

Remarks on behalf of ICC/BASIS

**by Peter H. Hellmonds
Vice President, Public & International Affairs at Siemens Networks, Germany
in the "Summing Up" session of the**

**Internet Governance Forum
in Athens, Greece
in the morning of November 02, 2006**

>>PETER HELLMONDS: Do we have a microphone? Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm Peter Hellmonds from Siemens in Germany.

And I would like to offer some brief remarks on behalf of the international business community, organized through ICC, the International Chamber of Commerce, and BASIS, the Business Action to Support the Information Society. I wanted originally to thank everyone specifically. But now, for the sake of brevity, I will just thank everyone all together who has already been mentioned. I would, however, like to thank the bloggers specifically for bringing the voices from the outside into this meeting room. That has been one of the experiments that -- or one of the creative elements of this exercise. It was part of this first IGF event, which was very experimental in nature. And I must say, that experiment has worked remarkably well. In fact, much better than expected. We have had here an experiment of multistakeholder openness and inclusiveness that probably has not ever been tried before in any other U.N. process.

I'd also like to recognize the various new coalitions that have been announced today, which, while not being an official part of the IGF, are, however, inspired by this event. I would like to mention in this respect also our business initiative, BASIS, the Business Action to Support the Information Society.

BASIS is open to all businesses from around the world, whether they come -- regardless of whether they come from any sector of business or what size they are. Through BASIS, its members, associations, and companies will be reaching out and raise awareness among the global business community. And we'll also be reaching out in cooperative efforts with other stakeholders. I'd like to emphasize that business is committed both to the WSIS and its follow-up, in general, and to the IGF in particular.

As to the suggestions to move ahead, business believes that the following issues will continue to require our focused attention on a priority basis:

* Access, well, basically, to connect the next billion users, which, as we heard quite often here, will come from the developing world. That means infrastructure, both fixed and mobile, and as a complement also, the necessary enabling environment. That includes the issues of competition, liberalization, the rule of law, et cetera. Those things that promote a positive investment climate which is necessary for infrastructure we put in place.

* Also on a priority basis, security, among other things, network security, which promotes the stability of the Internet.

* Again, underlying all of the themes that I just mentioned should be our attempt to further the mutual understanding and the ability of all people around the world to participate in activities and organizations and fora related to Internet governance. The goal should be that we enhance the socioeconomic development through the use of the Internet.

Before stopping here to allow other business representatives to add to this, I would like to just make a practical suggestion as we move ahead. It would be useful that we have a schedule for the next event way ahead of time. So I would respectfully suggest to Mr. Chairman to set and announce a date and the schedule way in advance for the Rio meeting and solicit written input from all of the stakeholders around the world.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and Mr. Kummer for helping us all to see the benefit in this inclusive and open process, which I believe can serve as a model for other similar events.

Thank you very much.

>>CHAIRMAN DESAI: May I just interrupt the list of speakers for one second. I understand that Brazil is in a position to announce dates. May I request somebody from Brazil, if they would be willing to announce -- indicate the dates which you are contemplating.

>> We are suggesting the date of 12th of November of 2007. That's a Monday for the beginning. And then we have 12, 13, 14 for the days of the meetings. And so that's the date we are suggesting for the meetings. The location's Rio de Janeiro. It's on what are called (saying name). It's a very nice place. It's been prepared -- all of the infrastructure today of the -- the site is prepared for a big event that has occurred there for the pan-American Olympics in Rio.

And so I think we will have all the necessary infrastructure in hotels and transportation and security and so on in this area. Thank you.

>>CHAIRMAN DESAI: Thank you very much. [Applause]

>>CHAIRMAN DESAI: I just thought since the dates were fixed, it's better for people to know right now, so you can start planning. It's just about a year from now. After that, I will get back to the list. I had Steve Ballinger, from Amnesty, followed by Vladimir Vasilyev, from Russia. Steve.