

ICC BASIS input on WSIS action lines Forum meetings in May 2010

ICC, the International Chamber of Commerce and its BASIS initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society, is pleased to provide the following input on the format and themes for the next WSIS action lines Forum meeting in May 2010 ahead of the consultation on 10 February 2010 in Geneva.

Para 87 of the Tunis Agenda clearly states that the WSIS follow-up is about sharing effective practices related to implementation and not about policy discussion and development:

“87. We affirm that the exchange of views and sharing of effective practices and resources is essential to implementing the outcomes of WSIS at the regional and international levels. To this end, efforts should be made to provide and share, among all stakeholders, knowledge and know-how, related to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of e-strategies and policies, as appropriate. We recognize as fundamental elements to bridge the digital divide in developing countries, in a sustainable way, poverty reduction, enhanced national capacity building and the promotion of national technological development.”

Themes and format

We believe the WSIS action lines Forum meetings should focus on specific projects, initiatives and partnerships underway by all stakeholders to implement the action lines topic areas. We recommend that to make the meetings most attractive and productive, the format should be focused where there is a ‘story to tell’ about progress being made. The WSIS action lines Forum should provide an opportunity for stakeholders to get an update on what is actually happening, and information about real projects that are implementing the action lines areas. All efforts should be made to work with other moderators/facilitators of action lines to ensure that they are able to contribute fully to the programme.

Business would welcome the opportunity to present and contribute to discussions to share information about what companies, business organizations, and associations are doing to help implement the topics/Tunis objectives outlined below. In addition, there is great benefit to business and all stakeholders in hearing and learning about concrete actions being taken and in turn opportunities that can be built upon. Thus, each session should include dedicated time for interaction with participants. The sessions should focus on the projects and programmes of a broad set of all stakeholder communities. To reflect the activities that are underway around the world, it is important that there be real variety and balance. It is also essential that

the discussions not veer away from the real objective of these meetings into policy discussions but fulfill their role in giving stakeholders a special opportunity to really understand what is being done in a concrete way to implement specific action lines areas.

1. e-health

The sessions on this topic area should highlight initiatives and partnerships by all stakeholders--governments, international organizations, business, and civil society that are using information and communication technologies to facilitate healthcare objectives and practices. By having stakeholders present their initiatives and engage in discussion with other participants about how the project was initiated, how it is managed, and what it takes to implement such activities, the sessions will provide all with the opportunity to understand progress being made on implementing the action line topic but also the chance to potentially build new partnerships and promote the existing applications, projects and partnerships for more people around the world.

Business input/speakers

Companies are involved in many e-health oriented initiatives and have developed critical applications and services which could be shared with the other stakeholders. Initiatives to support the development of health ICT skills, partnerships to address electronic medical records are just a few areas that could be highlighted. We would be pleased to reach out to identify business experts to speak in sessions on e-health initiatives.

2. Cultural and linguistic diversity and local content

There have been many developments on the availability of local content and initiatives and collaborative partnerships to support increased cultural and linguistic diversity on the Internet and via ICTs. It would be timely to focus a few sessions on getting information about this progress to stakeholders which is a key element in promoting a people centered information society for more people around the world.

Business input/speakers

Companies, organizations and associations are involved in many aspects of promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, the technological applications and support needed to do this, and partnerships that make this possible. We would be pleased to identify speakers to contribute to the discussions that highlight what progress is being made to implement these objectives.

3. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Building confidence and trust in the use of ICTs is a very broad area. This area would benefit from a focused session on the significant number of initiatives underway and

examples of business-technical-government cooperative and several other collaborative efforts to address these issues.

Business input/speakers

We would be pleased to identify business experts to contribute to a session that highlights real partnerships and cooperative efforts and how they are working in practice.

About the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its thousands of member companies in over 120 countries have interests spanning every sector of private enterprise.

A world network of national committees keeps the ICC International Secretariat in Paris informed about national and regional business priorities. More than 2000 experts drawn from ICC's member companies feed their knowledge and experience into crafting the ICC stance on specific business issues.

The United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and many other intergovernmental bodies, both international and regional, are kept in touch with the views of international business through ICC.

For more information please visit: www.iccwbo.org

About BASIS

ICC created BASIS to raise awareness among the public, governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and technical community of what business requires to continue contributing to the development of the Information Society. It serves as the voice of business in the global dialogue on the Information Society, following two World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005).

To promote the environment in which business around the world will continue to thrive as an innovator of information and communication technologies, BASIS participates in UN-linked forums set up to continue the dialogue, such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the WSIS follow up and implementation processes, and the UN Global Alliance for ICTs and development (GAID).

To help shape the agenda and participate in these global discussions, BASIS relies on the policies developed in the ICC Commission on E-business, IT and Telecoms as the foundation for its efforts.

BASIS builds on the activities and network of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), which ICC formed to coordinate participation by world business in the processes leading up to and at WSIS.

BASIS members include business organizations such as the TechAmerica, World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), Africa Investor, Global Information Infrastructure Commission (GIIC), Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren), and the Association for Competitive Technology (ACT) as well as several ICC national committees and companies from across sectors and geographies.

For further information regarding BASIS, the founding partners, members and activities, visit: www.iccwbo.org/basis