



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

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

19 July 2006

Mr Chairman, Thanks to you and to the Economic and Social Council for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and its new initiative BASIS (Business Action to Support the Information Society).

My name is Art Reilly (Cisco Systems). I had the honor of serving as the vice chair of the UN ICT Task Force and am now a member of the Strategy Council of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. Business welcomes the Global Alliance and looks for it to continue to provide a multistakeholder forum on ICT and development linking into both the ECOSOC and the Commission on Science, Technology and Development (CSTD).

Business is committed to partnering with others to bring the benefits of the Information Society to people around the world and achieving the Millennium Declaration Goals.

The business community has appreciated the opportunity to submit comments to the ECOSOC discussions on the WSIS Follow-up and implementation. Special thanks are offered to Ambassador Karklins for his outreach. We especially request that these discussions consider the mandates of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development and its relationship to ECOSOC and the CSTD.

In the future, business would request that any consultative process on changing CSTD mandate, format and agenda follow a process similar to that used in establishing the Global Alliance that provides a longer consultative process to gather inputs. I have had a chance to gather information on the progress being made in your discussions and will report back to my business colleagues.

We look forward to contributing business expertise to the CSTD including through the Global Alliance using the procedures that you approve at this meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.