



**International Chamber of Commerce**

*The world business organization*

An ICC initiative

**BASIS**

Business Action to Support  
the Information Society

## **ICC/BASIS top line business messages**

### **General**

- ICC and BASIS members support the IGF because it provides a unique opportunity to exchange views and best practices on a wide variety of important policy issues that affect continued development of the Internet, and can help bring its economic and social benefits to more people around the world. The strength of this new model of international cooperation is that it joins together governmental and non-governmental representatives through a multi-stakeholder approach, with all participants on an equal footing.

### **Critical Internet Resources (CIR)**

- As a main session of the IGF the first discussion of critical internet resources should set the stage. It should outline what critical resources today are; identify who does what and how can stakeholders contribute and participate; and explore how to maximize cooperative efforts between relevant organizations. The discussion should address several issues including:
  - the Domain Name System (DNS) and regional management activities such as Regional Internet Registries (RIRs);
  - IPv4-IPv6 and the transition;
  - Digital Object Identifiers (DOI);
  - ENUM (Electronic Numbering); and
  - Radio spectrum, backbones, and Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

### **Access and Diversity**

- Establishing an enabling environment is vital for development. This means attracting investment, promoting innovation and helping to build the infrastructures necessary to improve access. This also means ensuring there are:
  - independent regulators
  - respect for the rule of law
  - protection of intellectual property
  - telecoms liberalization
  - pro-competitive legal, policy and regulatory frameworks that enable choice regarding quality and lower cost of services
  - independent courts
  - entrepreneurship and innovation

***Enabling more people to gain access to the Internet is the most effective way to ensure diversity.***

**International Chamber of Commerce**

38, Cours Albert 1er, 75008 Paris, France

Telephone +33 1 49 53 28 28 Fax +33 1 49 53 28 59

Website [www.iccwbo.org](http://www.iccwbo.org) E-mail [icc@iccwbo.org](mailto:icc@iccwbo.org)

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### **Access and Diversity continued..**

- The Internet provides greater access to more diverse content, including user generated content. It also reduces barriers to entry, increases the ability to cater to niche markets, and improves access to information through the use of search technologies, thus contributing to cultural diversity.
- We recognize and support efforts to increase the ability of non-English speakers to communicate on and through the Internet while at the same time ensuring the stability of the Internet and the protection of intellectual property.
- Particular attention should be given to developing tools that promote access for the elderly and those with disabilities. In addition, the timely deployment of new internationalized domain names (IDNs), with attention to technical, trademark and trade name issues, can help ensure that all people are a part of the global Information Society.

### **Openness**

- Business fully supports the open exchange of ideas and free flow of information in a manner that respects intellectual property rights because it builds up the knowledge base of an economy. Furthermore, the free flow of information and ideas creates the kind of transparency needed for strong economic growth, which can foster greater choices and more competition for markets and Internet users everywhere.
- The free flow of information and ideas supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Tunis Declaration. Governments everywhere should raise citizen awareness of the Internet and its benefits.
- Business is committed to and supports freedom of expression, and the free flow of information, ideas, and knowledge, in conformity with the principles embodied especially in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reaffirmed by Article 4 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Article 4 of the Tunis Commitment.
- Business recognizes that it must comply with local laws. Where such local laws contradict these principles and restrict freedom of speech, business seeks, together with governments, sensible solutions that endeavor to enhance communication within and across borders, noting the positive impact that business applications and services have on the flow of information.

### **Security**

- A multistakeholder approach is essential to create a global culture of cybersecurity. Education and information exchange, the development and diffusion of technical tools to protect networks and users, and effective and cooperative policy approaches can help us address important issues. These issues include protecting children from inappropriate material and contacts, fighting spam, and cybercrime, preventing cyber attacks, and most important, ensuring the security of the Internet's physical infrastructure.
- Business encourages discussions on what technologies are currently available for improving cybersecurity, fighting cyber crime and how governments in conjunction with the private sector can foster openness of the Internet.



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### **Emerging issues**

- The IGF offers a rare opportunity to increase participation in the dialogue on the future shape of new technologies, and share expertise. These exchanges are tangible, extremely beneficial and have long lasting value to all stakeholders.
- Since the Internet and Internet applications continue to evolve at an accelerating pace, we must ensure that policy approaches do not block innovation or restrict user choice.
- Continued development of the Internet is vital and a pro-competitive approach is key to enabling this to happen around the world.
- The goal of each IGF is to create and reinforce a strong dialogue among the different stakeholders.
- The focus should be on the core themes of the IGF--capacity building and development and education.

### **Taking stock and way forward**

- It is premature to attempt to 'evaluate' the IGF and its mandate when only one full meeting out of the five previewed meetings has concluded. To attempt to do so in Rio would not be a productive use of limited resources and time. This discussion should instead take place during the next round of public consultations in January/February 2008.
- No one stakeholder should dominate IGF. The IGF is valuable because it reflects the real world of the Internet. All participants play an equally vital role in its success. Business and many other stakeholders are necessary for a successful outcome.
- The current Advisory Group and small support staff have done a fine job of framing issues for constructive discussion. Any modifications or experiments that would provide any stakeholder group with more influence would be counter-productive.
- The Advisory Group is a valuable resource for advice for preparation of the programme for the IGF. In addition, it has been cost-effective and flexible. We do not support changing its role or format. A formal bureau structure, for example, would not be appropriate for the IGF. The IGF's strength lies precisely in its ability to create a working dialogue among different participants and stakeholder groups.
- The IGF continues to be an important forum for all stakeholders to discuss issues of concern in an open and candid manner.
- Business will endeavour to underscore the importance of an enabling environment worldwide to help fuel the rapid expansion of Internet services to more people and regions, and the critical role the private sector plays in these efforts.