

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 on Internet Governance

Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC) Tuesday 20 September 2005

Thank you Chairman, we join distinguished delegates in congratulating you on your election as chair and we wish to express our appreciation for your strong recognition of the role of the private sector.

On behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS, I am pleased to provide these initial comments as the discussions and negotiations regarding Internet governance begin at PrepCom 3.

We appreciate your flexibility for us to reserve our remaining time for an intervention tomorrow morning after government delegations at the end of the morning.

I am pleased to call the attention of all delegates to the CCBI comments on the WGIG report which have been posted on the official website and are included in the official compilation prepared by the executive secretariat and forwarded to PrepCom 3. These comments provide the business positions on the range of issues related to Internet governance, and also provide explanations for the 'why' behind the business views and how decisions regarding these issues will impact business, the Internet and society.

This CCBI intervention will provide a brief overview of our key positions.

Business has the lead role in the technical, economic and operational aspects of the Internet. CCBI believes that the need to maintain a stable and secure Internet is the guiding WSIS principle that is of paramount importance in this context.

The multiple global organizations working together and the arrangements in place are consistent with this principle.

Private sector-led groups offer an opportunity for all interested parties, including government representatives to contribute to planning and cooperative activities that promote innovation, interoperability, quality, and security. Governments can encourage participation in such activities by their representatives and all others to stimulate new capabilities, advance growth and development, and technical planning and coordination.

At the same time, CCBI believes that the diverse nature of the issues themselves demonstrates why the question of appropriate “participation” in shaping those outcomes does not have a single answer that can be resolved through the creation of one over-arching organization. For example, in some matters, governments may well need to take a leading role, particularly in cooperatively enforcing widely-accepted legal standards. Experience with the Internet to date and the pace of innovation it has spawned, clearly show that the leadership and initiative of the private sector should be protected and promoted as much as possible.

This approach applies to many Internet governance and Internet related issues including *Internet Stability, security, cybercrime, meaningful participation, and capacity building*.

We look forward to providing in-depth input on critical issues throughout PrepCom 3.

We would like to highlight a few issues at this time.

As stated earlier, the overarching principle must be to maintain a stable, secure Internet that functions consistently.

First, with respect to Internet security, stability and cybercrime, there are multilateral mechanisms and tools that are beginning to address these issues. For example, the Cybercrime Convention of the Council of Europe (COE) is open to countries to join and provides a very good standard for countries to implement. The OECD and the UN General Assembly also offer guidelines on security, which countries can turn to for guidance on updating laws and policy in their country. Furthermore, many countries have existing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) for law enforcement cooperation, which can help combat spam such as the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN).

These issues are best addressed by more outreach and information sharing, which CCBI supports as needed, but not necessarily by new mechanisms. In fact, adding new mechanisms may deter the productive work of the existing mechanisms. A better approach would be to seek to increase awareness and involvement in existing mechanisms.

Second, *meaningful participation*: The issue of meaningful participation should be considered in light of the appropriate participation given the mandates and structures of organizations. It is critical to address this issue in terms of cooperation/ exchange of information between the various bodies addressing issues related to the Internet.

It is important to recognize that promoting cooperation between organizations can best be achieved through a variety of organizations and not a centralized one.

On the issue of a working definition of Internet governance--- CCBI supports the working definition on Internet governance developed by the WGIG. CCBI believes that the working definition reflects the broad range of issues surrounding the Internet and its uses for which governments seek additional understanding and consultation. The working definition also responds to the interest of many governments by clarifying the various industry processes, non-governmental bodies and governmental institutions that currently shape outcomes on these issues.

CCBI recognizes the full range of different organizations that are making the various policy, technical, and business decisions that affect investment in, and the development and use of the Internet. We support multiple fora.

In order to participate in the organizations addressing Internet issues, people need the skills, education and expertise. *Capacity building is thus a critical issue.*

Human capacity begins with basic education and includes specialized ICT related education, and training. Building the capacity of organizations within countries to ensure their active engagement in the global processes is fundamental.

CCBI supports using existing organizations for informational and educational forums.

As has been pointed out many times by many interested parties from all stakeholder communities, translation of existing materials and technical resource documents into multiple languages is often the first, and critical step to making information accessible.

Governments, along with all other stakeholders, have a critical role to play in capacity building. We recommend that the WSIS process focus more attention on this critically important area.

We believe this is an essential issue, because it brings us back to what WSIS is about---a people centred information society and bringing ICT and Internet benefits to all.

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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