



International Chamber of Commerce  
*The world business organization*

An ICC initiative  
**BASIS**  
Business Action to Support  
the Information Society

## **ICC-BASIS reflections on Rio 12-15 November 2007 Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

---

### **Introduction**

This contribution provides feedback from the global business community of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and its initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS) on the second Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Rio de Janeiro [12-15 November 2007] in response to the IGF secretariat's call for input. ICC and BASIS include members from companies and business associations from around the world, across sectors and of all sizes.

### **General comments**

ICC/BASIS members believe that the second IGF successfully built upon the IGF in Athens 2006 and provided an open and informative forum for discussion on Internet governance (IG) issues among all stakeholders. This feedback provides reactions to, and experiences of ICC/BASIS members at, the second IGF, and proposes innovations to improve the IGF format and to ensure that it continues to evolve as a productive space for discussion on these issues.

It is essential that preparations for the next IGF in New Delhi, India (December 2008) continue the successful multi-stakeholder approach. We recognize the efforts of the Indian host country to try to identify dates, and a possible venue. Additional logistical and substantive arrangements for the IGF in New Delhi are beginning in earnest and continued progress is important, in particular prompt announcement of the final dates for the event. Sensitivity to the financial constraints of many stakeholders should be a high priority in terms of the logistics and arrangements negotiated for the IGF in India. The multistakeholder input in all aspects of the preparations for the next IGF in 2008 will be critical to its success.

ICC/BASIS members strongly encourage prompt work on the speakers and programme for the main sessions and other events to begin in earnest in February, and a complete programme with speakers' listed for all events to be finalized and posted by September 2008.

### **Main sessions**

ICC-BASIS supports the continued inclusion of main sessions but encourages an evolved format that will make these discussions more meaningful. The main sessions appeared to attract less attendance than at the IGF in Athens, perhaps because of the general nature of the discussions and the number of other events in parallel. The main sessions are an important part of the multi-stakeholder discussions that raise the range of viewpoints on

these topics (which was not necessarily the case in workshops on sub-topics), and offered a focus point for the topic. We support encouraging the IGF in New Delhi to adopt a different format for the main session panels that would allow for a more in-depth discussion of specific issues and that would be able to draw on the workshops and on other inputs from participants.

- Efforts to deepen the discussions could be accomplished by the following:
  1. Focus the main session discussions on specific questions or issues, and best practices/lessons learned instead of general presentations on high-level issues;
  2. Vigilantly limit the remarks by panellists, and increase the time allocated to interactive discussion with the participants;
  3. The main session descriptions should be simplified, and confirmed much earlier. The main session questions or issues to be discussed should be identified in the descriptions, and be faithfully held to by the panellists and moderators;
  4. The focused topics of the main sessions should also be selected based on the criteria that they are likely to generate useful give and take with the audience;
  5. Invitations to speakers and confirmation and announcement of their participation must be finalized at least by June 2008, and a complete programme with speakers listed must be made available by September 2008;
  6. Reduce the number of other events or eliminate all other events in parallel to the main sessions;
  7. Balance participation between panellists and the audience to make the sessions more interactive; and
  9. Explore new approaches to encourage the active participation of a wider variety of voices.

The topic areas that have been covered in the main sessions of the IGF in Athens and Rio de Janeiro should be reviewed as the agenda develops to ensure that further discussions on these main session topics truly add value at the IGF in New Delhi.

### **Cross-cutting theme of Capacity Building**

Discussions in all the main sessions should emphasize the development agenda issues, and human and institutional capacity building measures that are necessary to strengthen involvement of all stakeholders in Internet governance issues and institutions.

### **Emerging issues:**

The emerging issues session in Rio was a good model that should be used again in New Delhi. It was very interactive, and a valuable opportunity to raise issues that were not discussed during the other main sessions.

**Access:**

The discussions on access issues can add real value for participants. These should focus on practical issues, and the challenges and difficulties that many countries and market players struggle with in implementing policy, regulatory and legal frameworks that support infrastructures, an enabling environment for investment in them, and accessibility issues where infrastructure exists.

**Diversity:**

The discussion in New Delhi should focus on the ability of the Internet and ICTs to enhance diversity with limitless capacity to transmit content. The role that user-generated content plays in advancing cultural diversity and the promotion of cultural diversity through intellectual property protection and standards that facilitate the creation of new software applications and tools such as translation technologies. Special attention should be paid to the government and business initiatives, that stimulate development of local content production and providers of online services for the local market, including, for example, establishing seed funding, training incubator services. The exchange of practices that work and experience could also be included.

Further, the session would benefit participants by raising awareness about efforts that are under way to introduce Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and existing technologies, policies, and capacity-building efforts that increase access to disabled communities, women and other communities that may benefit from focused attention to increase the diversity of participants in the Internet and Internet governance issues.

**Openness:**

The openness session should be managed in a balanced way that allows all stakeholders to voice their perspective and share their experiences. Emphasis should be placed on the roles the Internet and ICTs play in promoting access to information and how governments, business, civil society and other organizations can work together to maximize openness, interoperability, and the free flow of information on the Internet.

It should also highlight how to build human and institutional capacities and raise awareness about how existing intellectual property right regimes foster the free flow of information on the Internet, increase consumer confidence and strengthen security and encourage cooperation between stakeholders, to promote the dissemination of legitimate content and services. The session should also include information about strategies for maximizing access to content, while protecting intellectual property rights which is a critical issue for many stakeholders.

**Security:**

The relationship between security and openness should be part of both sessions to demonstrate the trade-offs and challenges in ensuring both simultaneously. The discussion should raise awareness about the work ongoing in private and public sector

bodies and forums with substantial expertise in network security, to improve practices in the area of security, with a special focus on work that is relevant to small- and medium-sized enterprises and emerging economies. It is important that the roles of governments, businesses, and other stakeholders in adopting authentication technologies to promote trust online is clearly discussed to build on the previous main sessions on this theme.

### **Critical Internet Resources:**

Critical Internet resources underpins all of the 4 main sessions on Access, Diversity, Openness and Security issues, and would be best discussed as an incorporated part of those sessions. This reflects the broad range of Internet resource issues that are critical including infrastructure, regional resource management issues, and not focus on the domain name system alone.

Digital literacy and IT training should receive more attention in the discussions in New Delhi. Skills development and other resources necessary to get the world online should be a part of these discussions to emphasize the cross-cutting development and capacity building themes.

### **Workshops, Open Forums:**

- ICC-BASIS supports the inclusion of workshops and encourages the proposal and consideration process for different kinds of workshops to start much earlier. We recommend launching the solicitation of proposals in March 2008. This will allow the programme to take shape much earlier and for a near final programme to be posted by end-May 2008.
- Best practices should be integrated into the main sessions, and not broken out into separate events in many cases.
- Overlapping workshop proposals should continue to be encouraged to merge efforts as appropriate.
- Consideration should be given to limiting the number of workshops proposed by the same group/stakeholder, and efforts should be made to ensure a broad range of panellists that have the opportunity to participate in workshops, main sessions, and other events.
- Workshop reports should be very short, and should be vetted by the moderators and panellists before being presented in the reporting sessions and posted. This will also ensure that the workshop reports are consistent with the range of viewpoints expressed during the discussion, and that they are a true report and not an advocacy opportunity for one approach or perspective.
- The open forums are basically a different kind of workshop, and should be clearly identified in the schedule and programme earlier. Organizers should be required to provide details regarding the speakers or presenters, and the focus of the sessions much earlier than was the case for the IGF in Rio. Many best practice and open forums did not have details regarding speakers and sessions were incomplete until the start of the IGF in Rio.
- The topics and speakers at these other events should be publicized early to encourage participation and allow participants to better plan and prepare.

### **Dynamic Coalitions:**

- Dynamic coalitions should be opportunities for stakeholders from a range of perspectives to come together to discuss and work on issues. Accepting one viewpoint should not be a criterion for belonging to a Dynamic coalition.
- Dynamic coalition meetings should have an interactive format, and should be an opportunity to draw upon the range of stakeholders present at the IGF to make the Dynamic Coalition more inclusive.
- These meetings should not be workshops, advocacy sessions, or seminars, but should be run as meetings to help define the Dynamic Coalitions focus in the year to come, and consider the related issues that are important to new participants who may not be active in the coalition.
- Dynamic coalitions should be able to propose workshops, but if the event is called a meeting, it should be a true meeting instead of a seminar or workshop.
- IGF branding should not be used in their name, logo or materials. To allow IGF branding gives the appearance the coalition has the imprimatur of the IGF. The IGF secretariat should develop a disclaimer for use on the Dynamic Coalition reports and other related documents and websites that state that the materials, documents and information on the website are not endorsed by the UN or the IGF.
- IGF participants should clarify the role and objectives of Dynamic coalitions generally.

### **Reporting Sessions:**

- The 3 minute time limit for reports on events should be strictly adhered to. The reporting sessions would be more productive and would attract more participation if that was the case.
- Many reports seemed to be advocacy opportunities instead of a reflection of the range of viewpoints expressed in the workshops or events.
- With multiple events happening simultaneously, the reporting back sessions are important opportunities to summarize discussions and keep all participants informed.

### **IGF India:**

ICC-BASIS encourages concretization, announcement of partnerships launched, and commitments to be part of the IGF in India. The IGF is stimulating many exciting initiatives, and they should be captured in the programme and highlighted in a main session. Such a session would capture the developments in the past year and the discussion about useful partnerships and alliances would help identify people and initiatives that could be replicated in other regions or for other issues.

We believe that “Innovation” and how to promote it should be a new cross-cutting topic addressed in New Delhi in all main sessions. Discussion about new developments, applications, and services that affect Internet governance issues and that might provide solutions and improvements in each theme’s area, would add an important dimension to the discussions and what participants learn from the IGF events.

The IGF in India can build on the discussions on the main themes in Athens and Rio by looking at the relationships between access and diversity, and between openness and security, which would be beneficial to participants and explore real challenges and choices in these areas and successful ways to address them. Particular emphasis on the perspective of developing countries should be integrated into the discussions.

More opportunities for informal networking would make the IGF a richer opportunity for participants, and facilitate joint endeavours as a result. We encourage making the schedule during the lunch break a true break with no other events scheduled or a very limited number of them. This would encourage participants to meet informally, without having to forego attendance at a substantive session that they are interested in.

The host country, India, has an important logistics and organizational role for the IGF in 2008. We strongly encourage the Indian government to work closely with Mr Desai and the IGF secretariat to ensure that essential organizational issues are confirmed promptly and made public to facilitate participation. The hotel and visa costs should be negotiated to ensure that participants can afford to be at the IGF in India.

#### **Host country co-chair:**

- ICC-BASIS supports the reconfirmation of Mr Nitin Desai as Chair of the IGF advisory group. As our input ahead of the IGF in Rio on the taking stock and way forward session outlined, we believe that the Chair of the IGF advisory group has an important role to play, and must be neutral, objective, and balanced in this guiding role.
- The naming of a Co-Chair, from the host country of Brazil, was an experiment that has concluded. We support only a special liaison from the host country of India being appointed to assist the Chair, Mr Nitin Desai, with planning and logistics. We support this approach because such a role will help facilitate this important aspect of a successful IGF meeting. In addition, it will enable us to return to the clearer situation of having one chair, and allowing Mr Desai to focus more completely on the work of the advisory group and the open consultations.

#### **Advisory Group:**

- ICC-BASIS supports maintaining the important link of the IGF advisory group to the United Nations' Secretary General's office.
- ICC-BASIS supports the current format and balance of representatives from government, business, civil society and the technical community in the advisory group.
- It is important to build on the experience of experts who have participated in the advisory group and also to bring in new expertise for the planning of the next IGF in India. Thus we would support a voluntary renewal and rotation process with approximately 1/3 of the representatives from each stakeholder group being replaced while the remaining 2/3 would be re-confirmed.

- Among the criteria for the rotation and renewal process should be the active engagement and constructive participation of advisory group members at the meetings, in the online and offline discussions, and at the IGF, and a commitment to fulfil these responsibilities.
- ICC-BASIS proposes that the IGF Secretariat post a call for proposed names from all of the stakeholder groups for consideration in a rotation and renewal of the advisory group members in early February 2008. Such a call would also envisage asking current members about their plans for their own personal continuation in the group, or whether they would be interested in creating space for a replacement, including suggesting names for possible replacements.
- A preliminary list of the recommendations received both for renewal and rotation could be posted for public comment by end-February 2008.
- This would allow a critical objective to be met which is to have the advisory group confirmed just after the 26 February consultations and stock taking meetings of the current advisory group. This is critical to ensure that the programme for the IGF in New Delhi is well progressed before May 2008, and planning and invitations will be facilitated by this action.
- ICC-BASIS supports the need for geographic diversity to be carefully considered in the renewal and rotation process for the advisory group.
- ICC-BASIS does NOT support changing the name, structure, format, or 'rules of procedure' of the advisory group to a bureau or a programme committee, even though many of the functions of a bureau or programme committee are de facto carried out by the advisory group. The existing format has worked well for the past two IGFs and should be maintained.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a schedule for IGF key dates that can be counted on each year, instead of reinventing the wheel each year. For example, the calendar for the IGF could outline that a call for feedback will be posted 3 weeks after the IGF that year; the advisory group will be confirmed by 28 February each year; an open consultation will be held by 28 February each year, etc. This would provide all stakeholders with a consistent preparatory schedule and facilitate contributions and participation.

#### **Logistics:**

ICC-BASIS is pleased to see that a possible venue has been identified that provides for participants to stay in the venue hotel. Early confirmation of the venue will facilitate participation in the IGF events in New Delhi.

#### ***What worked well at the IGF in Rio?***

- IGF secretariat team: helpful and available.
- Brazilian logistics organizers and venue staff: friendly and accommodating.
- Printers in meeting point: very valuable.
- Additional meeting rooms: very important for participants in this Forum.
- Having the IGF in a venue that is a hotel and that could accommodate participants.

***Suggestions:***

- Ensure that the negotiated rates with the venue hotel and other hotels in the vicinity are affordable for a broad range of budgets.
- Hotel rates should be negotiated and announced by April 2008, with the financial limitations of all stakeholders carefully considered.
- A rapid, no-cost or inexpensive and simple visa application process should be put in place and announced by April 2008.
- Earlier and complete information regarding all sessions, speakers, all workshops, open forums and their organizers and their speakers would be very helpful.
- Reliable Wifi and cell phone reception
- The meeting point would be even more constructive if it is placed in the centre in an area that all participants need to walk through to get to the meetings.
- Better, more descriptive, session names for non-main session events.
- Clearly announce any venue changes for workshops and other meetings.
- Office spaces for the use of large groups inside the venue within the UN security area to facilitate the work of participants.
- A walk-through of the venue with key participants and organizers before the event would be very useful.
- Having local staff with fluency in English would facilitate communications regarding logistics for events.
- IGF branding/banner in workshop and meeting rooms to capture that the events took place at the IGF.
- Copy machines and printers available to all organizers and participants at least 2-3 days before the opening of the IGF, and throughout, would facilitate work on the ground.
- Tables for materials should be placed in each workshop room.
- More information ahead of time on special needs and requirements - especially regarding UN protocol (i.e. on-site information only that all banners had to be pre-approved by the UN meant that banners were not approved and could not be used. Having this stated clearly before the Forum would facilitate the needed approvals being obtained.) Many participants and organizers are not familiar with UN protocol, so having a comprehensive set of rules and regulations would be helpful well in advance.
- Better organization for the opening and closing ceremonies. Participants should know the procedure (i.e. arrival times, documentation needed, format, etc).
- Bigger stalls would be very helpful.

**Media / Press relations**

- Given that the IGF has taken place twice now, it would be a good moment to compile the list of journalists who have attended and provide their contact details to those who would like to follow up ahead of the next event.
- If the rolling screens opportunity for remarks to be heard in the hallways is available then information about bringing pre-recorded messages on DVDs should be provided to participants well in advance if this opportunity will not be supported by film crews on-site.

## **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 Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), 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 will mobilize 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 to continue contributing to the development of the Information Society. BASIS relies on 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: <http://www.iccwbo.org/basis>.

## **About 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](http://www.iccwbo.org)