

ICC-BASIS input on IGF India programme

On behalf of the members of the International Chamber of Commerce and its initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS), including companies and business associations from around the world and across sectors, we are pleased to provide further input as the programme for the next Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Hyderabad, India is developed.

Format and structure

The new format of the main session workshops and main session ‘debates’¹ will be most effective if they are well prepared, and include a range of stakeholder viewpoints and experience. ICC-BASIS members support the evolution towards more focused discussions that build on the exchanges on these topics in the previous two IGF events.

The moderators for the main session workshops and ‘debates’ should ensure that participation from the audience for each session includes input from all stakeholder groups, and that one stakeholder group does not dominate the interactive exchange. A rotation process among commentators would be helpful in ensuring balance. The main session workshops and ‘debates’ should emphasize the cross-cutting themes of capacity building by encouraging dialogue on the best practices that apply to a particular policy issue, and the challenges faced and solutions found. Continued emphasis on development issues should be a priority in these sessions as well.

ICC-BASIS members appreciate the efforts of the IGF Secretariat, the multistakeholder advisory group (MAG) and the IGF community to produce a draft programme earlier than in the past two years. We strongly urge a finalized programme with moderators, descriptions, and panellists where appropriate, identified and posted by the end of September 2008 at the latest. This will facilitate participation from a broader group of stakeholders, and allow for the necessary substantive preparations to make these sessions informative, dynamic and useful.

The main sessions are an important part of the multistakeholder discussions that raise the range of viewpoints on these topics, and offer a focal point for the topic. The schedule should take into consideration the experiences of the past two IGF events and ensure that there are no conflicts between main sessions and parallel workshops.

¹ ICC-BASIS members continue to have concerns about the word ‘debate’ given that in their purest form, debates have a winner and a loser. In the IGF context, we understand the debate sessions to be an opportunity for interactive exchange and discussion.

Main session workshops and ‘debates’: focused sub-topics

A. Reaching the Next Billion

1. Access

- Broadband deployment- policy and regulatory options and approaches; challenges faced and approaches that work.
- Promoting enabling policies, for competition, innovation, investment.
- Financing frameworks and removing barriers to trade.
- Supporting the emergence of IP-based applications.
- Role of mobile broadband in developing countries as the first Internet access method, mobile content creation, and the role of mobile in public services.
- Internet access as an engine for economic development, current evidence and future projections of economic impact.

2. Multilingualism

- 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 and incubator services. The exchange of practices that work, and experience could also be included.
- Local content development and what it takes to continue to build it.
- The session would benefit participants by raising awareness about organizations involved and efforts under way to introduce Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and progress made to date.

B. Promoting Cyber-Security and Trust

1. Are we losing the battle against cybercrime?

- ICC-BASIS continues to question the description of this topic area. We believe that the topic should be articulated as “Addressing cybersecurity and related efforts in cybercrime”.
- We believe that this session should provide important factual information about trends in crime online, to raise awareness about the real problems that are being faced and progress that has been made to try to address them. This would include discussion about what cybersecurity is and how it has an impact on cybercrime.
- In our view, cybercrime poses challenges to all stakeholders and cybersecurity involves all stakeholders. There are important and effective policy and regulatory approaches, as well as technical fixes, good practices, and helpful initiatives that should be discussed in the IGF context to help address cybercrime and promote cybersecurity. This approach also fulfils the important emphasis at the IGF in India on human and institutional capacity building and development issues.

- The workshop should set the stage for the afternoon ‘debate’ on “Promoting Cyber-Security and Trust” by bringing in the experience of relevant stakeholders, including business, law enforcement, user interests, and policy-makers, to delve into the points outlined above, and also discuss how cybersecurity can deter cybercrime.
- The discussion should also explore the impact on business, how liability and cost burdens affect companies, and the balance that needs to be struck.
- The workshop should include panellists who can use concrete examples to demonstrate how certain policy approaches work or do not work, and raise awareness about the range of organizations and forums involved in addressing cybercrime issues and promoting cybersecurity.

2. Fostering security, privacy and openness

- ICC-BASIS members believe the discussions should explore the relationship between security and openness to demonstrate the trade-offs and challenges in ensuring both simultaneously. This workshop would then feed into the afternoon session as a productive compliment to the workshop on cybersecurity and cybercrime.
- 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 this area with a special focus on work that is relevant to small- and medium-sized enterprises and emerging economies.
- The roles of governments, businesses, and other stakeholders in adopting authentication technologies to promote trust online should be part of the exchange.
- The workshop should explore building 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.
- Information about strategies for maximizing access to content, including the role of intellectual property protection, which is a critical issue for many stakeholders, should be provided.
- The discussion should raise awareness about the many initiatives that exist to provide useful information to individual users, including young people, to assist them in managing their use of Internet responsibly.

C. Managing Critical Internet Resources

1. Transition from IPv4-IPv6

- What is the current level of preparedness?
- How private and public institutions are preparing for the transition
- What are the drivers for the transition?

2. Arrangements for Internet governance, global and national/regional

- ICC-BASIS believes that the current description of this topic is confusing given that the IGF as a whole is about Internet governance. We recommend that, since this topic is being discussed on the “Managing Critical Internet Resources” day, it would be more appropriate to describe this topic as “Arrangements for managing Internet resources, global and national/regional”.
- Regional Internet resource management should be discussed, and practical information about how different countries and regions have organized arrangements should be featured.

- As has been stated in previous ICC-BASIS contributions, critical Internet resources could include everything from electricity to the DNS. The discussion on arrangements should build participants' information base about the broad range of what critical resources today are, identify who does what and how stakeholders can contribute and participate; and explore how to maximize cooperative efforts between relevant organizations. The discussion should address several issues including:
 - Digital Object Identifiers (DOI);
 - ENUM (Electronic Numbering);
 - Radio spectrum, backbones, and Internet Service Providers (ISPs);
 - the Domain Name System (DNS) and regional management activities such as Regional Internet Registries (RIRs); and
 - IPv4-IPv6 and the transition.

D. Taking stock and way forward

- This session should be an opportunity to get feedback on the new session formats for the IGF in India, and how the programme can be further evolved for the IGF in Egypt in 2009.
- Input from participants on their experience at the IGF in Hyderabad, and areas of improvement should be part of the discussion

E. Emerging issues

Internet of tomorrow-Innovation and the evolution of the Internet

ICC-BASIS members recommend that the following areas be explored during the emerging issues session, in an interactive discussion:

- Innovation and competition is what drives the evolution of Internet, and there is a risk that regulation is hampering the ability for companies to compete which slows innovation down. The discussion should explore policy approaches to innovation and competition that reduce the risks and contribute to what it takes to reach the next billion Internet users.
- The role of innovation and how it contributes to the Internet and its applications.
- Creating an enabling environment for innovation (education, promoting innovation through intellectual property protection, public - private R&D partnerships, technology neutral policies, support for voluntary market-led standards, tax and other incentives).
- The importance of innovation translating into products and services for society to reap the benefits.
- How innovation occurs across a variety of technologies and business models; how competition between technologies, business models and products contributes to innovation responding to market needs.
- Innovation and SMEs (both technology producing SMEs often relying on patents to reap capital investment to succeed, as well as SMEs in other sectors relying on innovative technology to compete, grow and succeed).
- Innovation and bridging the digital divide: how innovation bridges the digital divide (both in mainstream technologies used around the globe such as email and access to

the Internet as well as in technologies particularly suited for developing countries such as mobile broadband technologies, Wimax in remote areas, 100 dollar PC etc.).

- Innovation in the area of interoperability: how intellectual property protection is necessary to encourage IPR holders to contribute cutting edge technologies to standardization; how innovation in voluntary industry collaboration and tools is necessary to allow interoperability in an increasingly complex and diverse environment.
- Consumers and their impact on creating demand for innovation.

ICC-BASIS members look forward to providing additional input as the programme evolves, and at the IGF consultation in September 2008.

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