



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC-BASIS fourth intervention, Jeff Brueggeman Open Consultation-Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Geneva, 13 May 2009

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Thank you, Chair.

A few suggestions on the developing country issues.

One would be that there is a suggestion about roundtables, and I think some of us have questions about what that would be. However this would seem to be an area where to the extent that a roundtable means a more participatory exchange of information, that having a discussion about best practices and what is working and what the obstacles are with developing countries, it would allow and facilitate perhaps greater participation by members from developing countries and also start to maybe gather in a more systematic way the information.

As well as at the main session, I think the access session would be the right way to perhaps expand the discussion and build on the discussion last year really focused on reaching the next billion and then beyond that and what are the accessibility issues. But to the extent that that could be linked into how can Internet governance and the structure maybe be improved and facilitate that, which would seem to be an excellent suggestion for the topic that we already have staked out in the access session.

And then I wanted to make an unrelated comment, which we haven't talked about, is the session on the last day and wanted to propose that that would be perhaps an opportunity to really look forward, which is another, I think, important aspect of what IGF does is to keep evolving and keep looking ahead at what's coming next and perhaps have a discussion about -- from a technology perspective, maybe get a range of views on where the Internet is headed and then have a policy Internet governance reaction to that, saying, let's look ahead at a longer-term view and then start to think about what are the implications and the issues that would flow from that as a way to really have a forward-looking element to the IGF perhaps on the last day.

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