

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CTSD)**

**Sixteenth Session  
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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in  
2012 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

**International Chamber of Commerce BASIS**

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on “Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels” (to the 16th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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## ICC BASIS input to the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) report for its 16<sup>th</sup> session, 3-7 June 2013

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The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and members of its BASIS initiative (Business Action to Support the Information Society) are pleased to provide input to the UN CSTD's consultation in preparation for its 16th session in June 2013.

The CSTD has emphasized the intersection of the WSIS follow up role entrusted to it by the WSIS Tunis Agenda and its critically important role regarding identifying how science and technology are essential for development, through the improvements that they bring to the lives of people around the world and how they empower the individual.

### **Business initiatives furthering WSIS action lines and goals**

Since last year, business initiatives and partnerships with governments and other stakeholders are continuing the efforts to expand ICTs around the world and promote their adoption in key applications to further the WSIS action lines and goals. As in previous years these are too numerous to provide an exhaustive list. The following are some concrete examples of successful business initiatives which are implementing the WSIS action lines and goals. While each of these examples implements several different WSIS action lines simultaneously, the following examples are organized according to the most relevant action line(s):

#### ***C1 and C7 Action lines***

**Mobile Inclusion Platform for Europe and Latin America (M-Inclusion project), Telefonica.** M-Inclusion is a support action funded by the European Commission under the FPVII Programme, whose overall objective is to create through an online Platform, a cooperation framework between EU and LATAM mobile solution developers to promote the growth of new affordable M--Inclusion solutions to improve personal autonomy of people at risk of exclusion. The project started on November 1, 2011 and will run for two years. The main objectives of this project are:

- To set up an M-Inclusion Community.

- To realize an exhaustive inventory action aimed at mapping organizations, actual needs of the target groups defined and existing mobile solutions and trends for social inclusion in EU and LATAM.
- To establish workgroups to identify main needs, analyze technological solution and trends, and define an overall M- Inclusion Road Map.
- To support the identification and promotion of new ideas to be developed in future R&D projects.
- To create awareness on M--Inclusion action and widely disseminate project results.
- To generate market opportunities within the mobile technologies sector.

***C1 and C6 Action lines: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development & Enabling environment***

**The Role of the Private Sector in Expanding Economic Opportunity through Collaborative Action, Various ICT companies.** The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government outlines the importance of public-private collaboration, and highlights how companies play a role in expanding economic opportunity in communities around the world. Several ICT companies' initiatives are featured in a list of participants' initiatives, covering areas such as creating inclusive business models, developing human capital and building institutional capacity.

[http://www.hks.harvard.edu/m-rcbg/CSRI/publications/report\\_29\\_Harvard%20EO%20Dialogue%20Summary%2020071018.pdf](http://www.hks.harvard.edu/m-rcbg/CSRI/publications/report_29_Harvard%20EO%20Dialogue%20Summary%2020071018.pdf)

## **C1 – C4 – C7 – C8 – C9 – C11**

**Orange “CTIC Incubator”.** Through Sonatel and in partnership with public authorities, the World Bank and other private sector companies and donors, Orange set up the CTIC Incubator in Dakar, Senegal. It supports up to 30 promising local SMEs in the ICT sector during a three-year incubation cycle. In 2013 the group will launch similar initiatives in Niger, Mali and Tunisia.

<http://www.cticdakar.com/>

### ***C1 and C11 Action lines***

**Establishment of the Africa ICT Alliance – AfICTA.** Africa ICT Alliance – AfICTA was formed on 1 May, 2012 by African private sector ICT leaders in recognition of WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11 on the role of all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development and the need for regional cooperation towards the achievement of the WSIS 2015 targets.

This development aims also at enabling access to information and knowledge (C3), promoting capacity and capability building (C4), building confidence and security in the use of ICTs through the sharing of best practices (C5); and engendering cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content development (C8).

Since its formation, AfICTA has actively participated in the Internet Governance debate in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Baku, Azerbaijan and in the WCIT-12 ITRs through comments submitted to the ITU on the subject matter - <http://www.itu.int/en/wcit-12/Pages/public.aspx>. It is also engaged in the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Business Action in Support of the Information Society (BASIS) and is participating actively in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) constituencies and programmes.

### **Background**

On 1 May, 2012, leading ICT private sector executives, ICT trade and professional associations in Egypt, the Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tunisia formed the Africa ICT Alliance – AfICTA to provide a voice and a regional development platform for the ICT industry in Africa in line with the WSIS Action Lines C1 and C11. As of today, four other private sector-led ICT associations in Africa have joined AfICTA. They are Rwanda, Somalia, Namibia and Mozambique.

### **Vision**

To fulfil the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa.

## Mission

To encourage multistakeholder dialogue and intra-African trade to foster accelerated ICT enabled development in Africa. Our mission is also to use cutting-edge innovative technologies including mobile, computing and satellite technologies to achieve an Information Society in Africa.

AfICTA goals are to:

1. Organize non-state ICT actors in Africa for effective local and continental advocacy by the year 2015
2. Create awareness and improve African digital literacy by 50% in collaboration with stakeholders by the year 2020
3. Create partnerships with the African Union and all the regional economic commissions towards the realization of the WSIS 2015 targets
4. Position more than 50% of African ICT professionals and experts in the business community, academic and technical community and civil society to be fully engaged in the global Internet Governance multistakeholder dialogues by 2015
5. Be the focal point for Africa ICT advocacy in the global digital economy
6. Promote business partnership between members' associations
7. Contribute to capacity and capability building by promoting best practices, encouraging regional projects, sharing data (skills, expertise, events, business announcements, exhibitions, seminars, etc)

## Brief History

The Africa Information and Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA) was formed on May 1, 2012 by ICT industry leaders from Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, the Gambia, Egypt and Tunisia under the leadership of Dr Jimson Olufuye, former Vice-Chairman (Africa) for the World Information Technology & Services Alliance (WITSA), former President of the Information Technology (Industry) Association of Nigeria (ITAN) and CEO of Kontemporary. He is being assisted by Mr Adrian Schofield former President, South Africa Computer Society. ICT Associations in Rwanda, Somalia, Namibia and Mozambique have since joined the Alliance.

## ***C2 and C3 Action lines: Information and communication infrastructure & Access to information and knowledge***

**Google Crisis Response.** When disaster strikes, people turn to the Internet for information. Google helps to ensure the right information is there in these times of need by building tools to collect and share emergency information, and by supporting first responders in using technology to help improve and save lives. Google have been responding to natural disasters since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 by making information such as storm paths, shelter locations, emergency numbers, and donation opportunities easily accessible.

[www.google.com/crisisresponse](http://www.google.com/crisisresponse)

**Google Map Maker.** The World Bank and Google have entered into a collaborative agreement aimed at improving disaster preparedness and development efforts in countries around the world. Under this agreement, the World Bank will act as a conduit to make Google Map Maker source data more widely and easily available to government organizations in the event of major disasters, and also for improved planning, management, and monitoring of public services provision. The free, web-based mapping tool called Google Map Maker enables citizens to directly participate in the creation of maps by contributing their local knowledge.

<http://www.google.com/mapmaker>

**Google Internet Bus Project.** The Internet Bus Project is an attempt to educate people about what the Internet is, and how it may be beneficial to their lives by taking the Internet experience to them through a customized Internet-enabled bus, which will travel to several towns and cities across India.

<http://www.google.co.in/intl/en/landing/internetbus/>

**Orange “Community phone”.** Over 1,700 villages and 3 million people are currently benefiting from the Orange “Community phone” solution. Rolled out in Mali, Niger, the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire and the Central African Republic, community phones encourage micro-entrepreneurship, since a person equipped with an antenna, a mobile phone and a solar battery charger can become the operator for an entire village where traditional technical solution are too expensive for the volume of traffic. A “Community Internet” solution developed by Orange is currently being tested in Uganda.

<http://www.orange.com/sirius/CSR2011/>

**Access to Research for Development and Innovation (ARDI), Reed Elsevier.**

Through ARDI, Elsevier offers its entire collection of 7,000 books and 2,000 journals on a vast array of scientific subject fields as well as access to its SCOPUS abstracts and citation database, to innovators in 105 countries for free or little cost. ARDI is coordinated by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and is part of the Research4Life programme, a public-private partnership that provides free and low cost access to the developing world and includes Reed Elsevier, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Young scientists and their research institutions need to access the latest developments found in scientific and technical literature before patenting and commercializing their inventions. Through ARDI, developing countries are given direct access to high-quality published content from publishers allowing academic and research institutions to develop and innovate more effectively, and patent offices to protect and reward innovation more efficiently. <http://www.wipo.int/ardi/en/>

**Millenium Villages, Ericsson.** Mobile connectivity is a key enabler in helping to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals. More than 500,000 people in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa benefit from mobile connectivity as a result of the Millennium Villages Project.

[http://www.ericsson.com/thecompany/sustainability\\_corporateresponsibility/enabling\\_communication\\_for\\_all/millenium\\_villages](http://www.ericsson.com/thecompany/sustainability_corporateresponsibility/enabling_communication_for_all/millenium_villages)

**Cisco Sub-Saharan African Initiative, Cisco.** Through partnerships with non-governmental organizations, Cisco's initiative addresses issues of poverty alleviation in five Sub-Saharan African countries and assists communities and individuals in joining the global marketplace. Affordable housing, community connectivity points, online content and tools, and hands-on training are the solutions applied on the ground to achieve their objectives of sustainability, replicability and cost effective-ness.

<http://www.cisco.com/web/about/citizenship/socio-economic/specialprograms/docs/CiscoAfricaInitiativePreso.pdf>

**Action lines C2 – C3 – C4 – C6 – C11**

**I-Hub Kenya:** Through iHub, the technology community, industry, academia, investors and venture capitalists can meet, share ideas and collaborate. The centre is the first of its kind to operate in Kenya. It allows technologies to progress from the ideas stage to becoming real products and the key to its effectiveness is open innovation — the process of combining internal and external ideas, as well as internal and external paths

to market, to advance the development of new technologies. Through the space provided by iHub, members develop the skills they need to turn their ideas into actions: they build a vivid vision, a team and a business plan, with help from an in-house business unit. Membership is open and free to those who work in programming, design or research. There are three levels of membership: 'white' members are those who wish to be part of the iHub community virtually, but cannot be physically present; those who work on specific projects ('green' members) can have face-to-face meetings, socialise and surf the web; 'red' membership offers a semi-permanent desk and priority to use the meeting room, for a monthly fee. Internet connectivity is often a core part of supporting start-up development. The electronic arts brand Zuku has provided iHub with affordable, high-speed Internet, which helps to accelerate collaborations among members.

The collaborative space facilitates open discussions among young entrepreneurs, investors, potential business partners, mentors and other members experienced in working with telecommunication companies such as Google and Nokia. A knowledge-sharing culture built up through collaboration, start-ups helping each other, skill sharing and mentorship are key features of the iHub community. At an individual level, iHub members strive to improve their skills and knowledge.

#### ***C4 Action line: Capacity Building***

**The Social Entrepreneurship Lab: social innovation from the University, Telefonica.** Universities are a great source of qualified talent and creativity. The Social Entrepreneurship Lab is an instrument that aims to promote social entrepreneurship at the University. Telefónica Chairs Network is currently made up by 30 university chairs located in principal Spanish universities. Its objective is to work together, universities and Telefónica, and to foster creativity and innovation. Telefónica Chairs Network supports the Social Entrepreneurship Lab with the aim to identify talent at the University and to promote entrepreneurship and social innovation. The Lab is also a source of creative ideas and projects for social innovation accelerators as UEIA. Project proposals are received, selected and developed in the Lab to get a higher degree of maturity before reaching UEIA. Social Entrepreneurship Lab objectives are therefore two: 1. Bring new talent from the university to social innovation programs, and 2. Incorporate projects with a higher degree of maturity to social projects accelerators as UEIA.

**Google Africa University Programmes.** In many developing regions, Africa in particular, Google supports research, technological innovation, and capacity-building – on both an individual and institutional basis in a variety of programmes in universities. <http://www.google.com/africa/universityprograms/>



**Kidsmart Guide to Early Learning and Technology, IBM.** An IBM initiative that involves partnerships with early learning organizations and Ministries of Education to establish learning centres consisting of IBM computer hardware and educational software available to 3-6 year old children from low-income families in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The goal is to address social needs and reduce the digital divide between these children and their peers with greater opportunities as well as to provide high-quality training for teachers and involve parents.  
<http://www-05.ibm.com/dk/ibm/ibmgives/pdf/kidsmartEvalueringreferat.pdf>

**European Alliance on Skills for Employability, Microsoft, Cisco, and CompTia.** Companies partner with the European e-Skills Commission to provide IT, technical and other employability related skills for people from disadvantaged groups, thus contributing employability and inclusion in Europe.  
[http://www.employabilityalliance.eu/upload/polish\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.employabilityalliance.eu/upload/polish_factsheet.pdf)

**World Ahead Program, Intel.** Intel collaborates with governments, telecommunications providers and technology companies, financial institutions, healthcare institutions, and other organizations to accelerate technology access and market development. The result is comprehensive, long-term approaches that enable citizens to acquire 21st century skills and participate in the global economy. For instance, Intel's holistic blend of technology, programs, and resources helps pre-prepare students from kindergarten to college for a brighter future. Intel has worked with governments and other organizations to create effective eLearning programs. These programs combine technology, connectivity, teacher development, and digital content to help students learn more effectively Intel Teach has taught over 7 million teachers in 50 countries how to successfully integrate technology into classrooms to improve learning Moreover, Intel's ICT for Education Program is donating 100,000 PCs worldwide to help promote classroom learning.  
<http://www.intel.com/content/dam/doc/article/world-ahead-program-brochure.pdf>

**Connect To Learn, Ericsson.** 21st century education in the Networked Society, Connect To Learn is a collaborative effort between Ericsson, the Earth Institute and Millennium Promise that leverages the power of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to bring a high quality education to students every-where.  
[http://www.ericsson.com/thecompany/sustainability\\_corporateresponsibility/enabling\\_communication\\_for\\_all/connect\\_to\\_learn](http://www.ericsson.com/thecompany/sustainability_corporateresponsibility/enabling_communication_for_all/connect_to_learn)

**Yes, I can! Initiative Deutsche Telekom AG.** This initiative aims at the acquisition of personal skills by children and young people. These skills include, among others, media competence, conflict resolution and, more generally, an improvement of the technological and social skills of children and young people from disadvantaged environments. So far the initiative has supported nearly 250 projects, reaching more than 50,000 children all over Germany. In 2011, dedicated employees transferred the initiative into the "*Ich kann was!-Initiative für Kinder und Jugendliche e. V.*" association, where its work is being continued. The new legal status afforded by the association makes it possible to receive donations, enabling the initiative to support even more children's and youth centres in their work.

<http://www.telekom.com/corporate-responsibility/social-commitment/engagement-at-telekom/65020>

#### ***C4 and C10 Action lines: Ethical dimensions of the Information Society & Capacity Building***

**Google.org is the philanthropic arm of Google.** Google.org is committed to contributing 1% of Google's annual profits to develop technologies to help address global challenges and supports innovative partners through grants, investments and in-kind resources. Highlights include creating Google Person Finder, which helps reconnect people in the wake of major disasters; developing Flu and Dengue Trends, which use search trends to provide early warning systems for possible disease outbreaks; and building Google Earth Engine to enable scientists, governments and native tribes to monitor changes to the Earth's surface. They have also funded organizations doing vital work for society, such as improving education, health and clean water access in the developing world, leading scientific discoveries about deadly diseases or incubating new forms of renewable energy.

**Proniño Programme, Telefonica, S.A.** Telefonica undertook a business initiative to eradicate child labour through the creation of programmes which facilitate access to quality education for children and adolescents in Latin America. Network-collaborative learning and social networks are installed in areas with high rates of child labour to provide Internet access to students as well as a space to exchange best practices, advice and training for educators and social agents assisting the local children (pp. 27-29; 136-138).

[http://www.rcysostenibilidad.telefonica.com/rcysost2010/Telefonica\\_RC10\\_En.pdf](http://www.rcysostenibilidad.telefonica.com/rcysost2010/Telefonica_RC10_En.pdf)

## ***C7 Action line: ICT applications - benefits in all aspects of life***

**eBay Inc. Commerce 3.0 Initiative.** The benefits of open trade for overall welfare are concrete and clear. Historically though, global trade has been an arena dominated by the largest corporations because tackling markets on a global scale through traditional business models demanded immense resources. Enter the convergence of the Internet, digital and mobile technology, which are undeniably changing many aspects of daily life. In one remarkable discovery, eBay has uncovered data to show that for the first time in history, the smallest retail businesses, powered by Internet markets and services, are stepping into global trade at rates unimaginable just a decade ago. A few statistics from the eBay study are particularly notable: **97 percent** of “commercial sellers” (small and micro small businesses) on eBay engage in exporting, and **81 percent** sell to five or more foreign countries. These rates dwarf the exporting of non-Internet-enabled small businesses, and even most large retail businesses. Finally, the study calculates the efficiency gains that could be rendered if all offline commerce was technology-enabled in a way that similarly reduced barriers to trade, predicting a boost to average real income (GDP) by a remarkable **15.6 percent**. These figures demonstrate that Internet enabled small businesses are beginning to enter the global market resulting in significant overall welfare gains.

**Google Value of the Web Initiative.** Google has been involved in promoting research to help understand the Internet and its economic impact. Quantifying the web's value is difficult because we still depend on economic models from an industrial age and think of the Web's impact in terms of contributions to GDP. The studies collected here attempt to calculate how much the Internet is worth, but they are incomplete and demonstrate the need for new thinking if we are to understand – and harness - the full power of the Web in all aspects of life. Google's mission with the Value of the Web Initiative is to compile a repository of literature on the value and prospects of an open Internet and how it can be leveraged to create a sustainable future.

[www.valueoftheweb.com](http://www.valueoftheweb.com)

**Google Green.** Google is striving to power the company with 100% renewable energy. In addition to the environmental benefits, they see renewable energy as a business opportunity and continue to invest in accelerating its development. They believe that by powering the web with renewable energy, they are creating a better future for everyone. They have worked hard to minimize the environmental impact of their services. For instance, to provide users with nonstop YouTube for three weeks, Google uses less energy than it takes to do a single load of laundry. If you add in the renewable energy and offsets, their footprint is zero. They continue to find new ways to reduce their impact even further. <http://www.google.com/green/>

**The Mogalakwena HP i-Community, Hewlett-Packard.** Through public-private partnerships between HP and national, provincial and municipal governments in South Africa, a rural region was transformed into a thriving community that is economically and environmentally sustainable thanks to information technology.

[http://www.wbcd.org/web/publications/case/hp\\_mogalakwena\\_icomunity\\_full\\_case\\_web.pdf](http://www.wbcd.org/web/publications/case/hp_mogalakwena_icomunity_full_case_web.pdf)

**Partnerships for Technology Access, Microsoft.** Public-private partnerships between Microsoft and governments to provide relevant and affordable solutions to advance key public policy objectives. Examples include empowering small businesses to bid for government contracts online and digitalize their operations in Chile; modernized teacher training in Guatemala through computers and educational software; and facilitated pension delivery for seniors in Argentina.

[http://www.ungis.org/Portals/0/documents/openconsultations/new%20submissions/S-5-1-Microsoft-PTA\\_External%20Brochure%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.ungis.org/Portals/0/documents/openconsultations/new%20submissions/S-5-1-Microsoft-PTA_External%20Brochure%20FINAL.pdf)

### ***C10 Action line***

**Social entrepreneurs with technological basis – UEIA social project.** UEIA is the first European accelerator of social entrepreneurs with technological basis. In its first edition Ueia has chosen 12 technological projects with social impact in different areas. After the selection of these 12 projects, it has started a period of training for getting the follower accelerator. Ueia social is divided into three phases which Ueia accelerator is the last one, after Ueia generation (projects reception), and Ueia ignition (projects analysis and selection). The 12 projects have been selected from more than 120 presented in the first phase. In 2012, Telefónica signed an agreement with Ueia to promote alliances with public and private entities and the third sector to develop ICT solutions linked with social innovation. According to this, Telefónica offers its technology, tools and financing to social entrepreneurs and identifies new applications and ICT services in this field. Telefónica also gives mentoring through its internal experts to each of the entrepreneurs.

### **Internet Governance Forum 2012**

This year's Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Baku, Azerbaijan was a success, with over 1,600 participants from across stakeholder groups and regions, and deeper substantive discussions in many sessions and workshops. One of the key WSIS principles is building multistakeholder involvement in ICT and Internet policy

discussions. The IGF provides an excellent and unique opportunity for all relevant stakeholders—governments, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), business, civil society and the Internet technical community to come together on an equal footing to exchange views, experiences, challenges and good practices on a range of Internet governance (IG) issues. Once again, the IGF 2012 built on previous events to tackle IG policy issues, build communications and relationships between stakeholders and help stakeholders understand each other better. In turn, this leads to more informed policy decisions by all.

ICC BASIS co-organized two workshops at the IGF in Baku in November 2012. The workshop ‘Solutions for enabling cross-border data flows’ was co-organized with a technical community partner, Internet Society (ISOC), and the workshop ‘Technology, Economic and Societal Opportunities and Women’ was co-organized with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the Government of Kenya.

The workshop reports are available here:

[Workshop report women and Internet Governance](#)

[Workshop report solutions for enabling cross-border data flows](#)

The agenda for the IGF 2012 in Baku, is available here:

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2012/IGF%20Schedule/IGF%202012schedule.pdf>

ICC BASIS has also produced a report about business activities at the IGF 2011 in Nairobi, which is at available at:

<http://www.iccwbo.org/Data/Documents/Basis/Internet-governance/2011/ICC-BASIS-Report-on-IGF-2011/>

### **Business participation in WSIS related meetings**

Global business actively participated in the following WSIS related meetings in 2012:

- IGF taking stock and preparatory open consultation, and multistakeholder advisory group meeting, February
- IGF preparatory open consultation and MAG meeting, May
- WSIS action lines Forum, May
- WSIS facilitators meeting, May
- WSIS +10 review consultation, May
- CSTD intersessionals
- CSTD meeting, May
- IGF Baku, November 2012

## **ICC's Commission on the Digital Economy policy and practice products**

In the past year, and over the course of the past several years, ICC's Commission on the Digital Economy has produced several policy and practice recommendations that outline the most effective enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for implementing many of the WSIS goals and action lines. The list below compliments the list we submitted to last year's CSTD report.

[ICC policy statement on Using Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties \(MLATs\) To Improve Cross-Border Lawful Intercept Procedures](#)

[ICC policy statement on cross-border law enforcement access to company data – current issues under data protection and privacy law](#)

[ICC policy statement on the freedom of expression and the free flow of information on the Internet](#)

[ICC policy briefing tool on ICTs' and the Internet's impact on job creation and economic growth](#)

[ICC EBITT An Inventory of ICT Policy Positions and Practical Guidance 2nd Edition](#)

[ICC discussion paper on the adverse effects of discriminatory taxes on telecommunications services](#)

[ICC policy statement on Global business recommendations and best practices for lawful intercept requirements](#)

[ICC Internet and Telecom TF discussion paper on Internet Backbone Interconnection Agreements](#)

[ICC discussion paper on mobile broadband spectrum](#)

## **The International Chamber of Commerce**

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

ICC works closely with the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and other 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.

## **What is Business Action to Support the 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 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 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.

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

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