

Statement by the International Chamber of Commerce Business Action to Support the Information Society (ICC BASIS) to the WSIS+20 Informal Stakeholder Consultation Session

8 December 2025, Online

Thank you, Chair.

I'm pleased to speak on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce, the institutional representative of over 45 million companies in more than 170 countries.

I'd like to start by thanking the IMSB, not only for hosting today's consultation, but for their sustained engagement with and amplification of the voice of the multistakeholder community and supporting the continued openness of this process.

We also greatly appreciate the significant work by the co-facilitators and their teams that has gone into Rev2. It clearly retains the balance, focus, and future- and action-oriented nature of Rev1, and we recognize the considerable effort required to maintain that equilibrium while accommodating a wide range of views.

In the interest of time, I will limit my comments to a few selected areas where we feel improvements could still be made:

On the section concerning **Enabling Environments for Digital Development**, I would like to offer two reflections.

First, while the overall language on investment remains constructive, the removal in paragraph 48 of the reference to "the effectiveness of certain approaches in promoting investment" raises some questions. We are unsure whether this change was simply an effort to streamline the text or it is intended to signal further willingness to reduce references in the text to investment and enabling policy environments – which we would find concerning.

If the shared objective is to close digital development and connectivity financing gaps, experience shows that one-off financing aid and short-term project funding are not sufficient. What is required is sustained public and – crucially – private sector investment. Private capital, expertise, and long-term operational capacity are essential for building and maintaining **resilient** digital infrastructure and services, supporting innovation, and ensuring that progress is scalable and sustainable. Clear support for investment-friendly policy environments is vital to mobilizing these resources. Weakening this recognition risks

sending the wrong signal and overlooking the substantial contributions that industry makes across regions.

Second, we note with some concern the removal of language in paragraph 47 recognizing the importance of stakeholder participation in **standards development**. Industry, academia, the technical community, and civil society provide critical expertise and operational knowledge that significantly strengthen standards-setting processes. Most international standards bodies rely on this multistakeholder input precisely because it produces more effective, interoperable, and widely adopted outcomes. This should continue to be recognized in the text.

Turning to **Financial Mechanisms**, we appreciate the additions in paragraph 64 that open space for Action Line facilitators and stakeholders to engage in the proposed task force. However, the requirement for this task force to report directly to the General Assembly may risk shifting what should be a practical, solutions-oriented dialogue into a negotiation and narrow opportunities for meaningful contributions from non-governmental stakeholders. For the task force to succeed it will need flexibility, a technical focus, and genuine multistakeholder participation, therefore it might thrive better in a multistakeholder context, such as the WSIS Forum or the IGF. ICC stands ready to help coordinate private sector input into the work of this task force.

I will stop here in the interest of time, but would like to close by noting our strong support for the text's continued commitment to the multistakeholder approach, the permanent mandate for a strengthened and fully supported IGF, enabled to continue to convene stakeholders worldwide to discuss the broad array of digital policy issues in an open and inclusive manner.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute.