



International Chamber of Commerce
The world business organization

An ICC initiative
BASIS
Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC-BASIS intervention, Jennifer Warren

Open Consultation-Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

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Thank you, Mr. Chair, for ICC/BASIS to come back to the microphone. I would like to build on the comments of my colleague, Ms. Hassan but speak specifically to the IGF review process. We had extensive discussions within the ICC/BASIS on the consultation and review process, specifically regarding the desirability of the continuation of the IGF.

We believe that the combination of the open consultation process, that of today, that of the meetings in May and September, as well as a call for public contributions, and a dedicated session on the topic -- on this topic in Egypt will offer a comprehensive and very inclusive way to solicit the input from all stakeholders on this question, both on the IGF's progress and for areas of improvement.

As Mr. Kisrawi noted in his earlier intervention, we also believe the most comprehensive and useful approach will be done by those with the direct knowledge of the IGF process - both those with history, with WSIS history, but also those who are new to the process; so a combination. We also agree with comments that efforts should be made to solicit input from all stakeholders, to ensure that the contributions are from a broad range. And those inputs can be in writing or in person.

With respect to the dedicated session in Egypt, we believe that there should be a three-hour session devoted to this topic where there is no overlap or conflict with other activities, whether they be workshops or other sessions. This will again allow for the type of dedicated approach that we think is necessary to encourage the full range of participants to contribute.

But we also don't think it needs to be or should be limited to those in the room. I think there were comments made on that respect earlier. There should be methods to ensure remote participation, online participation, and as previously noted, the public consultations, those contributions should be brought to that meeting. We can also explore other methods to ensure that the full range of stakeholders have a means to contribute to this process.

We also think one aspect of the review that will take place throughout this year could include questions about how the participants learned about the IGF and the opportunity to participate. Perhaps that would shed some insight and light on how we might improve outreach and visibility of the IGF, which I think addresses some of the comments raised about why aren't some people participating.

And with that, I thank you, Mr. Chair.



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