THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

MEETING ON ENHANCED COOPERATION ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE INTERNET

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Contribution by

ICC BASIS
(Comments on Enhanced Cooperation)

ICC BASIS comments on enhanced cooperation

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Tunis, November 2005, Tunis Agenda outlined the establishment of an Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and enhanced cooperation amongst the existing frameworks that address Internet related issues.

Enhanced cooperation refers to greater cooperation among existing organizations.

The IGF itself is undergoing continuous improvement and now moves into its 7th global IGF meeting. The discussions on enhanced cooperation originate from the Tunis Agenda that any enhanced cooperation "will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles", and such cooperation must, of course, be fully consistent with the WSIS mandate that Internet governance be "multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations."

From a business perspective, enhanced cooperation can only be achieved by following the principle of inclusiveness in all relevant discussions.

Additionally:

- Business believes that greater cooperation among existing organizations does not require the creation of new entities or processes, and that such actions would impede progress.

- The objectives of information sharing, creating more awareness, and, where appropriate, coherence in work programmes, and collaboration must guide the relevant organizations that address Internet related issues in order to facilitate enhanced cooperation.

- All relevant organizations, including those that are private sector-led, those that are intergovernmental (IGOs), those that represent civil society, the Internet technical and academic community through several organizational structures and those that are multistakeholder are engaged in facilitating enhanced cooperation.

- The dynamic nature and growth of the Information Society and the Internet has meant the organic emergence of certain multistakeholder groups and will constantly develop and evolve. These groups are an important part of enhanced cooperation process and must be allowed to participate in it.

- The fact that many of the organizations that are addressing Internet-related issues and their decision-making processes are already multistakeholder should be recognized and welcomed as an important foundation for enhanced cooperation.

- Business, given its expertise and critical role, expects to be involved, on an equal footing, in any discussions and decisions regarding enhanced cooperation.

In these on-going discussions around enhanced cooperation, ICC BASIS believes:

- All efforts to continue to advance enhanced cooperation should be based on the commitment to openness, inclusiveness, and outreach.

- All stakeholders should be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities to become more involved in the Internet organizations where technical standards are developed and where issues at the intersection of technology and public policy are discussed.

- All governments and international institutions should ensure their Internet policy related decision-making activities are open and inclusive to all stakeholders on an equal footing role.

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For additional ICC BASIS materials on enhanced cooperation, please consult:

http://www.iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/BASIS/Documents/ICC_BASIS_submission_enhanced_cooperation_consultation_4Nov10.pdf

http://www.iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/BASIS/Documents/ICC%20BASIS%20addnl%20comments%20enh%20coop%2022%2012%2010.pdf

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