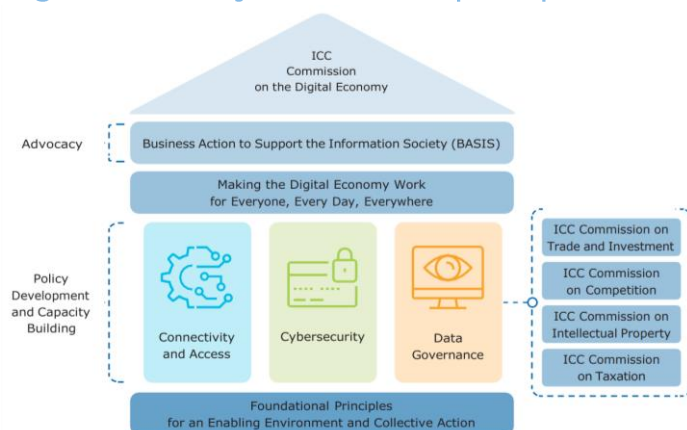




2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

POLICY PAPERS AND POSITIONS

Digital Economy Commission principles



In the first weeks of 2021, the leadership of the Digital Economy Commission introduced a paper on the [Foundational Principles and Priorities of the ICC Commission on the Digital Economy](#).

The paper highlights the core elements that underpin the work of the Commission and help inform and structure future projects and initiatives. It presents five core principles and three priority areas for action: connectivity and access, cybersecurity, and data governance.

Cybersecurity

The Commission's Working Group on Cybersecurity launched an ambitious work programme for 2021/2022 to explore the main cybersecurity risks and challenges facing both the private and public sector today, and to provide global business perspectives and recommendations in combatting them. The group released the ICC Policy Primer on Cybersecurity to lay the foundations of this workstream.

The primer will be followed by a series of issue-papers, the first of which, [Call for Government Action on Cybersecurity](#), was released in November 2021. This issue brief addresses the expanding cybersecurity risk landscape with which businesses must contend, as well as the wider economic and social impact of cybersecurity threats on the business community and communities more widely. It also outlines the urgent steps that governments must take to curb cyber threats and shield their citizens and economies from the destructive consequences of cyberattacks.

Over the course of 2022 the Working Group is planning to tackle three more issue briefs to:

- > Provide recommendations for business and governments regarding a) state to state cyber norms and their implementation and b) cybercrime rules and international cooperation;
- > Advocate for the protection of business-owned critical infrastructure;
- > Highlight the role of business and public-private cooperation in cybersecurity capacity and confidence building.

Based on the messages from these publications, the Working Group provided several rounds of input to the work of the [UN Open-Ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security \(OEWG 2019-2021\)](#), which adopted its final [report](#) in March.

Government access to private sector data

Trust in international data flows is being eroded over concerns that government demands to access data may conflict with universal human rights and freedoms, including privacy rights, or cause concerns and conflicts with domestic laws when such access transcends borders. These increased concerns and reduced trust leads to uncertainties that discourage individuals', businesses', and even governments' participation in a global economy, and can negatively impact economic growth.

ICC and Business at OECD joined forces to convene industry associations across the globe to deliver a [joint statement](#) to the OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy on its initiative to develop an instrument setting out high-level principles or policy guidance for trusted government access to personal data held by the private sector

Meaningful connectivity

ICC joined a [multistakeholder initiative](#) calling for concerted action at all levels to bridge digital divides, especially the pervasive and persistent gender digital gap. The joint statement, delivered during the [2021 High-Level Digital Debate of the UN General Assembly on Connectivity and Digital Cooperation](#), came in response to the [UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#), which ICC has enthusiastically supported since its launch in June 2020.

Internet fragmentation

An open, stable and trusted Internet is vital for business operations and a prerequisite to the effective functioning of public services. Technical, legislative and policy developments—such as bans or restrictions on international data flows; techno-protectionist initiatives, interference with free expression, privacy, and/or encryption; and Internet shutdowns; among others—heighten the risk that the Internet fragments into siloed parts. ICC BASIS joined a [multistakeholder initiative](#) that sets out principles for an open, interconnected and interoperable internet.

ADVOCACY & EVENTS

GLOBAL EVENTS

WSIS Forum 2021

At the 2021 edition of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum ICC BASIS hosted a workshop with leaders from business and development organisations to discuss barriers and enablers of connectivity investments.



The session, entitled [Exploring investments in connectivity](#) discussed what policy and regulatory reforms are needed to stimulate the sustainable funding of connectivity to close the digital divide – especially where market forces are insufficient.

See the recording of the session [here](#).

ICC BASIS also joined the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) of Poland in a session on [Digital innovations as drivers of recovery for the post-COVID-19 era](#). The session discussed the role of investment in innovation, the impact of policy-making on boosting the innovative solutions as well as the involvement of SMEs and startups in the ICT sector.

See the recording of the session [here](#).

Internet Governance Forum 2021

The 16th Internet Governance Forum brought together over 10,000 participants online and in person in Katowice, Poland from 6-10 December. For the event, ICC BASIS convened business representatives from across the globe to ensure the private sector's experience and shared views were heard.

ICC BASIS encouraged all stakeholders to continue to work collectively to ensure that future developments regarding the Internet's standards, policies and regulations are coherent with existing commitments to:

- > promote a globally connected, stable, unfragmented Internet;
- > expand connectivity and ensure meaningful access for everyone;
- > enable data free flows with trust to support a truly global digital economy;
- > increase efforts to strengthen cybersecurity;
- > preserve the multistakeholder model for Internet governance.



See more about ICC BASIS' engagement at the IGF [here](#) and our take-aways from the event [here](#).

PANELS & WEBINARS OF NOTE

UNECE Regional Forum SDG Business Dialogue

Taking place for the first time at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region, the [SDG Business Dialogue](#) was a unique multi-stakeholder conversation on business action and partnerships to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of the COVID-19 recovery. Participants explored how partnerships, alliances and business innovation can accelerate sustainable development in the region

Electronic Invoicing: Enhancing Trust and Efficiency in International Commerce

E-invoicing brings a variety of benefits. Issues of user error from manual entry, fraud, over-payment, and late payments can all be solved through the deployment of e-invoicing solutions. E-invoicing also brings huge cost efficiencies to businesses, drastically reducing invoice processing timeframes and optimizing working capital. Yet the market for e-invoicing solutions is highly fragmented, with a dizzying array of national e-invoicing formats and conflicting standards.

The panel discussion organized by ICC on the side of the WTO E-commerce JSI negotiations, explored the importance of cross-border interoperability in the implementation of measures related to e-invoicing, and the value of international systems, guidelines and recommendations.

Towards a Digital Market in LAC: Digitalization and SMEs

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the necessity of the digital economy as well as the challenges when people are left behind. The event, organized in partnership with the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network provided an opportunity to discuss key opportunities and challenges towards a Digital Single Market in Latin America and the Caribbean. Focusing on the key barriers to entry faced by small and medium enterprises, participants mapped concrete pathways to digitalization that is inclusive and sustainable.

See the recording of the event [here](#).

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The ICC Global Digital Economy Commission convened twice virtually on 12 April and 19 October 2021 and enjoyed broad representation, with the participation of members from over 30 countries.

See the summary records of the meetings [here \(spring\)](#) and [here \(autumn\)](#).

ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

Over the course of 2021 the ICC Global Digital Economy Commission and ICC BASIS represented the voice of global business at:

- > UN Open-Ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (OEWG)
- > UN Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group
- > OECD Network of Experts on Artificial Intelligence
- > B20 Italy Digitalization Task Force
- > European Commission High-Level Group on Internet Governance

COMMISSION PROJECTS & WORKING GROUPS

Connectivity and Access

Members of this workstream contribute to building capacity for business and formulating concrete policy recommendations to empower all stakeholders to achieve universal meaningful connectivity. The core of their current work is exploring how innovative business models, technologies and regulatory frameworks can help address barriers to connectivity and bring the benefits of digitalisation to both developed and developing economies.

Cybersecurity

Members of this working group work to highlight key issues and challenges that business and society face in strengthening Internet security and responding to the large and growing range of cybersecurity threats.

Data Governance

The group aims to develop shared concepts, values and principles, recommendations for greater availability and interoperability of data between stakeholders and across borders with high privacy, security and ethical standards

Cross-cutting projects

Members continue to participate in the joint ICC Working Groups on Continuous Transaction Controls, on Digital Tax (both together with the ICC Taxation Commission), and on Competition Law and Digital Economy (together with the ICC Competition Commission).

For further information or to subscribe to any of these working groups, please contact [Timea Suto](#).

DO NOT MISS IN 2022

Digital Economy Commission meetings

The ICC Global Digital Economy Commission will meet twice in 2022 in mid-April and mid-October. Details regarding the meetings will be shared in due course.

Key international events

1-9 March: ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)

25-29 April: UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2022: Data and Digitalization for Development

30 May–3 June: WSIS Forum 2022

6-15 June: ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)

26 September-14 October: ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

12-16 December: OECD Ministerial Conference on the Digital Economy

TBC November / December: Internet Governance Forum 2022

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries. ICC's core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world's leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.

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