



International Chamber of Commerce
The world business organization

An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

Business priorities



Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2010 and its continuity:

ICC BASIS business messages

Background

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is at an important juncture.

The UN World Summit on Information Society (WSIS Tunis 2005, Geneva 2003) created the **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**, a multistakeholder (government, business, civil society and technical community) forum for the discussion of “public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.” The IGF’s current five year mandate expires at the end of 2010.

ICC BASIS has participated in the IGF since its inception. The decision on the future course of the IGF rests now with governments and ultimately UN General Assembly member state representatives at their meeting September-December 2010 in New York.

The importance of Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

ICC BASIS believes that the IGF is one of the most effective and successful outcomes of the WSIS. The IGF inspires people to work effectively in support of people-centred development – a key goal of the WSIS. It promotes a global perspective on Internet policy issues, while also stimulating engagement in communities, in countries and in all regions.

ICC BASIS **supports the IGF** because:

- The IGF contributes to all stakeholders’ understanding of issues and to the development of appropriate approaches to vital public policy issues related to the Internet.
- The multistakeholder policy discussions at the global IGF meeting set the example for similar exchanges at national and regional levels.
- The IGF provides an opportunity for governments, business, civil society and the

Internet community to **share experiences and best practices** that can inform decision-making in their home communities to address issues of human, economic and social growth and development essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

- The IGF encourages **open dialogue among all relevant stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels**. This open debate is essential to the process of developing people-centric public policies related to the Internet and to the ongoing effective management of Internet resources.
- **Time is spent on meaningful exchange** that can enrich and inform discussions in other, more formal, forums.
- The IGF promotes active participation by participants, which contributes to **building human and institutional capacity** and informing policy approaches.
- Without the IGF there is no space for discussion of the full range of current and emerging Internet issues among all relevant actors.

We support the continuity of the IGF and of its current **multistakeholder principles and structures**: funded on a voluntary basis, organised with the participation of all stakeholders and the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), and coordinated by an independent Secretariat based in Geneva where the Internet policy networks and the history of the WSIS lies.

National and regional initiatives

Business applauds the growing number of national and regional initiatives that have been catalyzed by the IGF. These initiatives give national and regional stakeholders an opportunity to discuss Internet governance issues from national and regional perspectives and this informs the international level discussions. These initiatives are concrete outcomes of the IGF and echo its multistakeholder-on-an-equal-footing format

The IGF enables the development of effective Internet related policies

Such policies create an environment that enables innovation, creativity and development, attract investment, help build infrastructures for future users, protect and enforce intellectual property rights and spur economic recovery and growth. Examples of Internet-related policies addressed at the IGF include:

- Continued focus on development challenges and strategies for promoting infrastructure investment, accessibility and utilization of the Internet to achieve social and economic growth.
- The interplay and balancing of the need for privacy, security and data protection on the Internet.
- Development of effective approaches for managing Critical Internet Resources and resolving global policy issues.

About the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its thousands of member companies in over 120 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

About Business Action to Support Information Society (BASIS)

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 E-business, 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 TechAmerica, World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), Africa Investor, Global Information Infrastructure Commission (GIIC), Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren), and the Association for Competitive Technology (ACT) 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: www.iccwbo.org/basis

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