ICC BASIS interventions at IGF Open Consultations Geneva, 18 May 2011

The following ICC BASIS interventions and those of fellow business representatives are extracted from the real-time captioning taken during the 18 May 2011 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.

MORNING SESSION

Intervention 1
Delivered by Theresa Swinehart, Verizon

Just two logistical questions. One, I'm not obsessed about meals and coffee and things like that, but the facilities for food for lunches and things like that. And then the second question was, if there were side rooms available, in case one would want to have side meetings and things like that, to be able to arrange?

Intervention 2
Delivered by Ayesha Hassan, ICC/BASIS

Thank you, Madam moderator. Ayesha Hassan speaking for ICC and its BASIS initiative.

Since this is the first time I'm taking the mic, we would also like to express our great appreciation to the host country of Kenya for the stellar efforts you are making to prepare this year's IGF and take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Chengetai Masango and Seitti Arata and all of the interns and fellows that is helping this year's Secretariat move forward despite the lack of leadership and other resources and that they have had in the past. So bravo to all of you. We look forward to working with you to make this year's IGF a success.

A few responses to some of the questions and some general thoughts before we dig into the substantive issues. I agree with the representative from European Commission, starting at 9:00 would be just much more practical and less detrimental to the participation of the workshops that would be scheduled at 8:00. So we support that.

Starting at 9:00 also should mean that there is badging opening earlier because we've had in previous years a challenge where people would arrive for side meetings, for instance, at 8:30 or something and they couldn't get their badges. So that might be something just to pay attention to.

Now that we know that we're trying to get to a goal of 70, just a few general suggestions for how we might look at some of the mergers as the European Commission has pointed out. There are several proposals which are not very much developed, but they are really expressing, I think, from

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the stakeholders who have put them in that they're interested in the topic. And so encouraging workshop proposers to look at the other proposals in the category and even across categories because in some instances what we're seeing is issues that may have been brought up under an IG4D proposal actually could be merged with something in the emerging issues category or other similar situations. That may be one thing to look at.

It is also very heartening to see the range of stakeholders who have put in proposals this year, many of them new. So when we look at creating opportunities both for those who have been long-term participants and those who are new participants to have workshops, we might consider taking a look at entities that have put in more than three -- you know, more than two, three, four proposals and there are, in our analysis -- there are at least six or seven entities that fall in that category. And perhaps they can be encouraged picking their favourite two or three, if necessary.

That would reduce some of the workshop proposal numbers, if they're interested in a particular topic and they're not able to get all four of their proposals. Then perhaps they can be invited to join other workshop proposals in the same topic area.

I see the question posed about IG4D on the -- or emerging issues on the first day. One perspective in making that decision could be to look at the fact that emerging issues is coming to a new topic, the mobile Internet and issues. It could be really helpful for that session to be on the second day to allow some workshops to have taken place on that new emerging issues set of topics. So in that case, I would provide some support to having IG4D after the opening ceremony and emerging issue on day two in the morning.

Thank you for giving us some detail on the open forum proposals. The IGF, we've always considered that the open forums are just a really important opportunity for stakeholders to learn about what various organizations and processes are doing on the IG issues. So it really is a great way to cross-pollenate and provide an exchange of information and updates.

So I think those are important sessions to consider how they're fit in.

On dynamic coalition proposals, it will be important to apply the criteria we talked about in the past are the dynamic coalitions providing an update on what they have been doing and who is involved and ensuring that there is a range of stakeholder views in what's being developed there. So that might also help us to decide how those proposals are considered.

I would also suggest on the feeder workshops and numbers, maybe looking more at a proportional allocation instead of a set six per topic given the proposals we have now seen come in in different quantities under different topics.

Lastly, I would say that we have really tried to protect the lunchtime in the past, and I think other stakeholders have expressed that as well. It has just been such a great opportunity for people to interact in the village, for people to have lunch and interact, for side meetings to take place. And it makes it really challenging if there is absolutely no block in the day where there is just kind of interactive time. So we would put our support behind protecting that slot and finding other creative

ways to both give people enough opportunity to have their proposals considered but also give the overall schedule an opportunity to give that kind of interactive space to stakeholders.

I think, too, thinking about any part of the lunch hour for side meetings, et cetera, that will also have some bearing on the logistics for lunch. So I just put that out there as a practical consideration. Thank you very much.

Intervention 3
Delivered by Ayesha Hassan, ICC/BASIS

Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to support those who have said that the workshops should be encouraged to have a broad range of views, not just stakeholder groups and other forms of diversity but views to ensure -- sometimes within stakeholder groups, there's actually a broad range of views or experiences that would be really helpful. So that's something for proposers to keep in mind.

Like others, I just wanted to point out that there are several references in proposals, which I realize it is early days and many people didn't have a chance to get all their details finalized. But there are references to we'll be inviting ICC/BASIS, need business representative, private sector representative.

I just wanted to say that in most cases, I have not been contacted and no one from business has, that I know of.

I would just encourage workshop proposers, we are here, a number of us. Please feel free to contact me. I'm happy to facilitate. We have a strong group of experts planning to come to Kenya. And certainly if workshop proposers are inviting particular types of expertise, we may be able to convince even others to come. We are happy to help fill in those blanks.

I would also say that the analysis of workshop proposals at this stage, there are several workshops where I don't see any reference to a business angle or a business expert being identified in the discussion. And I think that where the topics would include a business angle, it makes sense to have a business or more than one business person included in that discussion. And, again, we're here to help to contact us. Thank you.

Intervention 4
Delivered by Theresa Swinehart, Verizon

This is Theresa for ICC. Just a few things. One is, with regards to tomorrow and the discussions of the workshops, will there be transcription or some sort of mechanism for transparency of the dialogues? I just raised that question because I know that's been an area we've been trying to improve on in the context of the MAG's work.

With regards to the weighting question, I think our preliminary thoughts are that, really, it's premature to be focusing on that in the discussions tomorrow, in particular because of the dialogues

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now about the merging, potential merging of different workshops, reorganizing them into different groupings. I think we need to get further input from the stakeholders in the room on the different workshops and participating in -- to look at a weighting based on the submissions to date as opposed to the complete workshops that people have time to do I think would be better.

If I may, can I touch on a few comments that ICC has on emerging issues, if that's appropriate?

Intervention 5
Delivered by Ayesha Hassan, ICC/BASIS

Just quickly. On that, the question, the highlighted question on that is was governance different for the mobile Internet from the wired world? And in that category, we actually -- there's 17 workshops, as has been pointed out. And I think as context, it would be very helpful to be identifying the feeder workshops that elaborate on the issues that had been identified as complementary. So, for example, the strong mobile penetration in developing countries, policies and regulations in the context of mobile Internet connection and impact, and policy and governance choices to maximize the Internet for economic development.

But, in noting the workshops that have been submitted also for that section, there are really some very good ones that relate to other topics but are emerging issues. So I think we should, in our discussions tomorrow, very much take into context there's sustainability in ICT, ICT for green. There are other issue areas and where those might be appropriately put or how to look at the emerging issues section in that context.

Just to note, also, some of the workshops are fully multistakeholder, and some are less so. And we have an opportunity with people here to try to reach out to ensure diversity and multistakeholder participation.

For the overall session and for the workshops, I think it's important to hear about the new innovation and developments. Issues are very specific for the region in particular. And not only to focus in on the governance issues but also to address advantages and opportunities that exist in the emerging area, such as cloud computing and mobile opportunities overall. On the area of mobile services and in particular for the region, it's really an entry point to the Internet for many points of the world. There's a leapfrogging, in essence, into this space. And I think examples of the mobile banking have been really exemplary in that. And I think we can highlight in some of those dialogues what makes the successful, what has enabled that opportunity, what are some of the challenges overall?

But, back to the workshops, we have some that are fitting into that, some less so. But we should look at how to balance that out, because they're very good workshop proposals. Thank you.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Intervention 6
Delivered by Patrick Fältström, Cisco

This is sort of in between security and critical Internet resources, sort of a reflection of both of them. When I hear what people have been saying, I must say that I agree that there are lots of elephants in the rooms here. And some of them walk backwards into the town, and we still don't see them.

But -- no, I haven't been enough in Africa to really understand what that means.

Anyway, to be a little bit more serious, if we look at the workshop proposals for CIR, for example, I see workshop number 18, policy issues affecting ccTLDs in Africa. That is, for me, a very good example of a workshop that looks like oh, no, this is not global. This is too local. This is not multistakeholder, whatever. But maybe it is the case that we need to have those kind of hands-on workshops, just like Bill Drake said, where we try to build workshops discussing very concrete issues and try to do it in a constructive way without doing any finger pointing. Instead, we're doing it in the form of exchanging experiences, learning from each other in all directions. And 18 is an example of policies affecting ccTLDs. We also have, of course -- we have other, like, workshops also in security, openness, and privacy which are similar. But maybe this is the case that what I hear now is maybe the next step of the kind of workshops and discussions that we're trying to have in the IGF. Thank you.

Intervention 7
Delivered by Theresa Swinehart, Verizon

Thank you, Madam Moderator. On taking stock and way forward, I just have a few brief comments. I wanted to inform that we have had discussions with a few of the other proposers – ICC/BASIS, the technical community, and the IGC, around the proposals for an IGF improvements workshop. And we would be pleased to support the IGC's workshop proposal going forward. And we're pleased to say that ICC/BASIS and the technical community will merge their proposals. So we're working out details, but we have had expression from a few different governments, including Portugal and Egypt, to participate in the workshop. And we would also like to emphasize that it's going to be -- we would like to see cross participation between those two workshops. So at least we can tell you before lunch that there's one merger down.

I also just wanted to point out, regarding the main session and the categories, when we went in to put this in, it's not really our sense that the taking stock and way forward session and the main session is going to address IGF improvements. We were under the impression that it's going to really address taking stock of Internet governance issues and moving them forward perhaps some of the emerging issues of the past and see how they're going to move forward. So, just a note for the

future, we had trouble knowing which category to put our proposal under. And offering an "other" choice in the future would probably be helpful. Thank you.

Intervention 8
Delivered by Theresa Swinehart, Verizon

Thank you. I will just give ICC/BASIS' comments on access and diversity. Again, that there are a lot of very good workshops on this topic so it will be very helpful to have a conversation tomorrow around the themes that we had discussed earlier today.

And then in particular we just wanted to note that the transporter data flow is a fundamentally important part of the global Internet. And I think that will be an underlying theme with regards to this. And I think that's an important part for all regions of the world to keep in mind as we are looking at this topic.

And as noted in the IG4D section, that access is really contingent on legal and policy frameworks that promote market entry, investment, development of services and applications and that we should look at having some of the discussion focused on successful strategies and practical issues and challenges in this -- in all regions of the world. And I think that's very important. In the Pacific regions, the issues are quite different than, let's say, in the African region or in Latin America. I think we should look at the spectrum of issues that exist.

The value of access and particularly broadband in the fostering of education and innovation and social and human development is quite high. And there are examples in all regions, so we should have that as an important area to look at the success stories around that.

The ability to access through all languages, the implementation of IDNs and the continued focus and work in further online content and local languages.

And then really looking at -- with this session towards what are the items of work for tomorrow and what ingredients do we need to find today to make sure that tomorrow looks as successful as possible with regards to access and what's available online. We would just highlight those areas as useful topics, and I think many of the workshops tie into those quite nicely. Thank you.

Intervention 9
Delivered by Ayesha Hassan, ICC/BASIS

Thank you, Madam Moderator. My comment is not to really address the substantive issues for the workshop, but I wanted to share an idea.

Each year the ICC -- the IGF has continued to innovate in different ways. And so I wanted to share an idea based on some of the discussions that are going on around ways in which to build the IGF and to build on the experience each year.

I did an experiment with my intern, and we went back to look at all of the chairman's summaries of the past five years on the access and diversity issues to look to see if there were some common themes or themes that were built upon.

And it is really an interesting exercise to see the issues that seem to emerge in this particular issue area as being viewed in a fairly common way.

And so I wanted to suggest as the group that helps support the preparation for this main session and also looks at the workshops, if perhaps they would want to consider, since it would be a multistakeholder group, to go back and look at the chairman's summaries of the past five years, which are already very balanced and a neutral assessment of the discussion points that have emerged in each one of these sessions, and to pull them out and perhaps use those as supplementary discussion points during the session.

They may also help to inform some questions about where are we on this particular issue. One that I will just pull out of the bag that we identified was multistakeholder cooperation to address access issues. Maybe there is a good discussion around is this something we all think is a fairly commonly held belief, that this takes multistakeholder cooperation?

I mean, access is important to everybody. Clearly, it is important to business. It is important to the Development Goals.

So I thought this might be an interesting area to do an experiment which actually may help us to see if we have an innovative way of capturing some messages over the course of time, some kind of common themes.

I know there is a lot of different views on what a message is, what a recommendation is. Everybody has different fears and concerns. So I don't want to be really stringent about this idea. I just want to put it forward as a possibility to help us be a little bit innovative in trying to address some of the fears and concerns around how do you capture all the really substantive ideas and possibilities that come out of each IGF session and somehow get buried in a lot of text. And there might be something that could be done this year to focus the main session discussion with a view to what has emerged over the years and what possibly could be good questions to think creatively for the future. Thank you.