



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

The Secretary General

By post & fax

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28 February 2006 GS/AH/dfc

ICC/CCBI further input on constitution of multistakeholder management group and possible themes for IGF

Dear Mr Kummer,

On behalf of the members of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), I would like to convey our appreciation to you and Chairman Desai for a productive and focused two days of open consultations in Geneva last week.

In response to Chairman Desai's request that stakeholders provide further input to you on the constitution of the multistakeholder management group and the possible themes of the first IGF event in Athens, we are pleased to provide you with the global business community's priorities and views.

On the multistakeholder management group

- There is a need for a multistakeholder management group to prepare for the meeting.
- It must be a single, integrated multistakeholder group that includes all stakeholder groups, with all participating on an equal footing. This is a fundamental principle that should guide all aspects of the IGF – participation, representation, leadership, access, operations – all dimensions, from now through each of the IGF meetings.
- The selection process for this group should be done in consultation with stakeholder groups.
- Criteria for selection of individual members should include:
 - experience
 - expertise
 - ability to outreach to broader stakeholder group
- The group should be of a manageable size to be effective [20 seems reasonable]

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- Business envisions a process whereby CCBI/ICC, for instance, would put forward 5-8 business representatives, with biographical information to demonstrate their capacity to contribute to the work of this group effectively, consult with a broader business community, and also include geographical and sectoral diversity.
- The UN Secretary General could consider and draw from these recommendations in his selection process. There should be an equal number of government, business, civil society and technical community members; perhaps 5 from each of the four groups.
- Since people from individual governments would be named as representatives from the government stakeholder group, including IGOs as a separate stakeholder group would cause an unbalanced representation of governments.
- Business suggests that IGOs should participate as part of the broader group to which government representatives would outreach/consult.
- It must be an integrated group, as we have stated. Of course, nothing would prevent individual members or a group of members within the integrated multistakeholder management group from discussing issues apart from the integrated group.

On possible themes for the first IGF meeting in Athens

- In Athens, we should concentrate discussions on a single topic, or a limited set of topics that are closely related, important to development of the Internet and its success in bringing the benefits of the Internet to all people.
- We should focus discussion on those topics that could truly benefit from further outreach, information exchange and human capacity building at the global level amongst all stakeholders. To be effective, the first event in Athens and any IGF events in the future should treat a specific topic in-depth to achieve IGF objectives, and not attempt to open discussion of a plethora of issues.
- Each IGF event should be relevant to all stakeholders.
- We appreciate the focus on human capacity building in the Tunis Agenda and at the consultations last week, and suggest that it is the fundamental basis for progress on all other issues in the IGF and for the Information Society, and thus could be the ideal first topic.
- Human capacity building is cross-cutting, multi-dimensional and could benefit greatly from a global level exchange of information, best practices and experiences. It could also benefit from more partnership initiatives that could be forged at the IGF in Athens.

IGF Format

- Attracting global experts and leaders from around the world requires that the IGF be attractive in many respects:
 - Duration – 2-3 day events can be more easily fit into their already busy schedules. Having a 2-3 day event would also focus the programme to the benefit of all attendees.
 - Programme – opening and closing plenaries with an intervening series of panel sessions of experts addressing the various aspects of the selected IGF topic would allow all participants, including those from small delegations, to attend and gain from all portions of the event.

**Additional priorities**

- The limited human and financial resources of all stakeholders must be considered in the planning of any future planning meetings for the IGF and the IGF event in Athens itself.
- We view as essential, the use of online tools to facilitate communications, and the use of webcasting, real-time transcripts, and other online tools to facilitate participation in the IGF event itself.

We look forward to providing additional input as the IGF formation process continues, and thank you for your efforts.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Sebban', written over a horizontal line.

Guy Sebban

Cc: Nitin Desai
Henk-Jan Brinkman