

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 “Forum”

**Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC)
Thursday 22 September 2005**

Thank you Chairman.

CCBI appreciates the opportunity to discuss our views on the forum function proposed by the WGIG.

As the WGIG found in its detailed investigation on Internet governance, a variety of existing organizations are addressing issues related to the evolution of the Internet. We believe that these organizations are responsive to the dynamic needs and applications of the Internet. These organizations provide forums for discussion and liaise with each other, as appropriate.

The Internet was designed and operates in a decentralized fashion without the need for “centralized” control. Certainly, it has worked that way for many years and today is bringing the benefits of the Information Society to people around the world, improving their quality of life. This decentralized design has facilitated the creation of innovation at the “edges” of the system and contributed to its dynamic growth.

CCBI supports efforts to increase awareness of the work of existing organizations and to promote greater participation as appropriate in them and in their continued evolution. While the CCBI does not believe it is necessary to create a new general forum, there may, in some cases, also be benefits from issue-specific events sponsored by, and accountable to, existing expert organizations, including private sector organizations.

The WGIG has demonstrated the overlapping involvement of many entities and stakeholders in most issues related to the Internet. Thus, it is important that any issue-specific event be flexible enough to encourage greater information exchange across organizations and stakeholders on issues that may be addressed by existing organizations but that have a horizontal cross-cutting nature. This will promote cooperation and collaboration and thus promote greater efficiency.

However, to do so, it would have to add value and be a neutral space that could facilitate bringing all the stakeholders and existing institutions and organizations together as equal partners to promote cooperation.

CCBI also supports using existing organizations for informational and educational forums. This would include increased participation and outreach especially at regional, sub-regional, and national levels amongst all stakeholders.

CCBI does not support enabling further debates related to issues addressed by existing expert organizations, other than within those organizations. This would be a duplication of costs and resources and could damage productive and vital work already underway, or just emerging to address ICTs access, the real reason for the WSIS.

Where there is a need to exchange information on a specific issue addressed by multiple organizations and stakeholders, the relevant organizations should jointly convene a meeting for discussion of that issue. Such meetings should be limited in focus and function to facilitate the exchange of information and enhance awareness of ways to participate in existing forums.

It is important that any event or space convened for this purpose promote cooperation, collaboration and greater efficiency without undercutting the work and initiative of the existing organizations themselves.

CCBI looks forward to providing further input on this issue as discussions continue.

Thank you for your attention.

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
or ICC's website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/ebitt/id2343/index.html>
or contact 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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