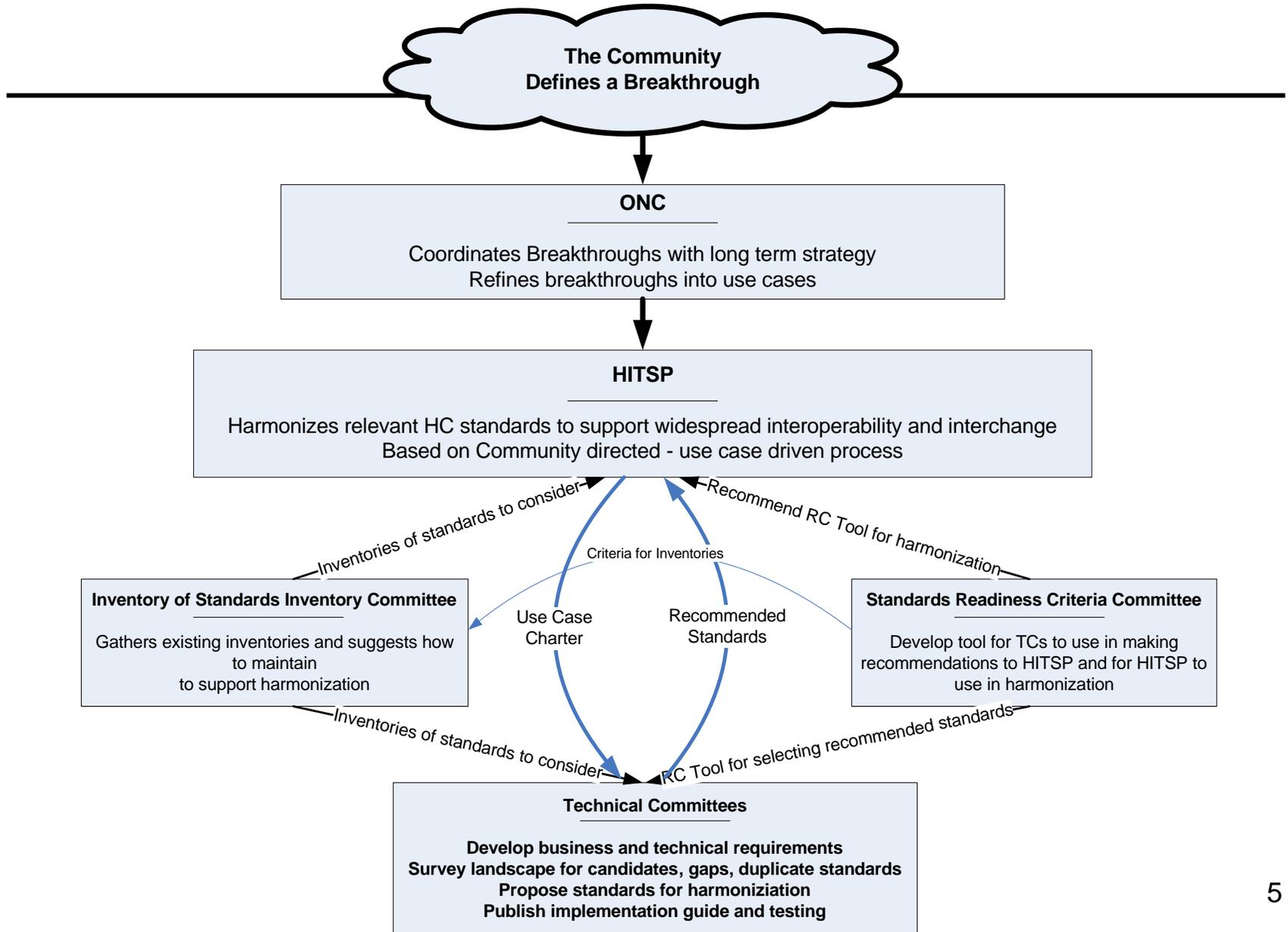
- We are planning a recommendation to HITSP to adopt a primary goal and basic set of objectives as the foundation for harmonizing healthcare standards

# Harmonization Readiness Explained

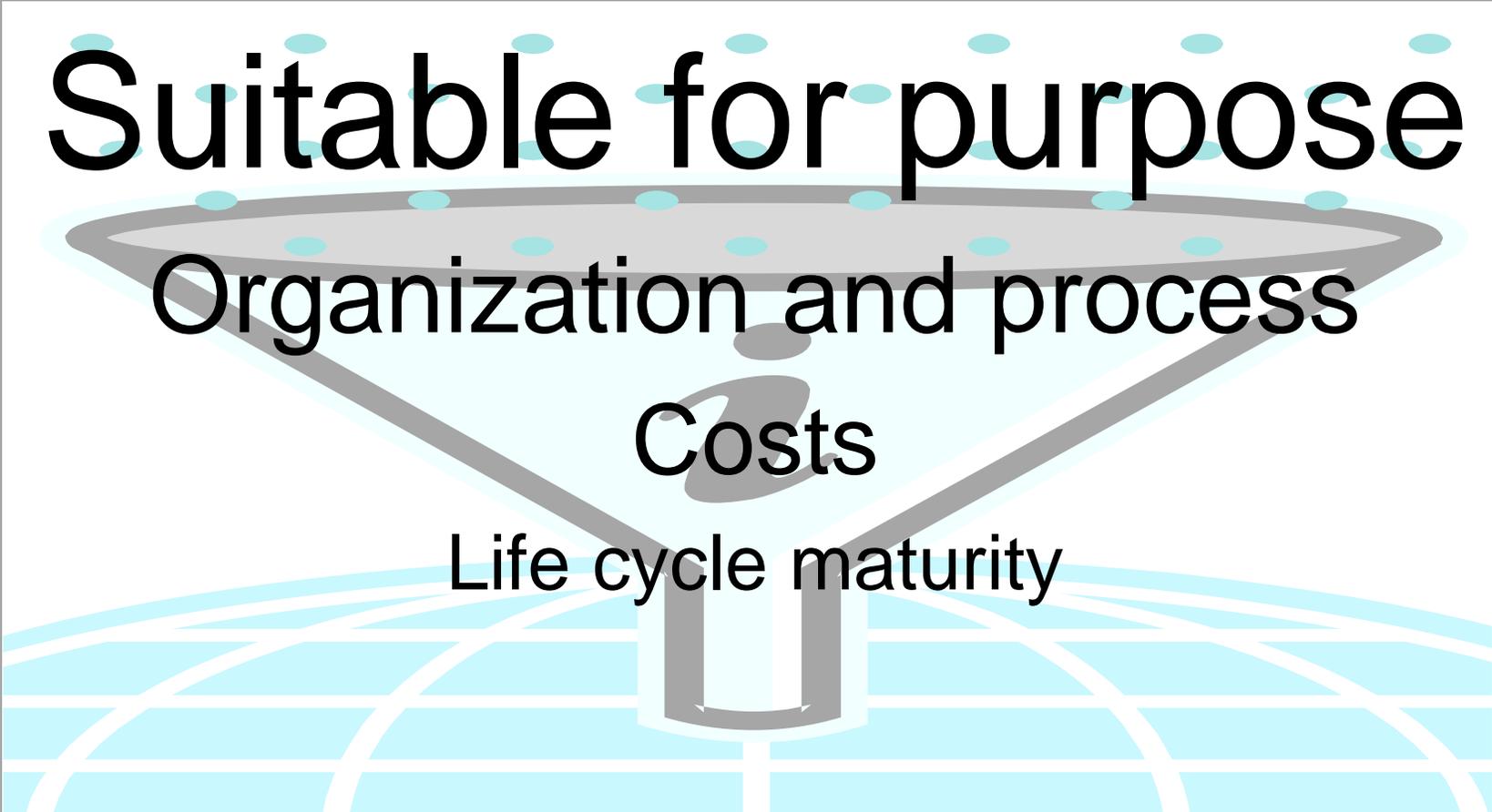
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- Harmonization Readiness is the act of applying criteria to specific standards in a way that will allow the HITSP to select the standard most ready for use as the harmonized standard for a specific action of interoperability.
- Harmonization is three fold
  - Selection of initial standards based on criteria
  - Resolution of gaps and overlaps
  - Ongoing harmonization maintenance
- Readiness is relative to an action for interoperability and must be understood at the messaging level with constrained vocabulary.

# Readiness Criteria within Standards Harmonization Flow



# Criteria as Filters



Suitable for purpose

Organization and process

Costs

Life cycle maturity

# Suitable for Purpose

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- Meets the business and technical criteria of the use case
- Compatible with other standards, framework, architecture and models (as indicated)
  - **Backward, lateral and forward **  
**compatibility considerations**
- Includes a documented discovery process of standards landscape 

# Organization and Process

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## Initial Criteria:

- Openness & transparency
- Balance and lack of dominance by any single interest group
- Formal development and approval processes
- Effective governance and funding to be responsible stewards, open to stakeholders and able to maintain and enhance their standards
- Domain relevance with history of commitment
- Favorable intellectual property and licensing terms
- Willingness to collaborate with other standards developers and HITSP
- Technology and vendor neutrality

# Costs

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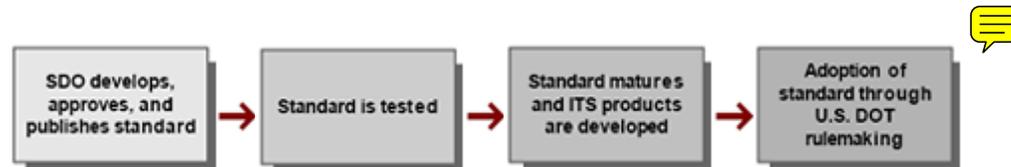
- Total life cycle costs including licensing, development and use
- Lack of barriers, ease of access

# Life Cycle Maturity

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Examples:

- Where is standard in Life Cycle from Initial Development to Adoption?



- What is the level of system developer support and market adoption? This must be a balance, particularly when dealing with gaps and duplications.

# Other Considerations

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- Prior history and existing sources of “approved” and “harmonized” standards
  - **National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS)**
  - **Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI)**
  - **ANSI Health Informatics Standards Board (HISB)**
  - **ePrescribing and other regulations**
  - **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)** 