

## **United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**

### **ICC BASIS responses to GENERAL STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE**

#### **1. What do you consider to be the most important achievements of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) since 2005?**

- The WSIS has achieved a new model for global level policy discussions that is truly multistakeholder, recognizing the value and experience of governments, business, civil society, and the Internet technical community in addressing the range of ICT and Internet governance issues that impact the promotion of a people centred information society.
- Since the WSIS in 2005, tremendous progress has been made in building communications and exchange of experience across stakeholder groups which is leading to more informed policy decisions at national, regional and international levels
- The range of countries and number of individuals that have access to the information society today has grown significantly and the WSIS achievements have contributed to this growth:

	2005	2010
Internet subscribers	1 billion	1.8 billion
Mobile subscribers	2 billion	5.0 billion

Business is proud of the role that it plays in investing, designing, building, operating and maintaining the infrastructure that has allowed so many more people to enjoy the benefits of the information society. We look forward to working with other stakeholders to bring those benefits to all people.

#### **2a. In what areas do you think most progress has been made in implementing WSIS outcomes at an international and regional level during the five years from 2005 to 2010?**

- Access to infrastructure; affordability and geographical coverage
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Access to information and knowledge
- ICT applications for development, e-government and other WSIS goals
- Increased awareness of the importance of ICTs for human development
- Successful continued internationalization of the Internet user experience through the introduction of IDNs

- Undersea cables now landing off the coast of East Africa and rapid increase in IXPs (Internet Exchange Points)

**2b. What action should be taken to build on this success during the next five years?**

- Continue to promote the free flow of information and enabling policy environments that promote investment, innovation and infrastructure development
- Continue to promote effective public-private partnerships for expanding deployment of Internet infrastructure and to utilize ICT solutions for achieving WSIS goals
- Continue to focus on human and institutional capacity building efforts which in turn impact all of the WSIS goals
- Continue to build the multistakeholder interactive model across all post-WSIS activities to enrich communications and dialogue regarding key policy issues that enable the WSIS goals at national, regional and international levels
- Remain sensitive to the limited time and resources of all stakeholders and focus use of resources on areas that can have real impact

**3a. In what areas do you think least progress has been made in implementing WSIS outcomes at an international and regional level during these five years?**

- Continue to update policy and regulatory frameworks to reduce barriers to the deployment of ICT solutions for achieving WSIS goals
- More attention needs to be paid to the enabling environment issues in many LDC and developing countries in particular to pave the way for greater access to the information society
  - For example, need to reduce proposals to establish national standards/requirements that limit, delay or increase the cost and introduction of imported technologies based on global standards and/or that reduce intellectual property protections for such technologies
- Greater emphasis on assisting in the creation of a secure digital market and increasing confidence in digital applications and tools

**3b. What action should be taken to address these challenges during the next five years?**

- Expand the development and sharing of best practices through global multi-stakeholder discussions
- Eliminate proposals to establish national standards/requirements that limit, delay or increase the cost the introduction of imported technologies based on global standards and/or that reduce intellectual property protections for such technologies

- Support and promote knowledge exchange through partnerships and initiatives that can help build capacity of governments, business and users in developing countries and LDCs where the enabling environment for investment, entrepreneurship and innovation remain barriers
  - Focus resources and attention on human and institutional capacity building activities including on basic education needs
4. Please make any specific comments that you wish to make on WSIS implementation and follow-up activity as a result of your experience, either concerning the outcomes of WSIS in general or in specific areas of WSIS implementation and follow-up.
- The IGF should be continued based on its founding multistakeholder principles.
  - Per the Tunis Agenda, paragraph 105, ECOSOC and its Commission on Science, technology and Development (CSTD) should continue to be the focal points for system-wide follow-up to the WSIS.

*You may find it useful to refer to the list of chapter headings in the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society in responding to this question.*

- 5a. In what WSIS implementation and follow-up activities at an international or regional level has your organisation been involved? *(Follow-up processes which were agreed at WSIS are described in the chapter of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society which is headed "Implementation and Follow-up" (paragraphs 83-122)).*

ICC, its BASIS initiative - Business Action to Support the Information Society - and its members have been actively engaged in the following post-WSIS activities and their preparatory processes:

1. Internet Governance Forum (including national and regional IGF initiatives)
2. UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
3. WSIS action lines Forum
4. Wide variety of private sector initiatives to promote capacity building and development

- 5b. Which of these processes do you think have been most successful during the past five years and why?

We believe that the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) has been highly successful. The emergence of national and regional IGF events is a reflection of the successful model it established for multi-stakeholder Internet policy discussions.

**5c. What action should be taken to build on this success during the next five years?**

The IGF should be renewed in its existing multistakeholder structure and support should be provided for participation and continued expansion of national and regional IGF events.

**6a. Which WSIS implementation and follow-up processes do you think have been less successful during the past five years and why?**

We have found it difficult to understand what progress is being made on some of the specific action lines. This may be because these activities have been taken up internally with specific UN agencies.

**6b. What action should be taken to address these challenges during the next five years?**

The WSIS action lines Forum, which has successfully organized some excellent sessions that show real actions and initiatives on specific action line themes, should build on these sessions which have been very valuable.

In some cases, the relevant UN agency(ies) might simply integrate the activities related to WSIS action lines into their work plans and report on this in the UN Secretary General's annual report presented to CSTD, ECOSOC and the UN general assembly, i.e. in such cases, no need to expend resources on a session in the WSIS action lines Forum for all activities.

**7. In your view, what important new issues or themes concerning the Information Society have emerged or become important since the Summit ended in 2005, which deserve more attention in the next five years?**

- Continued investment and infrastructure deployment, particularly during the global economic downturn
- Cloud computing and other emerging ICT solutions for achieving the WSIS goals
- Need to ensure security and privacy on the Internet in a manner that promotes innovation and continued growth and expansion
- Informed consumer choice, furthered by transparency and industry best practices regarding network management and service differentiation
- New generation networks needed to support traffic generated will raise new questions and opportunities, for instance to explore ways to ensure that all actors help to finance the infrastructure and support the continued healthy development of the Internet

8. What do you think should be the priority themes and areas of work for the implementation of WSIS outcomes during the next five years, up to the comprehensive review of WSIS in 2015?

- Infrastructure financing: creative models and opportunities
- Sharing of best practices for promoting the deployment of Internet infrastructure and development of ICT solutions for meeting WSIS goals
- Updating policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate the global development of cloud computing and other emerging ICT solutions

9. How, if at all, do you think that WSIS follow-up processes need to change to take account of changing circumstances and priorities?

We believe that a first step was taken to create written reports from countries on WSIS related progress at the national level; this could be further built upon by having brief oral interventions with time limits of these report at the CSTD meetings, publishing a comprehensive set of these reports and then using the CSTD session for interaction on the challenges faced and sharing of experiences in implementing the WSIS goals.

10. Please make any further comments below that you think would be useful to the review.



# 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.

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## About Business Action to Support Information Society (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](http://www.iccwbo.org/basis)

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