



International Chamber of Commerce

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An ICC initiative
BASIS
Business Action to Support
the Information Society

Closing Ceremony Speech

Peter Eduardo Siemsen

International Chamber of Commerce

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Good afternoon Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Peter Eduardo Siemsen.

I am from Brazil and I am very pleased to be here today speaking on behalf of the members of the International Chamber of Commerce and its BASIS initiative, Business Action to Support the Information Society.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share our impressions of this year's IGF as we look forward to next year in India.

The BASIS members who are here in Brazil are representative of a larger business community. The International Chamber of Commerce is the world business organization with hundreds of thousands of member companies and associations in over 130 countries from all sectors. BASIS represents companies and associations which include members beyond the ICC, many of whom are here in Brazil this week. BASIS develops business priorities and positions drawing on the expertise of its members, and engages with other stakeholders. It's important to note that there are many members who are unable to be in Rio and we will be taking the messages from this IGF back to them.

Business has a fundamental role in the continuing development of the Internet. Nurturing this role at national, regional and international levels is essential to our common objectives of bringing the benefits of the Internet and the information society to a global audience. We are pleased to see an increase in business participation at this year's IGF which reflects our commitment to multi-stakeholder dialogue.

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It is wonderful for business to take part in this process and being from Brazil I am proud of my country hosting this event. It is exciting to see the world coming to Brazil for these vital discussions.

This has been a great experience for me personally. Having been involved with the ICC for many years, this is my first opportunity to attend the Internet Governance Forum and be a part of the discussions.

As ICC's Secretary General Guy Sebban highlighted in his opening remarks, ICC and BASIS members support the IGF because it provides a unique opportunity to exchange views and best practices on a wide variety of important policy and practical issues. We believe such dialogue is essential to bringing the economic and social benefits of the Internet to more people. The strength of this new model of international cooperation is convening all stakeholders on an equal footing.

So what has been achieved this week?

- This event has contributed to the fulfilment of the IGF mandate arrived at in Tunis.
- We have worked together to share experiences regarding important Internet governance related issues that can only be effectively addressed by the cooperative efforts of ALL actors.
- We have seen a rising tide of consciousness with regard to security through collaborations, and preventing abuse of the internet. We particularly welcome the discussions on child protection and look forward to constructive dialogue with other interested parties in the near future.
- We have underscored the vital importance of establishing an enabling environment which promotes investment, fosters entrepreneurship and stimulates innovation. Key factors of this environment are: strengthened cooperation on developing Internet infrastructures; expanded Internet access; pro-competitive policy frameworks; liberalization and the protection of intellectual property rights.
- We have highlighted that, as the Internet and Internet applications continue to evolve at an accelerating pace, we must ensure that policy approaches do not block innovation or restrict user choice.
- We have also heard through the discussions this week how much importance all of us place on innovative applications and services that are allowing people to share more information and promote cultural diversity. It is however important to remember that to maximize the opportunities that these new applications and services provide, they must be supported by access and skills resulting from training and education. Without literacy and computer skills, beginning in schools and continuing throughout a person's career, people cannot maximize their use of the Internet. We have seen the positive effect that public internet access has had here in Brazil through access initiatives in some small towns.

This week we have seen a mature and graduated discussion from those in Athens a year ago. The diversification of events has resulted in enhanced cooperation between the different stakeholders with a common understanding of the priorities going forward.

ICC / BASIS plans to contribute our reflections on the important discussions that have taken place in Rio for the record and we understand other stakeholders plan to do the same.

Business believes the IGF this week has been beneficial in a tangible way that will have long lasting benefits for all.

As we leave Rio we all need to reflect on our experiences and look at how we can build on these to progress to the next level of understanding in India in 2008.

Thank you