



International Chamber of Commerce
The world business organization

An ICC initiative
BASIS
Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC-BASIS intervention, Ayesha Hassan, ICC Open Consultation-Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Geneva, 16 September 2008

Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the members of the International Chamber of Commerce and its initiative business action to support the Information Society, including businesses and business associations from around the world, I would like to just draw on some of the comments that have been made this morning and provide our thoughts. We would join the suggestion by Canada and ITAA and ISOC to change the name of the afternoon sessions. We had also raised concerns in previous input about the use of the word "debate" and what it connotes. So "debate and dialogue" would have our support.

We would also join the input from ISOC on the moderators. We have also discussed this and thought about the previous IGFs and the experiences. There certainly maybe some sessions where the broadcasters that have very kindly provided their services would be the appropriate type of moderator for the session. There are other sessions where the expertise in the subject area and the ability to facilitate would also achieve one of the other objectives of the IGF in Hyderabad, which is to truly build on the discussions on these issues that have taken place in the previous two IGFs. A suggestion for making the afternoon sessions as productive as possible would be to also consider having the moderators of the afternoon sessions, and any other experts involved in those sessions, be in the room for the workshop sessions in the morning. This will create a good preparation and enable them to build on the morning discussions.

We would also suggest that consideration be given to the workshops in the morning. Thinking further about this since our input in August, we considered that the workshops in the morning could also help to really set the stage. We may want to consider not diluting the momentum of interaction by having too much interaction in the morning, so that a lot of the discussion and exchange can happen in that respect in the afternoon. We would join others in also emphasizing that the cross-cutting themes of human and institutional capacity building and meeting development needs should continue to be a real focus in all of the sessions, and we would join others in strongly urging close attention to multistakeholder involvement in the sessions, as well as geographical, gender and regional diversity.

I would also just like to provide input on a couple of points on the emerging issues sessions. We support the idea put forward by ISOC in their written contribution to include the views of entrepreneurs on emerging issues on Internet governance. And we, too, appreciate the important entrepreneurial community in India. We would also encourage the involvement of entrepreneurs from India, the South Asia region and the world. And to keep the balance of input on emerging issues coming in from a range of stakeholders from around the world.

This point of balance and variety of input from stakeholders from around the world would be a point that we would encourage be kept in mind for all sessions as the program is further developed. I'll look forward to providing input on other agenda items, thank you.

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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