



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

Internet Governance Forum 2008 3-6 December, Hyderabad, India

ICC/BASIS topline business messages

1. 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 the continued development of the Internet, and can help bring its economic and social benefits to more people around the world. The strength of this model of international dialogue is that it brings together governmental and non-governmental representatives through a multi-stakeholder approach, with all participants on an equal footing.

Benefits of the IGF

- The IGF is a valuable platform for all stakeholders to discuss a range of issues relevant to the Millennium Development Goals set for 2015.
- For stakeholders with limited financial means, the IGF allows stakeholders to participate in a 'one-stop-shop' of Internet governance issues in person and through remote participation, and access to the real-time transcripts, summaries and reports.
- BASIS supports the IGF and believes it should remain a multi-stakeholder discussion; a forum for all stakeholders to discuss issues of concern in an open and candid manner.

2. New panel discussions and open dialogues: striking a balance

A) 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 :
 - independent regulators
 - respect for the rule of law
 - intellectual property rights protection
 - telecoms liberalization
 - pro-competitive legal, policy and regulatory frameworks that also increase user choice regarding quality and lower cost of services
 - independent courts
 - policy approaches that foster entrepreneurship with incentives and removal of administrative obstacles



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

- 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 – all 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.
- 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.
- Particular attention should be given to developing tools that promote access for the elderly and those with disabilities.

B) Openness, privacy, and security

- Business fully supports the open exchange of ideas and free flow of information in a manner that respects intellectual property and human rights. This information exchange augments the knowledge base of an economy.
- Governments everywhere should raise citizen awareness of the Internet and its benefits. The IGF is an appropriate forum to discuss and exchange views on existing rights, recognized by the global community through the UN and other treaty-making bodies.
- 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.
- ICTs increase access to information and promote free speech, even where local laws contradict human rights principles. While companies must comply with local laws wherever they operate, they seek, together with governments, sensible solutions that endeavor to enhance communication within and across borders and minimize restrictions.
- Cultural and regulatory diversity mean that cooperation is required to ensure that frameworks to protect privacy have a degree of flexibility. Skills and capacity building are also foundations for protecting privacy.
- From cyber attacks to child abuse, cybercrime poses challenges to all stakeholders. And all stakeholders have a role to play in protecting against these threats. 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 these important issues without stifling innovation and entrepreneurship.
- There are important and effective policy and regulatory approaches, as well as technical fixes, good practices, and initiatives to promote cyber security, address cybercrime and build trust and confidence online.
- The IGF in India offers an opportunity to further human and institutional capacity building on these important issues.

3) Transition from IPv4 to IPv6

- Discussions on the transition from IPv4-IPv6 should examine the current level of preparedness, how private and public institutions are preparing for the transition and what the drivers are for the transition.
- It is in the interest of all Internet users that the Internet continues to evolve and thrive. The transition to IPv6 is an important step in this regard.
- The integration of IPv6 does not have a hard deadline like, for example, the system changes for Y2K did. IPv6 will coexist with IPv4 for a number of years. However, it is still essential that IPv6 deployment be prioritized to ensure that it occurs and that inter-working of IPv6 and IPv4 be accommodated.
- IPv6 improves the efficiency of the Internet, creates opportunities for new types of services, improves security and provides the basis for continued technical innovation in communications technologies.
- Security and stability of the existing network is an essential requirement in the transition period when IPv4 and IPv6 will coexist.
- Business provides expert input into the technical coordination bodies responsible for developing and overseeing IP and its related protocols to help ensure that as new technologies develop, they are compatible with and take advantage of IPv6.
- Governments are encouraged to take action to support IPv6 deployment, recognizing that market forces, not government intervention, should be the main driving force for deploying IPv6, and should continue to promote technology neutrality and choice, allowing Internet stakeholders to use new and existing technologies and applications of their choice.

4) Global, regional and national arrangements for Internet resources

- Exchanging practical information about the approaches that different countries and regions have adopted regarding the management of regional Internet resources will add to stakeholders' collective knowledge.
- Involvement of all stakeholders in the management of Internet resources at national, regional and global levels is essential.
- Competitive and lightly regulated business environments are the best way to address many of the issues involving critical Internet resources.
- The stability and continued development of the Internet is paramount.
- Critical Internet resources should also include Digital Object Identifiers (DOI), ENUM (Electronic Numbering), radio spectrum and backbones.

5) Enhanced cooperation

- Paragraph 71 of the Tunis Agenda clearly states that “all stakeholders” and “all relevant organizations” should be involved in the “enhanced cooperation” process on an equal footing. To ensure the continued growth of the Internet and to ensure it remains an engine of growth, creativity, commerce and social development, enhanced cooperation should be the responsibility of all stakeholders whose input is consistent with their roles and expertise.

5) Enhanced cooperation continued..

- Post-WSIS there has been a significant increase in cooperation and communication among many organizations and stakeholders on Internet related issues. The IGF has also facilitated these increased communications.
- The implementation of Internet standards, and education and human capacity building initiatives are evidence that enhanced cooperation is already underway. A new intergovernmental process is not required.

6) Emerging issues

- Innovation and competition drives the evolution of Internet. Regulation should avoid hampering companies' ability to compete, which slows innovation. Policy approaches to innovation and competition that reduce this risk should be explored to better contribute what it takes to reach the next billion Internet users.
- Innovation translates into beneficial products and services for society. In light of the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015, focus should be on how innovation bridges the digital divide (both in mainstream technologies used around the globe such as email and access to information).
- Business contributes to establishing enabling environments needed for innovation through education, promoting innovation through intellectual property protection, public – private research and development partnerships, technology neutral policies, support for voluntary market-led standards, tax and other incentives).

7) Taking stock and way forward

- Participant input on their experience at the IGF in Hyderabad, and areas of improvement are essential. In particular the views of entrepreneurs should be included.
- It is valuable to reflect on the new session formats to see how the programme can evolve for the IGF in Egypt in 2009.
- It is premature to attempt to 'evaluate' the IGF and ICC-BASIS members do not support an external evaluation at this time.
- The Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) 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.
- Business will continue 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.

About BASIS?

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) created BASIS to raise awareness among the public, governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and technical community of what business requires to continue contributing to the development of the Information Society. It serves as the voice of business in the global dialogue on the Information Society, following two World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005).

To promote the environment in which business around the world will continue to thrive as an innovator of information and communication technologies, BASIS participates in UN-linked forums set up to continue the dialogue, such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the WSIS follow up and implementation processes, and the UN Global Alliance for ICTs and development (GAID).

To help shape the agenda and participate in these global discussions, BASIS relies on the policies developed in the ICC Commission on Ebusiness, IT and Telecoms as the foundation for its efforts.

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 WSIS.

BASIS members include business organizations such as the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), Business Software Alliance (BSA), Africa Investor, eSkills Industry Leadership Board, Global Information Infrastructure Commission (GIIC), Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren), as well as several ICC national committees and companies from across sectors and geographies.

For further information regarding BASIS, the founding partners, members and activities, visit:
<http://www.iccwbo.org/basis>

About the ICC Commission on E-Business, IT and Telecoms (EBITT)

Business leaders and experts drawn from the ICC membership establish the key business positions, policies and practices on e-business, information technologies and telecommunications through the EBITT Commission. With members who are users and providers of information technology and electronic services from both developed and developing countries, ICC provides the ideal platform to develop global voluntary rules and best practices for these areas. Dedicated to the expansion of cross-border trade, ICC champions liberalization of telecoms and development of infrastructures that support global online trade. ICC has also led and coordinated the input of business around the world to the World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva 2003, Tunis 2005, and continues this effort in the activities established in the Tunis Agenda, through its initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS).

For more information please visit: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ebitt>



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About ICC

ICC is the world business organization, a representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world. ICC promotes an open international trade and investment system and the market economy, and helps business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Business leaders and experts drawn from ICC's global membership establish the business stance on broad issues of trade and investment policy as well as on vital technical subjects. ICC was founded in 1919 and today it groups thousands of member companies and associations in 130 countries.

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