

## **ICC BASIS priorities regarding UN General Assembly discussions on ECOSOC resolutions related to WSIS and IGF**

*The UN General Assembly will discuss draft ECOSOC resolutions regarding the future of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) working group and Internet Governance Forum (IGF) improvement processes during its session September – December 2011. This document outlines global business's priorities and concerns regarding the IGF and these resolutions. Global business will seek to inform governments of our views, and seek support for the work and role of the CSTD in WSIS follow up and in the support of the CSTD working group on improvements to the IGF, as well as on the relevant topic of 'enhanced cooperation'. Global business does not support merging the IGF with any other entity or activity, whether the WSIS action lines Forum or a UN agency. Global business supports continued improvements and enhancements to strengthen the IGF and its relevance to all stakeholders, without changing its core nature, and function.*

### **ECOSOC Resolutions & CSTD Working Group on improvements to the IGF**

- Business values the opportunity to participate in the CSTD Working Group, with other stakeholders, and governments.
- ICC BASIS fully supports ECOSOC's Draft Resolution 1, Paragraph 28, which agrees to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF.
- ICC BASIS strongly opposes efforts to change or delay approval of the resolution, as well as efforts to change the substantive content of the Resolution, which we believe would be destructive to current well-functioning processes.
- ICC BASIS urges governments to approve the current ECOSOC resolutions without any substantive changes or alterations. The CSTD Working group should relaunch its work as soon as possible, and no later than end of year, 2011, using the substantive inputs received already.
- Substantive remodeling of the ECOSOC Resolutions would represent a serious challenge to the continuation of the CSTD Working Group and its achievements to date, and would challenge the CSTD and ECOSOC's role as experts in these areas.
- The CSTD Working Group has already demonstrated its ability to meet its core mandate, of gathering and assessing possible improvements to the IGF and parties

are urged not to interrupt this progress, allowing the CSTD Working Group more time to continue its work on proposing further improvements to the IGF.

- The CSTD Working group – constitution and methodologies of work -- should proceed, as originally entrusted by the Resolution approved by this body, in 2010, and as such, ICC BASIS urges that the working group’s methods of working should not be the subject of further discussion in the UN General Assembly.
- Business strongly supports the continuation of the CSTD Working group on improvements to the IGF with its present composition and inclusiveness of relevant stakeholders. We also support its founding mandate of maintaining the IGF’s current multistakeholder format and operating under its founding principles.

## **Multistakeholder participation**

- ICC BASIS supports ECOSOC’s Draft Resolution 1, Paragraph 4, which maintains that all stakeholders should have the opportunity to contribute to structures and processes of Internet governance.
- ICC BASIS agrees with ECOSOC’s Draft Resolution 1, Paragraphs 22. & 24, which states that the public policy authority of nations is their sovereign right, but believes that they have a responsibility to consult with stakeholders; (only technical operations and technical management are seen as separate).
- Private sector expertise is invaluable in informing decision-making, both in technical and economic fields.
- All responsible stakeholders must recognize their role, respecting the work of others and recognizing the necessity and mutual benefits of collaboration.
- The multistakeholder model of the IGF allows speed and flexibility, encourages broader and more innovative problem-solving.
- The IGF acts as a catalyst for other multistakeholder processes.
- ICC BASIS believes that Enhanced Cooperation should continue in its present interactions, and notes that the Tunis Agenda, signed by Heads of State, provides that “all stakeholders” should be involved in the Enhanced Cooperation process.
- ICC BASIS notes that the Secretary General has, for several years, invited reports from relevant organizations – intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, and key stakeholders – on how they are contributing to Enhanced Cooperation. Global business values these annual reports, and notes that this is evidence that enhanced cooperation is progressing, and should continue, and can be further supported by inviting even broader contributions of annual comments from

all stakeholders.

- As we progress toward the 2015 goal, and the assessment of outcomes of the WSIS, global business notes that discussion and consideration of achievements should take place in multiple forums, including the IGF's Taking Stock and the Way Forward sessions, as well as in the WSIS action lines Forum, among others, to include UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD activities.

## **The International Chamber of Commerce (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.

The fundamental mission of ICC is to promote trade and investment across frontiers and help business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Its conviction that trade is a powerful force for peace and prosperity dates back to the organization's origins early in the last century. The small group of far-sighted business leaders who founded ICC called themselves "the merchants of peace".

ICC has three main activities: rules-setting, dispute resolution and policy. Because its member companies and associations are themselves engaged in international business, ICC has unrivalled authority in making rules that govern the conduct of business across borders. Although these rules are voluntary, they are observed in countless thousands of transactions every day and have become part of the fabric of international trade.

ICC also provides essential services, foremost among them the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the world's leading arbitral institution. Another service is the World Chambers Federation, ICC's worldwide network of chambers of commerce, fostering interaction and exchange of chamber best practice.

Business leaders and experts drawn from the ICC membership establish the business stance on broad issues of trade and investment policy as well as on vital technical and sectoral subjects. These include financial services, information technologies, telecommunications, marketing ethics, the environment, transportation, competition law and intellectual property, among others.

ICC enjoys a close working relationship with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, including the World Trade Organization, the G20 and the G8.

ICC was founded in 1919. Today it groups hundreds of thousands of member companies and associations from over 120 countries. National committees work with their members to address the concerns of business in their countries and convey to their governments the business views formulated by ICC.

## **About 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), Global Information Infrastructure Commission (GIIC), and the Association for Competitive Technology (ACT) as well as several ICC national committees and companies from across sectors and geographies.