ICC

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

14 November 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 and share some of our first impressions on the first draft of the WSIS+20 outcome document.

Let me begin by thanking you for your continued commitment to engage the multistakeholder community and your work on this first draft. At the outset, we want to acknowledge that the draft places the right elements at the core of this review: closing digital divides; fostering partnerships and meaningful collaborative action—including on financing; reaffirming human rights; ensuring alignment with other UN processes; and fully leveraging the WSIS architecture, especially its multistakeholder foundations, in their implementation. These pillars remain essential to carrying the WSIS vision forward.

Allow me now to focus on three themes that are particularly important from a business perspective: connectivity, enabling environments, and the multistakeholder model.

First, connectivity.

Rev.1 makes welcome progress in clarifying that universal and meaningful connectivity is not only about access, but also about usage – skills, affordability, relevance, and the ability for individuals and businesses to fully benefit from digital technologies.

We also appreciate the strengthened recognition that bridging digital divides requires addressing financial constraints and creating incentives that mobilize sustainable investment. As this language evolves, it will be important to ensure that financing approaches support the long-term, resilient investment needed for future-ready digital ecosystems.

Second, enabling environments.

We welcome the reinforced emphasis on the importance of regulatory and policy environments that attract investment and foster innovation. This is foundational to achieving WSIS outcomes.

As discussions on future financing models continue, we encourage consideration of approaches that draw on existing expertise, convene a wide range of stakeholders, and take place within forums capable of addressing the interconnected dimensions of digital development – from infrastructure to governance to emerging technologies. Such a setting would enable financing needs to be examined holistically, with contributions grounded in real-world experience.

Third, the multistakeholder model.

We are encouraged that Rev.1 strongly reaffirms multistakeholder cooperation as central to WSIS. The inclusion of the NETmundial+10 guidelines, the recognition of the IGF's evolution (including its intersessional activities and its growing engagement with emerging technologies) and the proposed decision to establish the IGF as a permanent UN structure are all meaningful steps.

Importantly, the IGF continues to demonstrate that it is the place where meaningful conversations can take place on the central questions raised in this review – conversations grounded in evidence, expertise, and the diverse perspectives of all stakeholders. It is uniquely positioned to support coherent implementation across the UN digital ecosystem precisely because it brings together the full range of actors capable of addressing complex issues in an open, informed, and collaborative manner.

In closing, Rev.1 reflects substantive progress. With further refinement – particularly to reinforce investment-friendly conditions and to ensure cooperation remains inclusive and evidence-based – the outcome document can provide a clearer and more actionable framework for the next phase of WSIS. The global business community stands ready to contribute constructively to this shared endeavour, and we will provide specific comments and proposed language on the text in written form.

Thank you.