

Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI)

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

**Comments from CCBI for 22 February 2005 on Operational Part of
Financial Mechanisms, Para 12-27**

Intervention by Ayesha Hassan (ICC) on behalf of CCBI

**22 February 2005
WSIS Tunis, PrepCom 2**

Thank you, Chairman

On behalf of the members of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors for WSIS, I am pleased to provide you with our input on Chapter Two of the Operational Part (Financial Mechanisms), Para 12-27.

CCBI had several proposals for changes in the draft text, which we have submitted earlier.

We are not commenting on all items, but will note our views on a particular item when we submitted specific comments, or when a substantive set of additions have been made. CCBI will also comment on particular proposed changes where we continue to have concerns.

Our comments follow the numbered format of the documents.

Item 13:

We understand that the proposal is that 13 would now have all of the content of the three paragraphs: 13; 13A and 13B. CCBI supports the reworded 13 with all of the additions suggested in the Revised Chapter Two.

Item 14a: We suggest inserting the words “one of the key issues” after financing is.

Item 17: We suggest the following reformulation:

We acknowledge that, in some cases, the private sector has not been able to deliver all needed investment to bring inclusive development and access for everyone, in particular in those areas where an enabling environment, market forces, or markets do not yet exist.

Item 19: CCBI supports the revised 19, with the expanded language.

Item 21: CCBI supports the redrafted 21 with the addition of new 21B.

Item 24: In the first sentence, we would insert “cooperation among all stakeholders” instead of “coordination”, and insert the same in the last sentence; thus it would read: “this should include cooperation among all stakeholders”.

The motivation behind this suggestion is the desire to ensure that the private sector contributions are directed toward the projects intended by the donor.

Item 25:

CCBI believes that an effective enabling environment is a basic building block to ensure access to and better utilization of financial mechanisms. Therefore, we welcome the focus by all on this important section. It is difficult to ensure that all enabling conditions are identified, and therefore, we offer two suggestions. We suggest that the words, “including, but not limited to”, be inserted following financial mechanisms in line two of the overarching statement in Item 25.

Secondly, in “f”, we prefer a text that captures the original “f” more clearly to use ICTs as a catalyst.

Item 26:

CCBI supports the importance of improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms. We have listened intently as governments and other observers have addressed ideas on improvements and innovations, and we have ourselves examined our own experiences as business partners with financing mechanisms. We believe we have shared goals: improving and even increasing the focus of existing financial mechanisms and identifying ways to enhance even more the impact of existing financial mechanisms. Thus, we welcome the level of detail that is embodied in 26. We offer several suggestions.

In the new 26a0, we suggest that instead of “untied”, the words “flexible, responsive and accountable” be used.

CCBI supports the need for financing mechanisms to be flexible and responsive, and also accountable. We believe these words can assist in achieving shared goals in this area.

New 26a1: The original “a”, which is included, is strongly preferred by CCBI.

This language captures the importance of enhancing regional cooperation and creating multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially by creating incentives for building regional backbone infrastructures.

We prefer to have only the original 26a, and drop the new 26a1. Regarding new 26a1, CCBI believes that the issues of regional backbones, access

points/network access points (NAPS) etc. are addressed in item 23; and we believe that original “a” fully addresses this issue.

Further, CCBI has often stated its support for ensuring that users have choice in software – thus, we cannot support promoting one form of software over another. Users – whether they are businesses, or individuals, NGOs, or governmental agencies – should be able to select any form of software, basing any decision on their needs and interests.

Item 27:

CCBI’s suggestion of “acknowledge” was not accepted. In our initial intervention, CCBI asked that the phrase “acknowledge” be used, regarding the voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund. CCBI welcomed the briefing provided Monday morning on the Fund and looks forward to further information, as it becomes available, for example, further elaboration on the Geneva principle.

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/wsisis/index.html>
the CCBI website at www.businessatwsis.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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