



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC BASIS input to UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) report for its 14th session, May 2011

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and members of its BASIS initiative (Business Action to Support the Information Society) are pleased to provide additional input to the UN CSTD's consultation in preparation for its 14th session in May 2011. ICC BASIS provided a substantive response to the CSTD's questionnaire on the follow up of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) on 17 November 2010.¹

ICC BASIS applauds the CSTD's recognition of the intersection of the WSIS follow up role entrusted by the WSIS Tunis Agenda and its critically important role regarding identifying how science and technology are essential for development and through the improvements that they bring to the lives of people around the world and how they empower the individual.

In the priority themes identified in ECOSOC Decision 2010/229 and the report of the 13th CSTD meeting: *(a) Measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development; (b) Technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water* business agrees that there is an intersection between the CSTD's role in quantitatively assessing the impact of science and technology, including ICTs, on development, and on how technologies can help people address the challenges that they face as well as society as a whole. Water and agriculture are excellent examples of areas in which basic research has been applied to introduce technologies and good practices to not only save lives, but promote growth and development.

For example, ICTs are expanding around the world and are adopted in key applications for monitoring and economically managing water, energy and other resources, for achieving sustainable agriculture by helping farmers identify profitable crops and more efficiently get them to market, for extending expert affordable healthcare to even the most remote areas, for expanding knowledge and access to it to improve education and create a more inclusive Information Society, to name only a few of the areas where governments, businesses and NGOs are utilizing online applications to bring improved management, spread knowledge and skills development to citizens, especially in the developing countries and emerging economies. Numerous initiatives exist where ICTs play an important role in

¹ http://www.iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/BASIS/Documents/ICC_BASIS_resp_CSTD_quest_171110.pdf



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improving use of natural resources, and organization's are seeking to assist in greater awareness of these efforts, for example the OECD's recent Technology Foresight Forum in 2010 on Smart ICTs and Green Growth

(see: http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en_21571361_45683854_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

and its report 'Towards Green ICT Strategies' developed within the framework of the OECD green and innovation strategies project.

This CSTD consultation seeks input on areas that are impediments to progress in the areas under the CSTD's mandate, and our experience is that countries that are paying attention to the policy, legal and regulatory challenges and opportunities to remove impediments to investment and growth of ICTs are already seeing progress. The role of ICTs can be better highlighted and identifying how they are being used is a very important contribution. However, the positive impact of ICTs for social and economic development is directly related to the ubiquity of ICT solutions. In turn, ubiquity presupposes an extensive roll-out of high-speed broadband networks. The investment challenge underlying the roll-out of broadband infrastructure can thus become an impediment to progress that can only be overcome by investment-friendly policy and regulatory frameworks.

ICTs are increasingly a cross-cutting platform for all domains of science and technology. Basic research and development depends upon ICTs to gather data about the environment as well as physical/biological/chemical/nuclear/etc. processes, analyse that data, develop models, perform simulations, and then document and present the results and propose new hypothesis to further advance science and its implementation. ICTs even promote international collaboration on science and technology.

Measuring ICTs should be a broad area that captures ICTs usage and types of application across member states in a way that can be leveraged to the benefit of all, recognizes initiatives by the wide range of organizations engaged in the topic, as other reports of the CSTD.

Increased awareness of CSTD efforts in these regards are also important to build CSTD's visibility as a leader in not only promoting science and technology, but identifying how they are making the world a better place. Hopefully this will encourage others to contribute to CSTD's substantial work.

The CSTD has an important role in measuring ICTs and progress across member states everywhere. We believe emphasis on this role and measurement activities will be beneficial to the science and technology for development objectives and the WSIS



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goals to promote a people centred information society for more people around the world.

We also believe that the recognition of the mutual interdependence of CSTD's two streams of work will benefit from further enhanced understanding of this by all parties.

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