



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative
BASIS
Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC-BASIS intervention, Ayesha Hassan

Open Consultation-Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Geneva, 23 February 2009

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of ICC/BASIS members, who as many of you know come from companies and associations from around the world and across sectors, we'd like to join others in congratulating the host country, India, the organizers, you, Mr. Chairman, and the IGF Secretariat, as well as the Advisory Group members and the community on a very successful event. And we really look forward to working with all stakeholders to prepare another successful IGF in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt in 2009.

I would like to highlight a few of our general comments at this stage and also just call attention to the fact that ICC/BASIS did contribute two contributions. They are on the Web site and are in the back of the room for your convenience.

The Indian hosts managed the organizational and logistics responsibilities with grace and effectiveness, particularly under the circumstances as others have noted. We applaud the Indian government and organizers for all they did to reassure and secure participants and manage the underpinnings of the event to ensure that it could go on and be productive. And it was.

ICC/BASIS members believed that the spirit in which the Indian government and organizers welcomed participants played a critical role in the success of the event, and would like to express our deep appreciation for each person who was involved in that effort.

ICC/BASIS members believe that the IGF in Hyderabad successfully built upon the productive experiences of Rio and Athens. The sheer number of business participants present in Hyderabad and actively engaged is just one indication of the importance business around the world places on the IGF.

There are many organizations involved in a wide range of Internet Governance issues, and each of them has a useful role to play. The IGF's unique capability to bring together the range of organizations and stakeholders involved in Internet Governance issues for the open discussions we had in Hyderabad is a particular value-add to the global-level discussions on these matters.

The IGF's format brings all stakeholders together, treats all of them equally, and provides a space to address any Internet Governance issue in a timely manner because it is not a negotiation process that requires compliance with set preparatory processes.

This unique benefit cannot be fulfilled by alternative approaches.

International Chamber of Commerce

38, Cours Albert 1er, 75008 Paris, France

Telephone +33 1 49 53 28 28 Fax +33 1 49 53 28 59

Website www.iccwbo.org E-mail icc@iccwbo.org

23 February 2009 AH/apn



We've observed that in the range of Internet Governance issues, it is the landscape of organizations and forums that are involved that bring out the many dimensions of these policy issues. No single organization leads on or owns any particular issue but, rather, contributes in a specific way. The IGF, with its flexible approach, allows for the constant refreshing and renewing of thought on issues as new developments occur and as organizations make progress on specific aspects of them. This is a real benefit to us all.

The IGF has also stimulated more efficiency in other organizations and national and regional dialogues on Internet Governance issues. We believe that the continued exchange in the IGF will lead to more concrete results like those we saw in 2008, with the establishment of several new national and regional multistakeholder dialogues and IGF events.

The IGF is the only arena where we come together to discuss, not negotiate, and the ability to do this is an important aspect of enhancing cooperation by encouraging cooperation among different stakeholder groups and among organizations. We believe that the IGF in Hyderabad deepened many cooperative and collaborative efforts, created new bonds between people, and strengthened the relationships and exchanges between stakeholder groups and organizations.

Over the course of the past three IGFs, we have seen the demonstrable impact of the IGF on policy issues and how they are approached at the national and regional levels. The IGF in Egypt should continue this effort and should be kept in mind as we develop the program.

A few points to build on inputs from previous contributors.

As we plan for the IGF in Egypt, a focus on the national and regional initiatives, and an exchange on how those initiatives have been constructed and developed and exchanging experience on the national and regional initiatives would be very useful, in our view. We also believe that we should be keeping an eye on how to capture the many activities and many benefits that are coming out of the IGF, to continue to have those activities be able to be shared among a broader group of stakeholders.

We do agree with other contributors that it is a challenge to have the right equation, to balance the number of parallel events, to both nourish the discussion in the workshops as well as the main sessions. Careful attention should be given to this to ensure that there are well-attended and balanced events, and also to create an opportunity for the main sessions for many more stakeholders to continue to benefit from the substantive exchange in those sessions.

Like others, we would also like to highlight that the village was another success this year. ICC/BASIS had a booth, and our members took great advantage of that opportunity. I know many others had booths in the village and we continue to believe that this is an excellent opportunity for informal exchange, which is one of the unique opportunities that participants get at the IGF to share and build new connections and launch new alliances and initiatives together.

With that, I will end, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to contributing throughout the day.

Thanks.



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