

# **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 B**

**Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC)**  
**Wednesday 28 September 2005**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of CCBI, I want to associate ourselves with the comments Civil Society made this morning about non-governmental participation in the drafting groups.

We want to add the perspective of the private sector.

As has been recently noted in some of the new text to be added to the draft, the Internet is the creation of a range of stakeholders. Academics, engineers, technologists, business, civil society, governments and international organizations have all played fundamental and essential roles in the creation and expansion of this wonderful resource. Business in particular has invested billions in research, development, building infrastructure and applications in part in reliance on this exceptionally supportive environment.

Thus, in the case of the Internet, multistakeholder participation is not just a political and moral commitment, it is an acknowledgment of the genius of people from around the world from every stakeholder group that have driven the Internet's growth.

A lack of full and active participation in all phases of this process is thus not only inconsistent with WSIS' commitment, it is a historic departure from how Internet stakeholders have dealt with each other.

We had hoped that the WSIS process, as well as the final document, would be a signal of an even closer and more effective collaboration among all stakeholders so that the extraordinary benefits of the Internet would be extended to all parts of the globe. Sadly, thus far that does not seem to have been the case.

Business believes that it has much to contribute to the remainder of this PrepCom. As everyone in this room pushes hard to reach agreements on several complicated issues over the remaining two days, it becomes harder and harder for those excluded from aspects of the discussions to provide meaningful insight. That is not the way to achieve the best outcome

document possible. We owe something better to those who are seeking greater opportunities.

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](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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