



International Chamber of Commerce
The world business organization

An ICC initiative
BASIS
Business Action to Support
the Information Society

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CLOSING SPEECH

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to speak on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce and its BASIS initiative here today. I would like to thank you both as a native of this beautiful country and as a representative of Lithuanian business, for giving us the opportunity to host this year's IGF. I think you will agree it has been a tremendous success.

I am also delighted that this event created a chance for many of you to visit, discover and explore Lithuania for the first time. I hope you will return to your countries with good memories. I also expect that by hosting this high profile event Lithuania was tagged on the map of Northern Europe and the World as an investment-

friendly country with a strong knowledge economy, innovative businesses and high value-added services.

For the fifth consecutive year, the IGF has successfully fostered an environment where governments, business, civil society, technical experts, international and intergovernmental organizations can have frank and open exchanges across the spectrum of Internet governance issues.

This is a unique environment and one that shouldn't be taken for granted. Nowhere else does such a range of stakeholders have the opportunity to share best practices, exchange ideas and debate critical Internet issues on an equal footing.

For that reason, I speak for businesses around the world when I say the continuation of the IGF is of the utmost importance.

And alongside its continuation, it's vital we maintain the spirit and format where substantive information exchange is prioritised over formal negotiations. By sharing business knowledge and experiences, we aim to provide policymakers and other stakeholders with greater insight to take practical actions in their own countries.

Leading up to IGF 2011, we will build on improvements made over the last five years. We will seek new ways to increase participation of business and other stakeholders from around the world. We believe strengthening links between national and regional IGFs, and the global Forum offers a means to advance this. We will also focus on increasing representation of small and medium-sized business, especially from the developing countries.

The closing of this year's IGF provides me with the opportunity to reflect on key discussion points and highlight progress made to date.

Some people question the value the Forum brings in terms of tangible results. We would argue that point. The advancements on the issues, the style of our interactions, and the breadth of perspective gained by participants results in better informed decision making beyond each IGF.

Adding to the new understanding we all take away, we are also seeing practical tools and new developments emerge that are formed by the conversations we have here.

The best practice document produced by the Secretariat this year is another useful resource that could not have happened without multi-stakeholder insight.

This year an increased number of remote participants joined the sessions from many regional hubs. Five years ago, this was not the case. We applaud this progress.

We also note the fruitfulness of the national and regional IGFs that continue to spread the benefits of this type of exchange all over the world. Not only do these Forums provide an opportunity to discuss Internet governance issues from national and regional perspectives, they inform international level discussions. Experience shows us that each of these Forums is unique, providing attendees with the opportunity to discuss current issues and concerns that continue to evolve as growth of the Internet accelerates.

There is no doubt that the Internet is an invention with profound impact on all of our lives and economies. It is an enabler of innovation, creativity, development and an extraordinary tool for education and empowerment that continues to surpass our imagination. However, the

risks of inadvertently cutting off this potential are great if we do not have well informed policy. We need all stakeholders contributing equally and constructively as we have come to do here at the IGF.

The theme of this year's IGF summarises a key aspiration beyond this Forum. Developing the Future together requires an open, transparent, democratic and inclusive approach to Internet Governance.

Embracing these values we can take a more informed policy approach and have fair representation from a range of different stakeholders -- across developed and developing countries, and from small, medium and large companies. That is why we wish the IGF to be continued in its unique format and based on its founding principles.

I look forward to seeing you again next year in Kenya.
Thank you.