

## **BASIS input to UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Intersessional meeting, (12-14 November 2008, Santiago, Chile)**

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ICC-BASIS members appreciate the opportunity to convey business priorities as the CSTD intersessional meeting discusses the organization of May 2009 meetings in Geneva. ICC-BASIS members include companies and business associations from around the world and from all sectors.

### **Written country reports**

- We reiterate our support for the preparation of its written country progress reports sufficiently in advance of the meetings to allow participants to review them and have discussions with the progress information in mind
- Written country reports will reduce the time spent in previous CSTD meetings on reports read to in the plenary sessions, and thus create more time for productive discussion and exchange
- A template created by the CSTD secretariat for countries to fill in would create a comprehensive and consistent compilation of country progress points which could be effectively used in the CSTD deliberations in May

### **Panel discussions and CSTD meetings**

The interactive panel discussions can be useful exchanges. In May 2008, we urged the CSTD to ensure balanced multistakeholder participation in the development of such panel discussions and careful attention to including a range of expertise and viewpoints. ICC BASIS reiterates this point and would be pleased to work with the CSTD secretariat in advance to identify business experts for such panels.

- We strongly urge the CSTD to coordinate with the cluster of WSIS action lines to ensure that an effective and streamlined programme for the post-WSIS meetings in the month of May is prepared, including the panel discussions.
- We reiterate the need for sensitivity to the limited financial and human resources of all stakeholders, so a coordinated set of meetings regarding post WSIS activities is planned for May 2009 to encourage participation by a broad range of stakeholders

- The participation of business, civil society and technical experts in the CSTD meetings, and informal sessions has provided substantive and useful input.
- We encourage the CSTD to continue its inclusion of all relevant stakeholders particularly given the important role they have in scientific research and development (R&D) and innovation, and deployment of technologies on a scalable and sustainable basis, as well as the follow-up and implementation of the WSIS commitments, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
- The CSTD meetings in May should provide a clear understanding of what progress has been made on WSIS commitments, and should gather input from all stakeholders on how progress and its assessment can be improved.

## **Development of recommendations**

With regard to development of CSTD recommendations, ICC/BASIS offers the following:

- Since all the issues and outcomes addressed by the WSIS require the participation and activities of business, along with governments and other stakeholders, business and other relevant stakeholders should be included in the development of any recommendations regarding how to progress certain outcomes or issues.

## **Strengthening the multistakeholder approach**

Many of the recommendations and comments above outline ways to effectively include business and other stakeholders in meetings. Other stakeholders, who are not members of the CSTD, can best contribute if they understand the input and perspectives of member representatives from governments. Thus the ability for other stakeholders to be present during discussions amongst the CSTD members is vital.

Business and other stakeholders can make the most constructive contributions to the CSTD discussions if they have the opportunity to intervene on each agenda item as it comes up instead of, for instance, only being given the opportunity to provide general statements during one period. The business community appreciates that the CSTD leadership and UNCTAD Secretariat have afforded this opportunity in the past. We ask that this approach be maintained going forward.

## **What is BASIS?**

The International Chamber of Commerce (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 Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), Business Software Alliance (BSA), Africa Investor, e-Skills Industry Leadership Board, Global Information Infrastructure Commission (GIIC), Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren), 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, please consult the BASIS website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/basis>