



**International Chamber of Commerce**

*The world business organization*

An ICC initiative

**BASIS**

Business Action to Support  
the Information Society

## **ICC BASIS input to online consultation on WSIS + 10 review event, February 2013**

ICC BASIS has been involved in the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS Geneva 2003, Tunis 2005) and all of the follow-up processes. Since the adoption of the Tunis Agenda, ICC BASIS has been actively engaged through its members in all WSIS related outcomes, including the WSIS Action Lines Forum, enhanced cooperation consultations and efforts, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and the work of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) around both IGF improvements and enhanced cooperation as well as the follow-up of the WSIS.

ICC BASIS has welcomed throughout the years, the opportunity to engage and the concrete efforts made to engage with all stakeholders on the range of WSIS issues and outcomes. This has reinforced the multistakeholder approach established by the Tunis Agenda.

In this regard, ICC BASIS welcomes the opportunity to participate in the upcoming WSIS +10 review event, which will be hosted at UNESCO, in partnership with the ITU, UNDP and UNCTAD. In particular we welcome the opportunity to provide input and to participate in a multistakeholder process to prepare this WSIS +10 event. Given experience with other post- Tunis initiatives, including the CSTD Working group on IGF improvements; the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG); and the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) during the WSIS itself, we provide the following input below.

### **Process**

Both during and after the WSIS, and adoption of the Tunis agenda, the engagement of all stakeholders has been a proven success. In this regard, we would suggest the following process points:

- ICC BASIS supports an open consultation process to prepare this event
- We believe transparency is fundamentally important, as well as the ability of all to participate whether in person or remotely.
- We would strongly suggest, based on the successful experience of other initiatives in the post-WSIS timeframe, to have an informal outreach group comprised of participants from all stakeholder groups to assist the preparations and ensure broader participation in the process and event. A focus of this group should be reaching all stakeholders, in particular from emerging economies.



# 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 open international trade and investment and help business meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Its conviction that trade is a powerful force for peace and prosperity dates from the organization's origins early in the 20th century. The small group of far-sighted business leaders who founded ICC called themselves "the merchants of peace".

ICC has three main activities: rule setting, dispute resolution, and policy advocacy. 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. ICC also offers specialized training and seminars and is an industry-leading publisher of practical and educational reference tools for international business, banking and arbitration.

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 relevant technical subjects. These include anti-corruption, banking, the digital economy, marketing ethics, environment and energy, competition policy and intellectual property, among others.

ICC works closely with the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and intergovernmental forums including the G20.

ICC was founded in 1919. Today it groups hundreds of thousands of member companies and associations from over 120 countries. National committees work with ICC members in their countries to address their concerns 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 ICC's Commission on the Digital Economy 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 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.

For further information regarding BASIS, the partners, members and activities, visit:

[www.iccwbo.org/basis](http://www.iccwbo.org/basis)



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38 Cours Albert 1er, 75008 Paris, France

Tel +33 (0)1 49 53 28 28 Fax +33 (0)1 49 53 28 59

E-mail [icc@iccwbo.org](mailto:icc@iccwbo.org) Website [www.iccwbo.org](http://www.iccwbo.org)