



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

Clarification note

The ICC/BASIS contribution dated 18 April 2007 on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) has been updated to ensure that some passages of the original version which may be interpreted in unintended ways are clarified.

This updated version dated 25 April 2007 is meant to clarify the ICC/BASIS position. We ask that recipients replace the original 18 April version that was distributed on 19 April with this updated document.

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Clarified version ICC/BASIS contribution Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

The global business community of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and its initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS) submit the following points for consideration at the meetings of the CSTD in May 2007 in Geneva. These comments address the issues under consideration by the CSTD including the proposal for a multi-year work programme (dated November 2006), the formulation of its working methods, and the development of recommendations to progress commitments and actions from the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS Geneva 2003, Tunis 2005).¹

Multi-year work programme

Unlike other Summit follow up processes, the WSIS has an integrated multistakeholder implementation programme, thus models from other Summits may not be as constructive. In addition, the WSIS outcomes and processes cover a range of issues, making it even more important for the CSTD's role as a focal point to assist the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its oversight of the follow up to the WSIS outcomes, be effective and non-duplicative. The CSTD could, for example, play an important role in helping ECOSOC, reviewing and assessing progress in implementation of the WSIS outcomes by ensuring that relevant information is brought together in an effective manner.

The ICC/BASIS comments and recommendations below provide ideas to assist in this formulation, and highlight business priorities.

- Business recommends that information about the WSIS outcomes and processes [Financing ICTs, WSIS Action Lines, Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and benchmarking activities] provided to ECOSOC, be reviewed by the CSTD to enable monitoring of progress.

1

ECOSOC resolution 2006/46, regarding WSIS follow-up: the CSTD "shall effectively assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in the implementing...." (para 4).



- CSTD outreach to business entities to request input on activities and contributions related to these outcomes will be important. In addition, such requests should be sent with a deadline for input and the same could be done for other stakeholders including civil society and international organizations.
- The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) model of taking one theme per year may not provide the most effective follow up for WSIS because of the outcome processes that are identified above.
- Perhaps identifying a theme for a CSTD organized multistakeholder ½ day or 1 day event during the CSTD meetings to discuss progress on that theme could be useful, but overall follow-up on all of the outcomes will be important.
- The CSTD could consider a process where it has a programme on the 5 main outcomes areas of the WSIS from 2008-2012 and in parallel receives input from all the action lines, the IGF etc.
- At each year's meeting the CSTD could hold the thematic session as outlined in the November 2006 proposed plan of work. It could also hold 1-2 day sessions on the reports of, for example, each action line, where the reports could be presented and considered.
- The CSTD could then review all of them and provide an overall commentary report on how these activities are progressing across all action lines and activities.
- Based on how well the CSTD functions, decisions can then be made about any subsequent work programme. The 2013-2015 time period could, for example, then be devoted to taking the issues or activities that appear to need the most attention to achieve the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and having focused sessions on those themes.

Working methods

- Providing clear schedules, calendars, and notification to stakeholders of issues under consideration will be critical to capturing the expertise and activities of all stakeholders in the CSTD's evaluations.
- Giving stakeholders adequate time to provide substantive input and formulating effective ways to include stakeholders in meetings with a constructive approach to interventions is essential to business.
- The CSTD working methods should remain sensitive to the limited time, human and financial resources of all stakeholders.
- Business believes that continued coordination and clustering of meetings to maximize stakeholders' presence for other WSIS related meetings is the most



effective way of ensuring that other stakeholders can contribute to the CSTD's coordination work.

- The utilization of online tools will maximize stakeholder input and respond to the need for sensitivity to resource limitations faced by all.
- The CSTD's working methods in assisting ECOSOC in coordinating the follow-up of the WSIS activities should ensure non-duplication and avoid overlaps.

Development of recommendations

- Business and other stakeholders are integral partners in the issues and outcomes addressed by the WSIS.
- Thus, all business and other relevant stakeholders should be included in the development of any recommendations regarding how to progress certain outcomes or issues.
- All of the outcomes require the participation and activities of business, along with governments and other stakeholders, thus it makes sense to include them all in the development of recommendations.

Strengthening the multistakeholder approach

- Many of the recommendations and comments above outline ways to effectively include business and other stakeholders in meetings.
- It is important to bear in mind that 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 discussions in the CSTD if they have the opportunity to intervene on each agenda item instead of, for instance, only being given the opportunity to provide general statements during one period.



What is Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS)?

ICC created BASIS to serve as the voice of business in the global dialogue on the Information Society, following the two World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005). BASIS participates in UN-linked forums set up to continue the dialogue, such as the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the WSIS follow-up and implementation processes.

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 the Summits in Geneva and Tunis.

To promote the environment in which global business will continue to thrive as an innovator of these technologies, BASIS mobilizes business to help shape the agenda and participate in these global discussions. The initiative aims to unite the business community, to raise awareness among the public, governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and technical authorities of what business requires for continued contributions to the development of the Information Society. BASIS relies on substantive policies developed in ICC's Commission on E-business, IT and Telecoms (EBITT) as the foundation for its efforts.

For further information regarding BASIS, the founding partners, members and activities, please consult the BASIS website at: www.iccwbo.org/BASIS

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 130 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