



COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMON STANDARDS FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

B20 COALITION RECOMMENDATIONS ON ICT STANDARDIZATION TO G20 GOVERNMENTS

Paris, November 26, 2015 - The B20 Coalition, which brings together leading independent business organizations and industry associations from G20 countries, calls on G20 leaders to foster the development of common Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Standards.

The Coalition emphasizes that a globally coherent use of ICT Standards can bring enormous benefits to businesses, customers, and the public at large.

“A world with incoherent, region-specific Standards would be a significant drag on productivity and innovation. By avoiding the need to substantially modify products for every individual market, Common Standards help create economies of scale, foster innovation, and result in lower prices for customers while at the same time increasing product diversity,” stated the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and President of the B20 Coalition.

The B20 Coalition, in its paper, *Common Standards for the Digital Economy*, urges the G20 Governments to:

- Foster coherence and interoperability of ICT Standards
- Set adequate frameworks to ensure that standardization processes have a high-quality outcome that is beneficial to both businesses and consumers
- Strive to make better use of ICT Standards and specifications in procurement by giving appropriate preference to Common Standards and specifications
- Adopt a common international approach to technical regulation to help minimize the negative effects on interoperability and compatibility
- Harmonize technical requirements and Standards in free trade agreements

“As business operations relying on digital solutions effectively function in a borderless world, the B20 Coalition underlines the need for a global Standards paradigm,” added President Beatty.

*The B20 Coalition has made the Digital Economy its priority for 2015 and has identified three areas of action: **IT Security** - because it is one of the biggest concerns in implementing the digital agenda; **Common Standards** - because in an increasingly interconnected world the base cannot be built upon without Common Standards; and **Smart Cities** - because our future lies in making our cities more sustainable, efficient and responsive.*

This statement is issued in
Berlin, Brasilia, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Johannesburg, London, Madrid,
New Delhi, Ottawa, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Sydney, and Washington, D.C.
by the B20 Coalition members

ABOUT THE B20 COALITION

The B20 Coalition brings together leading independent business associations from G20 economies and operates as a worldwide exchange platform between national business communities, aiming at building consensus and developing common positions on critical issues for enterprises.

Through its broad-based representation, the Coalition on behalf of more than 6.8 million businesses of all sizes and from all sectors engages policy-makers on a global scale and advocates policies that contribute to global growth and job creation at regional and international levels. The Coalition is instrumental, notably, in supporting the G20 process and ensuring continuity over successive Country Presidencies.

B20 COALITION MEMBERS

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