

Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)

**World Summit on the Information Society, WSIS
Tunis, 16 – 18 November 2005**

CCBI intervention at ITU informal consultation regarding follow-up and implementation mechanism for WSIS

2 May 2005, Geneva

Thank you Mr Chairman.

On behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS, I am pleased to provide the following comments as ITU prepares to discuss the follow-up and implementation mechanisms for WSIS at its meetings this week.

CCBI recognizes from the discussions and outcomes of PrepCom 2 that the mechanisms for WSIS follow-up and implementation have not been decided.

We recognize that this informal consultation is an informal ITU meeting on how ITU might plan to perform a "moderator/coordinator" role if it is selected to be a "moderator/coordinator" for particular issues related to its core competencies.

CCBI urges the ITU not to assume that they will have a particular role as yet since that would seem to prejudge any decision by the UN Secretary General or further resolution of issues in the outcome documents of PrepCom 2 by PrepCom 3 in September.

We encourage this meeting to proceed on this basis and are pleased to contribute to this discussion in that vein.

We believe any ITU document presented to PrepCom3 should be conditional. That is to say that if the ITU is identified as having a role in WSIS follow-up and plan of action implementation, this would be how the ITU might plan to perform or contribute to either of those functions.

Before providing other specific comments on the follow-up and implementation mechanisms. I would like to convey a few concerns regarding this meeting and consultations with business and other stakeholders.

We certainly appreciate your efforts Mr. Chairman and that of the ITU secretariat to request that ICC/CCBI convene a limited group of business representatives to participate in this meeting. However, given that this short meeting of only 3 hours is limited - by invitation only - and the invitation was received just 3 weeks ago, it made it very difficult, in fact nearly impossible, for many business representatives to participate in this meeting unless they were based in Geneva or were already here for other meetings.

In order to actively engage the views and expertise of business and other stakeholders in such meetings, we would request that future activities please take this into account.

In addition, there is confusion and concern that the efforts of various organizations and the official process risk bifurcation of WSIS follow-up mechanisms and their preparation. We believe that this should be avoided.

CCBI believes that input regarding the follow-up and implementation mechanisms should come from within the WSIS process itself.

Business priorities regarding the follow-up and implementation mechanism are as follows:

1. As was stated in the joint statement by the civil society plenary and CCBI during PrepCom 2:
 - a) We consider the multi-stakeholder approach, as agreed in Principle 1 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles must be the guiding principle of all WSIS Implementation and Follow-up mechanisms.
 - b) WSIS Plan of Action Implementation and any follow-up mechanism should be established under the responsibility of the UN Secretary General.
 - c) Any implementation team should be multi-stakeholder and composed through an open and inclusive process.
 - d) Any “coordination mechanism/activity” should be multi-stakeholder and the formation process and working methods of any such body should heavily draw on the lessons from the Working Group on Internet Governance.
 - e) We consider the establishment of national multi-stakeholder dialogues in all countries as recommended in paragraph C1 8b) of the Geneva Plan of Action must be a key component of any implementation and follow-up mechanism.

Further,

- Many actors have highlighted the need for a forum for discussion regarding policy and partnership issues related to ICTs and the Information Society.
- CCBI supports the concept of a forum for discussion to address this need. Such as forum could provide a place for the exchange of useful information and experiences.
- We believe that any forum or initiative should be a joint and multi-stakeholder effort. As such, it would not be a decision-making body and it would not be an exclusively intergovernmental body.
- The follow-up and implementation mechanisms should be multistakeholder and based on equal partnerships of all stakeholders.
- CCBI members recognize that there will be need for continuous assessment and evaluation of the WSIS Geneva and Tunis protocols as they relate to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is an important consideration in shaping the follow up mechanisms.

Thank you for your and for your group's consideration.

WHAT IS THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF BUSINESS INTERLOCUTORS (CCBI)?

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held during the week of 8 December 2003 in Geneva, culminating in the Summit segment on 10-12 December 2003. The second part of this Summit will take place in 2005 in Tunisia.

Principals of the Summit host countries and executive secretariat invited the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to create the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI) as a vehicle through which to mobilize and coordinate the involvement of the worldwide business community in the processes leading to and culminating in the Summit. ICC and the CCBI group led the private-sector effort to provide substantive input into the first phase of the Summit, and mobilized the private sector to participate in the preparatory phases and at the Summit itself. The CCBI, is constituted of the following organizations and their members: Among the organizations actively involved in the work of the CCBI, in addition to ICC, are: Asociacion Hispanoamericana de Centros de Investigacion y Empresas de Telecomunicaciones, Brazilian Chamber of Electronic Commerce, the Business Council of the United Nations, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD; Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce; Global Information Infrastructure Commission; Money Matters Institute; United States Council on International Business; World Economic Forum; World Information Technology and Services Alliance; French Publishers Association; International Publishers Association; and Gobierno Digital.

For further information regarding CCBI, please consult the WSIS website at: <http://www.itu.int/wsisis/index.html>
the CCBI website at www.businessatwsisis.net
or ICC's website at: http://www.iccwbo.org/home/e_business/wsisis.asp
or contact wsisis@iccwbo.org

ABOUT ICC

ICC is the world business organization, the only representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world. ICC promotes an open international trade and investment system and the market economy. Business leaders and experts drawn from the ICC membership establish the business stance on broad issues of trade and investment, e-business, IT and telecoms policy as well as on vital technical and sectoral subjects. ICC was founded in 1919 and today it groups thousands of member companies and associations from over 130 countries.

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