



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative
BASIS
Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC-BASIS intervention-3, Ayesha Hassan

Open Consultation-Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Geneva, 16 September 2008

Thank you, Chair.

ICC-BASIS members believe that the IGF provides a useful opportunity for all relevant stakeholders to discuss important Internet governance related policy issues and exchange experiences on challenges faced, solutions that work, good practices, and issues on the horizon. It also provides a place for new contacts to be made, partnerships to be formed and awareness about initiatives and resources to be raised.

With this background, we have discussed the consultation and review process regarding the 'desireability of the continuation of the IGF' and considered the proposed timeline. On the timeline, ICC-BASIS members believe that the IGF in Athens, and then Rio, have built upon the experiences at each event, and the IGF in India will do the same. Thus, we believe it is premature at this time to try to evaluate the IGF, and we strongly recommend that the timeline for the review process begin after the IGF in India to allow for a solid reflection on the third IGF.

The "taking stock and way forward" session in Hyderabad could provide a productive opportunity for participants to share their experience with the IGF, express what they think could be improved, what has worked well. A simple survey for participants at the IGF in Hyderabad to fill out before participants leave could also be used to capture input on their experience at the IGF in India.

We support the 'self-evaluation' approach, and suggest input from participants including preliminary thoughts on its continuation could be scheduled as a specific agenda item at the open consultations in February and if needed May 2009 during the IGF consultations. Participants would be encouraged to submit their views in writing as contributions for discussion at open consultations. Special effort by all stakeholders can be made to ensure there is greater input in writing and in-person on this issue. We believe that this will serve as concrete input to the UN Secretary General and the development of his recommendations. ICC-BASIS members do not believe that an external evaluation is required by para 76, and believe that sufficient substantive feedback can be compiled through the consultation and written contributions. In addition, an external evaluation poses several risks, including those that have been mentioned by Mr Kummer in his overview as well as risks such as bias, and the possible re-opening of issues that were completed by the WSIS processes.

Thank you.



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