

Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)
World Summit on the Information Society, WSIS
Tunis, 16 – 18 November 2005

Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC) on behalf of CCBI

17 February 2005
WSIS Tunis, PrepCom 2

Thank you Chairman,

We would like to thank the UN Secretary General, UNDP and the other members of the TFFM for the report.

I am pleased to provide input to the process on behalf of the members of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS. Since this is our first intervention at PrepCom 2, I would like to start with brief comments to highlight the priorities of business from the around the world for this preparatory process and for the Summit in Tunis itself.

Priorities for PrepCom 2

As we begin this second preparatory meeting, CCBI urges all governments to focus on the high-level statements of recommitment to the WSIS Geneva declaration and plan of action to build a people-centered inclusive and development-orientated Information Society.

The Tunis Summit represents a unique opportunity to increase optimism regarding the future by focusing on concepts that challenge traditional assumptions and which promote an enabling environment that can transform people's activities, interactions and lives for the better, globally.

We strongly encourage the adoption of a detailed schedule for the Summit itself to allow for preparations by all stakeholders to make the Summit the most effective and productive event it can be. As we have stated before, to attract business leaders, it is important that the specific dates, times, events and opportunities for them to participate at the Summit be clear at the end of this PrepCom. We are certain that this will promote the best participation from all stakeholder groups.

We reiterate the importance of not re-opening previously negotiated policy issues.

This afternoon, we are discussing the report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms. Business acknowledges the need to promote human and social development, economic growth, through the use of information and communication technologies and applications. The most effective way to accomplish these objectives is to stimulate investments in ICTs and the information society through the collective efforts of governments, business and civil society. In addition, the interim report on stocktaking provides examples of constructive partnerships and initiatives.

The WSIS Geneva Plan of Action calls upon governments to create an enabling environment for investment. Investors and businesses have choices as to where they take their money and their businesses. As such, they will tend to invest in countries that offer them lower risk, a good return on capital and conditions of entry and for doing business that support their ability to achieve their business plans and meet their national regulatory requirements.

I would like to take a moment to let you know that a new and more detailed description of the CCBI group and how it functions is now available on the ICC website and the official WSIS website.

The CCBI group has grown significantly in the past 3 years. We have regular online and telephone consultations and coordinate to contribute to this process! I encourage you to consult the websites.

It is important to note that CCBI's membership and consensus building process for all policy positions expressed in this process involve the input of business from all sectors, not just IT companies or telecoms operators---- businesses of all sizes, and from all regions.

Given the realities of time and resources, it is just not possible for all of these business representatives to participate in person in this process, but it is important to them and it is important for you to know that they are part of this process and part of the substantive input developed by CCBI.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to working with our colleagues in government, civil society and international organizations towards achieving the Millennium Declaration Goals and making the Tunis Summit a success.

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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