

BASIS interventions on “taking stock of 2009 meeting” Delivered at Open Consultation 9 February 2010, Geneva

The following is the output of the real-time captioning taken during the 9 February 2010 open consultations of the IGF. Although it is largely accurate, in some cases it may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages or transcription errors. It is posted as an aid to understanding the proceedings at the session, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Intervention 1 “Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt 15-18 November 2009” Delivered by: Ayesha Hassan

Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the members of the International Chamber of Commerce and its initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society, BASIS, that include companies and associations from around the world and across sectors, I am pleased to provide our reflections on the IGF in Sharm El Sheikh. We submitted extensive comments in writing, which are available in the back of the room and on the IGF and ICC Web sites, so I'll try not to repeat all the detail contained therein.

We join many others in congratulating the host country of Egypt, the organizers, and the IGF secretariat on a most successful event and look forward to working with all stakeholders to prepare another successful IGF in Vilnius in September 2010.

The entire host country team provided a warm welcome to all participants and supportive logistical arrangements. The special contributions of the prime minister of Egypt, Dr. Ahmed Nazif, and Minister Tarek Kamel, expressing strong support for this unique forum, set the tone for a successful event. And the presence of Her Excellency, the first lady of Egypt, Mrs. Mubarak, and the special session she hosted, added to the event. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the host country organizing team, our special thanks and recognition to you, Mr. Chair, for your leadership and guidance, and to Markus Kummer, the secretariat of the IGF secretariat, and his talented team, for their tireless efforts and support. The IGF in Sharm El Sheikh successfully built upon the productive experiences of Hyderabad, Rio, and Athens. There was a strong business presence and an even greater number of overall participants than in previous years. This demonstrates the importance of the IGF for business and all stakeholders.

The IGF in Sharm El Sheikh once again successfully brought together an extensive range of leaders from the many communities interested in Internet governance. It provided a

unique opportunity to have frank and open discussions on a wide range of issues and brought together many stakeholders who otherwise do not have opportunities to engage with each other. A major value-add for all is the constructive exchange of best practices and considerations of the best policy approaches and options that, in turn, resonate in policy discussions and decisions around the world and at national and regional levels. This IGF proved once again that the IGF is a place where there is nothing that cannot be discussed.

The IGF in Egypt underscored how vital the Internet is as a vast resource of information, tools, knowledge, and services, with enormous potential and many opportunities. We continue to learn a few lessons, to address a few of the questions that you've posed as well on practical aspects, which include the following:

- In general, we felt that the workshops and open forums were productive, useful, and interactive. There were still some duplicative workshops, including common speakers speaking on the same topics, which we believe could have been merged better, and recommend closer attention to merging efforts for this year. This may include also getting more information about workshops in the early proposals, which would aid -- which would aid the secretariat and the MAG and the community in merging.
- Providing information for workshop organizers in the form of guidelines or recommended ideas for consideration about how to organize the workshops most successfully could also be helpful.
- We recommend using different formats for the sessions in the main room, for instance, focusing perhaps one and a half hours on one set of specific issues and then focusing the next one and a half hours on a different set, and using different interactive formats for main sessions, tailored to the topics and objectives. The use of two or more moderators worked well, and we believe that should be considered again for this year.
- We felt that the summary reports of the IGF provided by the secretariat and the transcription text posted on the Web site offered excellent records of the IGF sessions and would support continuation of that practice.
- On the opening ceremony, there was, indeed, a wide range of speakers. But we believe that it could be shorter and that this would be better to shape the opening ceremony more like the closing ceremony, which was short and to the point.
- The schedule of main sessions and workshops was posted much further in advance than in previous years, and continued efforts to finalize the schedule at least a month before the IGF should be the goal.
- We'd like to compliment the village. It was especially well-placed this year. The central location, that was all very productive for interaction and participants getting basic and practical information about a number of activities underway by various stakeholders.
- The Web site functionality and the meeting room allocation all worked well and served to support many of the benefits of the IGF for stakeholders.

- On very practical issues, as many have noted in written comments as well as us, the lunchtime buffets and coffee service provided by the host country in several places in the venue were really appreciated and allow both informal networking as well as quick and easy meals between meetings. This was really helpful, and the fact that it was hosted by the host country and was free was a real benefit for participants.
- We also strongly support the continued practice of having a real break in the schedule at lunchtime, which helps for networking and informal meetings without participants having to forgo attendance at other scheduled events.
- We provided a lot more suggestions for improves and detailed practical matters which we hope the secretariat and the next host country will consider carefully on issues from visa and custom cost information to Internet access and capacity at the venue and the hotels, to networking opportunities at the special reception, traditionally held by the host country. Thank you.

Intervention 2

“The 2010 meeting” substantive agenda for the 2010 meeting

Delivered by: Heather Shaw

Thank you, Chair. On behalf of ICC/BASIS, I am pleased to provide input on the themes for the 2010 IGF. ICC looks forward to contributing to the program for IGF 2010 as it's developed.

Before I continue, however, I would like to introduce my colleague, Andrius Iskauskas, who is chair of the ICC committee and member of the board of ICC Lithuania.

Intervention 3

Delivered by: Andrius Iskauskas

Good afternoon, my name is Andrius Iskauskas and I am a member of the committee in Lithuania. And I am pleased to participate in this consultation on behalf of ICC Lithuania and representing Lithuanian business.

I would like to say that we are thrilled to have the IGF in our country. The event is very important for the local business community, and also I feel a growing responsibility after hearing about the success of the IGF in Egypt. I can assure that the Lithuanian business will participate both in the preparation and in the IGF event itself.

ICC Lithuania is already cooperating closely with the Lithuanian government to start raising awareness about the IGF at the national level and to provide business input into the preparations. We greatly appreciate the Lithuanian government in including news the preparations and we will continue our efforts and look forward to seeing all of you in Vilnius. I am now returning my floor to colleague.

Intervention 2 continued

“The 2010 meeting” substantive agenda for the 2010 meeting

Delivered by: Heather Shaw

Thank you. As I think we said earlier, creating opportunities for all was a productive overall theme for the IGF in Egypt.

- We support an overall theme for the IGF in Lithuania that is inclusive of all relevant topics. In this regard, I would like to suggest two possible overall themes for this year's IGF. The first being Internet governance, developing the future together with the possible subline of working together to promote sustainable social and economic development, or as a second alternative, Internet governance for sustainable development, 2010 and beyond, with the subtheme working together to ensure Internet governance promotes social and economic development.
- Moving to the substance of the main sessions, we thought the IGF orientation session on the first day in the morning was an excellent opportunity for new and returning participants to understand the IGF, its opportunities and benefits. For new participants, the session assisted them in making the most of the IGF and brief them on previous IGFs. We support including a setting the scene session in the next IGF's program.
- The regional initiative session was also an excellent addition to the program. This session should be part of the 2010 schedule as it enables all participants to gain insight into how various regional initiatives are being organized and the priorities and experiences emerging in their discussions.
- The Internet governance and WSIS principles session provided a useful overview of the WSIS principles and their integration in Internet governance processes. This could be a topic for workshops, but we do not believe it is necessary to have another main session on this topic at this year's IGF.
- Creating the necessary enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment to facilitate access to the infrastructure and the Internet will remain a key issue, as will the range of diversity issues. Discussions around access and diversity could be reinvigorated this year by addressing it in a main session on development, and in emphasizing the human and institutional capacity building cross-cutting theme with focus on policy implications, informed policy choices, best practices and challenge and how they have been overcome. Workshops could still focus on specific access and diversity issues which could take place before the main session and thus feed in on particular issues.
- Considerations of all aspects of the interrelated topics of security, privacy, and openness should be continued to ensure the broad range of views can be expressed and to promote an appropriate balance in the discussions among these issues that sometimes have caused tensions. Linking views and experiences with these issues to stakeholder level values should be part of the discussion.

- We believe that the critical Internet resources session provides participants with a real opportunity to exchange information about CIR issues being addressed in various organizations and forums, and allows for a range of issues to be raised with all stakeholders present and thus support inclusion of a CIR session in the 2010 program.
- Like many others have already suggested, cloud computing would be an excellent topic for the emerging issues session because this topic could benefit from a broad discussion to explain what the cloud is and is not, novel solutions it offers, and related security solutions and the policy issues it raises. However, it may be appropriate to have an introductory workshop or general session regarding the technologies that could identify some of the policy aspects while the broader general discussions -- for example, access, security, privacy, CIR -- could consider these policy aspects of cloud computing along with those of other technologies, applications, infrastructures in greater depth and in cross-cutting discussions.
- Finally, another topic that could be useful would be how to shape Internet governance approaches to meet innovation challenges, and how -- and allow high-tech services and applications that help reduce CO2 emissions. The OECD, for instance, is developing a comprehensive strategy for innovation, green growth and sustainable economic recovery, largely based on ICT contributions and the use of the Internet as a main platform to meet these policy goals, which could benefit from part of this discussion.
Thank you.

Intervention 4 IGF 2010 substantive agenda

Delivered by: Zahid Jamil

Chair, thank you for this opportunity. I speak as an ICC/BASIS member and as a representative of PASHA, the largest I.T. trade association of I.T. and I.T.-enabled businesses in Pakistan. As we look towards the agenda for the next IGF I take this opportunity to speak in favor of broader inclusion of substantive policies of concern to possibly all stakeholders in developing countries, and whilst doing so support the earlier comments of the government of Senegal, Mrs. Siganga and IISD. The Internet is a driver for enormous innovation and the provisions of products and services over various mediums.

In particular, the mobile revolution and the ability of developing economies to bring regions and sectors of their population heretofore not serviced have seen innovative and exponential development in recent years. The Sharm IGF had a few workshops related to the mobile Internet. However, I would like to underscore a need for focus on the development aspects of the mobile Internet and policy in the next IGF. The mobile platform is becoming essential to outreach by government, utility companies, banks, et cetera, to rural and even urban sectors and their heretofore unserved populations in developing economies, which are, for the first time, able to access relatively cost effective, efficient and easy-to-use services from the convenience of their home. This has, in practical terms, also meant reducing and, at times, the end of long queues in front of tax authorities, post offices, utility companies, banks, et cetera, where in developing countries it could take up to the better part of the day just to pay the tax, utility bills, or access bank accounts if you were lucky enough to have one. Now these very people in

developing economies can access government revenue and registration services, news about farm and market rates, communicate with family bread winners overseas, utility companies, bill payments, mobile banking payments, mobile remittances, repayment of micro-credit and bundling of grocery services, even. All of which are powered by a mobile handset, usually harnessing the Internet or Internet protocol for delivery of such products, services, information on behalf of developing economy governments, businesses, as well as civil society. Key issues necessary for the further development and delivery of such mobile services remain, which include access, multi-lingualism, privacy, security, openness, net neutrality, all of which are all too familiar to the IGF. In general, enabling regulation that impacts the Internet, be it by governments, the private sector or civil society, at a national, regional, and international level, have a direct bearing on the future ability of developing economies, sustainable growth, and reaching the billion. In particular, regulations impacting the mobile Internet at all these levels would impact the development of the mobile Internet. The IGF provides a unique forum for all such stakeholders to be able to share the knowledge and best practice and learn from each other, thus playing a pivotal role in the future of developing economies and the Internet. We also support the auDA comments and look forward to the continuity of the IGF as a means to continue to address and focus on these emerging areas vital for developing economies. Thank you for this opportunity.

Intervention 5

“Any other business”

Delivered by: Ayesha Hassan

Thank you, Chair. We join others in thanking the representative of UNDESA for the information he has provided. At the IGF review consultation session in Egypt, the overwhelming majority of participants conveyed their strong support for the IGF and its founding principles and structures, emphasizing the multistakeholder approach as an essential ingredient in its success and the fact that it is neither an intergovernmental nor a negotiating setting. With that, we understand that was the final consultation and would like to express our view that though the CSTD is an intergovernmental commission, we have enjoyed in the past years the opportunity, as observers from the business community and from other nongovernmental stakeholder groups, the opportunity to contribute to discussions within the week of the CSTD. We believe that the feedback from CSTD members and other government representatives has been positive in terms of the nongovernmental stakeholder contributions to those discussions. We would support the input from the chair of the CSTD and other governments that it would be, in our view, helpful to consider having the process going forward include -- include submission of the U.N. Secretary-General's report to that commission. Thank you.

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 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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