

# **Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)**

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

## **PrepCom-3 – 19-30 September 2005 Subcommittee A on Internet Governance**

### **Intervention by Art Reilly (Cisco) Tuesday 27 September 2005**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Today, CCBI wishes to address what has become known here as “the forum function.”

We approach this issue with four thoughts in mind. First, whatever action is taken should not threaten the stability and security of the Internet. Second, whatever we do should promote development and expanded access to the Internet in order to facilitate the bridging of the digital divide. Third, any and all follow-up should ensure the full and effective multistakeholder participation. Fourth, such follow-up should be sensitive to financial and human resources.

What we have seen from the debate over the past year is that there is a need to increase awareness of the work of existing organizations and to promote greater participation in them. We have also observed that there are many issues, such as cyber-security and spam, where multiple stakeholders each have a role in combating the problem. In both cases, information exchange and examination of best practices can be a valuable step in a process.

Business supports relevant organizations jointly convening events for discussion of a specific issue. Such events should be limited to a specific topic and function as information exchanges that will enhance awareness of existing activities and ways in which to participate. We are confident such events can stimulate progress on the topic within the specific expert groups for which the event is called.

These events are not substitutes for the organizations that are responsible for dealing with the issue. The events should be specific, time- and subject matter-limited events to promote cooperation and collaboration. They can serve to educate or to facilitate groups working better together, but are not to be duplicative of other efforts.

CCBI believes that this approach can benefit all stakeholders.

We do not support enabling debates nor creating institutions that will address issues and activities already addressed by existing organizations. We believe that the analysis and discussions over the course of the last year

and a half demonstrate that many stakeholders and institutions are addressing the important Internet governance issues. Their work has been effective: solutions are being found and issues are being resolved. Throughout yesterday's discussion, there was a recognition that Internet institutions are meeting the challenges within their core competencies and that there is real and substantial progress.

As we said yesterday, one guiding principle for our deliberations is that we should do no harm. The duplication or displacement of existing organizations could have that negative effect. They could drain limited resources unnecessarily and cause competition and conflict where cooperation is the goal.

The focus of WSIS and this debate must be about development. Supporting issue-specific events to facilitate education or exchange best practices can move all stakeholders forward. Spending money and diverting attention on duplicative organizations will not. In fact, it may move us backward. We urge this body to keep focus on development and the things that will make development happen.

Our detailed comments are available and we encourage your consideration of them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

## **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/wsis/index.html>  
the CCBI website at [www.businessatwsis.net](http://www.businessatwsis.net)  
or ICC's website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ebitt/id2343/index.html>  
or contact [wsis@iccwbo.org](mailto:wsis@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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