



International Chamber of Commerce

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An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC/BASIS input on the ECOSOC WSIS follow-up and implementation discussions

11 July 2006

"We request that ECOSOC oversees the system-wide follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of WSIS. To this end, we request that ECOSOC, at its substantive session of 2006, reviews the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including considering the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach."

Business submits the following points for consideration as the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) discussions on the follow up and implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003, Tunis 2005) take place in Geneva in July 2006.

1. The consultations on the CSTD in May 2006 were structured and organized in way that did not maximize business input as the agenda, proceedings, the participants, and process of how non-CSTD input would be considered and incorporated in the official documentation, were not known well enough in advance for business to provide meaningful input.
2. Any consultation process on changing the mandate, functioning etc of the CSTD to enable it to support ECOSOC in fulfilling its mandate for system-wide follow-up of the WSIS would require not a single consultation meeting, but a longer consultation process, similar e.g. to the process followed before the establishment of the Global Alliance, or similar to consultation processes undertaken e.g. by the European Commission, which would allow all stakeholders to understand the options being considered and provide for a realistic timeframe in which to build input and consultations.
3. Business regrets that due to the late notice of the meeting it is unlikely that representatives from BASIS will be present. With this in mind, we reserve judgement on any proposed outcomes presented and discussed at the meeting. We also urge that all stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to provide input on any proposals. As this process goes forward, we look forward to contributing business expertise.
4. The new mandate of the CSTD, should a new mandate be put in place, should take into consideration the mandates of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, the mandates of other agencies and organizations and particularly with respect to their role in the WSIS follow up and implementation process and ensure multi-stakeholder participation.

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